



LAKE SIDE

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF NH LAKES—SPRING 2022

Neighbors Taking Action: Meet Jack Kutner Wait! You're Telling Me this Lake is Not as Healthy as it Looks?

Jack and his wife, Cindy, moved to their lakefront property on Lake Sunapee three years ago after vacationing in the area on and off for years. Like many, COVID prompted them to move to the area year-round. “We loved the area because it isn’t overly developed and we have always been attracted to the beautiful lake and surrounding area,” recalled Jack. “But, recently I learned that Lake Sunapee and the surrounding watershed is



Jack is giving Lake Sunapee a voice.

under considerable stress and is not as healthy as it appears.”

Jack was surprised—and alarmed—to learn of toxic cyanobacteria blooms occurring in Lake Sunapee. He wanted to know what he could do to help. A neighbor suggested Jack reach out to NH LAKES.

Among other resources Jack discovered with NH LAKES, was a list of ten things he could do to help keep the lake clean and healthy. One item on the list was, “Make sure your voice is heard.” He began to wonder what he could do to speak up for his lake.

Jack asked questions about what local protections were in place to preserve water quality. He learned Newbury—the town he lives in—had adopted robust lake-friendly protections in its zoning regulations. But, he also learned the town was not budgeting enough to enforce the protections.

Jack and a number of other concerned residents began a campaign to educate Newbury

residents about the declining water quality with the goal of getting the town to increase focus and resources on enforcement of the water protection regulations. At last count, over 100 residents had signed on to their mailing list and late in 2021, the group convinced the town’s selectboard to increase the town budget for enforcement.

The story’s not over! Hear more about Jack’s successes, struggles, and what lies ahead at Lakes Congress on June 3. Join us for “Municipal Enforcement of Lake-Friendly Policy: A Community Conversation.”



Cyanobacteria observed on Lake Sunapee. (Photo Credit: Midge Eliassen)

Header – The Lake Sunapee region has so much to offer year round, that’s why Jack and his family moved there. (Photo Credit: Midge Eliassen).

Working for clean and healthy lakes

Legislative Update

With your help, NH LAKES has monitored and weighed in on a variety of bills during the 2022 New Hampshire legislative session. Here's where things stand as of the end of March. For more up-to-date information, visit nhlakes.org/advocacy.

Polluted Runoff Water

HB 1042 would require health advisory notices to be provided to renters of vacation or recreational rental units. Voted Inexpedient to Legislate by the House.

HB 1066 was amended by the House and sent to the Senate. The amendment would forgo the study commission and instead direct the Department of Environmental Services to develop a plan to address cyanobacteria blooms.

Shoreland and Wetland Protection

HB 1227 would increase the area of a wetland eligible for a prime wetland designation. Laid on the table by the House.

HB 1454 would require a scientific study to prove that a landfill leak would not reach surface water for at least five years. Passed the House.

Responsible Use of Public Waters

HB 1071 would establish a minimum setback of 250 feet for the activity of wake surfing on New Hampshire's lakes. Voted Inexpedient to Legislate by the House.

HB 1424 would have removed the daytime speed limit on Lake Winnepesaukee. Voted Inexpedient to Legislate by the House.

HB 1528 would establish a public boat access donation program for operators of non-motorized boats. Passed the House.



NEW HAMPSHIRE
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

NH LAKES operations are funded in part by a grant from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation.

Leave a Legacy

Susan, a retired schoolteacher, made the decision to leave a gift to NH LAKES in her Will. "It makes me feel really good to know the work I've dedicated so much of my life to will continue on. I know everything that can be done to keep these lakes healthy will be done," says Susan.

If you are interested in learning more about making a gift in your Will to NH LAKES, please contact Martha Lovejoy, Director of Finance and Development, at 603.226.0299 or mlovejoy@nhlakes.org.



Susan Goodwin on milfoil patrol on Lake Wentworth. She remembers growing up on Lake Wentworth and remembers how sandy the bottom of the lake was—all the way out to the middle. Susan has been working to keep Lake Wentworth healthy for most of her life and wants that work to continue into the future.

Our Lakes Are Being Left Unguarded: A Few Hours a Week as a Lake Host Can Make All the Difference

A whole generation of Lake Hosts have been investing in the health of our lakes. They have been the frontline defense against aquatic invasive species for 20 years. Evie Hammerman was one of these people. She coordinated the Lake Host Program on Thorndike Pond in Jaffrey from 2014 until, sadly, she passed away in 2019.

Evie moved to a house in the woods on Thorndike Pond in 1994. There, she developed a close community, swimming, kayaking, playing tennis, painting, hiking, reading, and doing volunteer work for the lake she loved. She inspired many during her time, and we hope she might inspire you, too!

While Thorndike Pond still has an active Lake Host Program, fewer volunteers are stepping up each year since Evie passed. This has resulted in fewer boat inspections, leaving the pond unguarded against aquatic invasive species.

Unfortunately, this is a story we are seeing all too often at ramps throughout the state. Our lakes need you! Being a Lake Host for even just a few hours a week gives you the opportunity to be a true lake hero. Protect your lake while having fun working outside! Paid and volunteer positions are available. Learn more about the Lake Host Program at nhlakes.org/lake-host.



Evie knew how to make being a Lake Host fun!

Is Your Local Boat Ramp Prepared to Stop Aquatic Invasive Species?

We all want clean lakes to boat and swim in!

Invite the NH LAKES team to do a free evaluation of your local boating access site and provide recommendations on tools and technology that could help boaters prevent the spread of invasive species.

Thanks to your support, NH LAKES is available to work with boat access site owners and local partners to upgrade sites with a variety of invasive species spread prevention approaches, tools, and technologies. We just need to be invited!

Visit our website at nhlakes.org/ais-best-tech to fill out the form to request a FREE site evaluation and download our FREE PDF "Best Available Technologies for AIS Prevention."

Share your knowledge with your local lake association, conservation commission, and municipality. Together, we can make our lakes cleaner and healthier.



Lakes Congress is Back for YOU!

Join us along the shoreline of beautiful Meredith Bay at Church Landing in Meredith on Thursday, June 2, and Friday, June 3.

This is your chance to learn from the greatest minds in the state about how climate change is impacting our lakes, how wildlife is adapting, and actions you can take back to your community to make a difference. And, you'll learn a lot more, too.

Enjoy lunch with others like you who want the best for our lakes! Share your stories and challenges and get advice from peers and experts, alike!

Visit our website for session descriptions. Ensure your spot and register now at nhlakes.org/lakes-congress. Early bird registration ends May 13.

Thank you to our presenting sponsor, Grappone Automotive Group, and all of our sponsors who understand the value of lakes to our environment, our personal well-being, our communities and economy. They make this event affordable and accessible to you!



Photo Credit: Bob Kozlow Photography.

Thinking of Starting Your LakeSmart Journey? Don't Wait—Act Now!

The LakeSmart Program is growing in popularity thanks to you! This is good news for our lakes. Our lake-friendly living program is your best opportunity to protect the lake you love. Here's how:

1 Complete the Evaluation.

Take our FREE 15 minute online self-assessment survey. You will receive an immediate confidential and personalized follow-up report with tips to earn the LakeSmart Award.

2 Make Lake-Friendly Updates.

Need help? Check out our LakeSmart Guide and LakeSmart Service Provider Partners.

3 Request a Site Visit.

Once your updates are complete, request a FREE and confidential visit from a LakeSmart evaluator. Or, submit photos instead!

4 Show off your LakeSmart Award!

When you receive the LakeSmart Award, be sure to show it off to family, friends, and neighbors!

The NH LAKES Conservation Team is busy scheduling visits for this summer. If you haven't already started your LakeSmart journey get started today at lakesmart.nhlakes.org.



Take the LakeSmart Start survey to ensure future generations inherit a lake with a healthy future!