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Not This Lake, Not Today, Milfoil!

NH LAKES Lake Hosts keep unwanted plants and animals from infesting our lakes.

Concord, N.H., August 29, 2022 – Thanks to the efforts of NH LAKES’ Lake Hosts, many of New Hampshire’s most popular lakes continue to be protected from the spread of invasive species this summer. The main way invasive species—plants like milfoil, and animals like the Chinese mystery snail—spread from waterbody to waterbody, is by hitching rides on boats that have not been properly cleaned, drained, and dried between waterbodies.

Brittle/spiny naiad, Water chestnut, Chinese mystery snail, and Eurasian milfoil are the invasive species that have been stopped from hitching a ride into our lakes so far this summer.

Bob Woolner was enjoying dinner on his porch when he saw a truck with a boat on a trailer pull up to the boat launch. Bob has been a Lake Host with NH LAKES for 15 years. His family cabin happens to be right next to the boat ramp on Crescent Lake in Acworth. So when the truck pulled up at the launch after hours, Bob made the decision to walk over and welcome the out-of-stater who was coming from Vermont.

They got to talking about where the boat had been and Bob knew that this particular lake in Vermont did have milfoil, an aquatic invasive species. They decided to inspect the boat together. Bob checked a tricky spot known to trap plants, between the boat and the bunk. Sure enough, there was a piece of milfoil.

Bob is one of nearly 700 Lake Hosts throughout the state who serve as our lakes’ frontline of defense against the spread of aquatic invasive plants and animals. In addition to this save, Lake Hosts have also made critical saves at these other locations this summer: Brittle/spiny naiad stopped from entering Silver Lake in Madison, Chinese mystery snail stopped from departing Lovell Lake in Wakefield, Water chestnut seed from entering Lake Winnisquam in Belmont, and Water chestnut stopped from entering Lake Kanasatka in Moultonborough.

Established in 1992, the mission of NH LAKES, a statewide, publicly supported nonprofit organization, is to restore and preserve the health of New Hampshire’s lakes. For more information, visit nhlakes.org, email info@nhlakes.org, or call 603.226.0299

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Photo 1: Lake Host, Bob Woolner, stopped the aquatic invasive species of milfoil from entering pristine Crescent Lake in Acworth