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Camp Hale Receives the NH LAKES LakeSmart Award with Help from Stephens Landscaping!

Squam Lake will be cleaner and healthier

Concord, N.H., September 23, 2021 – Camp Hale, located on Squam Lake in Sandwich, New Hampshire, understands the value of clean and healthy lakes to our environment, our personal well-being, and our New Hampshire communities and economy. Expanding their efforts to uphold these values, Camp Hale recently completed a major shoreline restoration project with the help of Stephens Landscaping Professionals to achieve the coveted NH LAKES LakeSmart Award.

Camp Hale offers youth, particularly from urban areas, the opportunity to experience sleepaway camp in the natural beauty of the White Mountains. John McRae is a volunteer for Camp Hale and oversaw the restoration project. “I’ve been in the Lakes Region for over 40 years and have watched its growth. I believe the increased population has negatively impacted our lakes,” explained McRae. “When I heard about LakeSmart, I decided to get involved. First as a homeowner on Lake Kanasatka in nearby Moultonborough and then as a project manager for Camp Hale. I hope this sets an example for other residents and camps to do the same to improve the quality of our environment.”

The project focused on functionality for the camp and erosion control along the steep banks leading to the shoreline. Repurposed granite was used to steer water in the right direction and rain gardens were installed to collect polluted runoff water. The results are not only effective but also beautiful.

“The Camp Hale project was a true pleasure to be a part of. We were able to work with a great team to design and install functional spaces that were carefully intergraded into the native landscape and specifically designed to manage water runoff,” explained John Stephens, owner of Stephens Landscaping Professionals and a NH LAKES LakeSmart Service Provider Partner. “It’s a feel-good knowing campers will be making memories in these beautiful spaces and protecting our precious lakes for many years to come.”

“Through our LakeSmart Program, we teach people how to live in a lake-friendly way to keep our lakes clean and healthy for future generations,” said Krystal Costa Balanoff, NH LAKES Conservation Program Manager. “To have New Hampshire’s oldest youth camp restored in a way that celebrates these principles exemplifies the conservation ethic this program strives to build.”

NH LAKES provides a directory of conservation-minded LakeSmart Service Provider Partners, like Stephens Landscaping Professionals, to help property owners adopt lake-friendly living practices. Learn more at lakesmart.nhlakes.org.

Established in 1992, the mission of NH LAKES, a statewide, publicly supported nonprofit organization, is to ensure that New Hampshire’s 1,000 lakes are clean and healthy, now and in the future. To achieve its mission, NH LAKES works with partners, promotes clean water policies and responsible use, and inspires the public to care for our lakes. For more information, visit nhlakes.org, email info@nhlakes.org, or call 603.226.0299.

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Photo 1: (Left-Right) Krystal Costa Balanoff, NH LAKES Conservation Program Manager, presents the LakeSmart Award to John McRae of Camp Hale, and John Stephens, owner of Stephens Landscaping Professionals.