



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Governor Declares July 'Lakes Appreciation Month'**

***Join NH LAKES in celebrating and protecting the lakes that you enjoy!***

Concord, N.H., July 3, 2018: In a recent proclamation, Governor Sununu declared July 2018 "Lakes Appreciation Month" in New Hampshire, citing the importance that the state's hundreds of lakes and ponds contribute to the quality of life of all citizens and the state's economic well-being.

In New Hampshire, lakes and ponds are an important part of the natural environment and provide vital habitat for wildlife, they are a source of recreation and scenic beauty for citizens and visitors to enjoy, and they are valuable economic resources that support business and tourism within our state.

Residents and visitors are encouraged to take time throughout this month to appreciate and enjoy all that New Hampshire's lakes and ponds have to offer. Whether you enjoy swimming, boating, fishing, or admiring the scenery, there's something for nearly everyone to appreciate when it comes to our lakes and ponds. NH LAKES invites people to share what they appreciate about the state's lakes and ponds by entering the organization's photo or art contest this month. Find out more at [www.nhlakes.org](http://www.nhlakes.org).

The Governor's proclamation also recognizes the need to protect our lakes and ponds for future generations of New Hampshire's citizens.

"While New Hampshire is home to some of the best lakes in the country, the health and enjoyment of our lakes is threatened by polluted runoff water, invasive species, and more," commented Tom O'Brien, NH LAKES President. "The good news is, there are simple things we can all do to help keep our lakes clean and healthy."

NH LAKES encourages residents and visitors to take part in an activity this month to protect our lakes.

1. Organize a lake shoreline clean-up project, properly disposing of any collected trash that could be a hazard to wildlife.
2. Have your septic system pumped regularly if you live close to a waterbody to help prevent nutrients and bacteria leeching into the lake that could contribute to algae and bacteria blooms.
3. If you live along a waterbody, plant native shrubs along the shoreline to reduce erosion, soak up runoff water, and deter waterfowl (like geese) from visiting your property.
4. If boating, before leaving the ramp for the next waterbody, remove all aquatic vegetation from your boat and trailer and, in an area where the water won't flow directly back into the lake, open all drain plugs to help prevent the spread of invasive species.

A copy of the Governor's proclamation can be found on the NH LAKES website at [www.nhlakes.org](http://www.nhlakes.org).

General information about Lakes Appreciation Month can be found at the North American Lake Management Society website at [www.nalms.org](http://www.nalms.org).

NH LAKES is the only statewide, member-supported nonprofit organization working to keep all of New Hampshire's 1,000 lakes clean and healthy, now and in the future. They work with partners, promote clean water policies and responsible use, and inspire the public to care for our lakes. For more information, visit [www.nhlakes.org](http://www.nhlakes.org), email [info@nhlakes.org](mailto:info@nhlakes.org), or call 603.226.0299.

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