

2025 Lakes Congress Session Descriptions – Thursday, June 5

9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Keynote Address

The Evolution of Lake Management: What can we learn from the past for a clear future?

Presented by: Dr. Ken Wagner, Owner, Water Resource Services, Inc.

How has lake science, research, and management evolved over the last five decades? How have our understanding, approaches, and technologies changed? Our lakes are threatened by climate change, oxygen loss, nutrient enrichment, and species invasions, all of which affect lake uses and have been subject to assessment and management advances for over half a century. During this dynamic keynote address, Dr. Wagner will discuss what we already know about the past and what he predicts for the future of lake management.

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Session 1

A. Lakes Legislative Update

Presented by: Andrea LaMoreaux, President and Policy Advocate, NH LAKES

What happened in the 2025 legislative session that affected our lakes? Attend this session and find out. Andrea will provide a brief overview of the New Hampshire legislative process and then will focus the discussion on the priority lake bills NH LAKES weighed in on. You'll learn how your group can join the Lake Advocates Network, a statewide network of lake-minded people like you working with their community to initiate and support public policies and laws that restore and preserve the health of our lakes.

B. Management of Polluted Runoff Water in New Hampshire's Watersheds

Presented by: Tom Swenson, Watershed-Management Outreach Coordinator, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

Over ninety percent of the water quality problems in New Hampshire's lakes and rivers are caused by polluted runoff water. Join us for this session to gain a deeper understanding of the complexities surrounding polluted runoff management. Learn about innovative and practical solutions to mitigate runoff pollution. Be equipped with knowledge to advocate for and implement effective management strategies in your community.

C. Case Studies: Management of Aquatic Invasive Species in New Hampshire's Lakes

Presented by: Brea, Director of Programs, NH LAKES; Neil Santos, Pawtuckaway Lake Improvement Association; Wayne Sylvester, Vice President, Three Ponds Protective Association; Lisa Eggleston, Winnisquam Watershed Network

Approximately 90 lakes and rivers in New Hampshire are infested with invasive species, with some waterbodies plagued with up to six different species. Invasive species infestations are expensive to control and nearly impossible to get rid of once firmly established in a waterbody. Join this session to learn about various in-lake management techniques for managing aquatic invasive species and improving water quality.

Then, hear from three local associations that have used different approaches for invasive species management in their lakes. They will explore the pros and cons of a ProcellaCOR treatment plan to treat milfoil on Pawtuckaway Lake, AquaStrike vs. Diquat to treat Brittle Naiad on Milton Three Ponds, and the various options used to treat variable milfoil and water violet on Lake Winnisquam.

D. Grants to Restore and Preserve Watershed and Lake Health

Presented by: Steve Landry, Section Supervisor of the Watershed Assistance Program, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

Each year, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services invites lake and watershed groups to submit requests for grant funding to address polluted runoff water on the landscape. Recently, the Department established the Cyanobacteria Mitigation Loan and Grant Fund Program, which accepts requests from community groups to fund projects designed to reduce the frequency and severity of cyanobacteria blooms. Attend this session to learn if your group is eligible to apply to these programs and the types of projects accomplished through them.

11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Session 2

A. Municipal Ordinances to Protect Lake Health

Presented by: Nisa Marks, Watershed Coordinator, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services; Dan Regan, Town of Enfield; Elizabeth Harper, Lake Sunapee Protective Association

Communities around New Hampshire are adopting various ordinances to protect our lakes. Septic ordinances establish rules for properly operating and maintaining septic systems to prevent wastewater pollution, protecting public health—and lake health too. Learn how the Lake Sunapee Protective Association worked to get the four towns around the lake to adopt ordinances and find out what makes the Town of Enfield's recent ordinance one of the most protective.

B. In-Lake Management Treatments for Cyanobacteria

Presented by: Laura Diemer, Senior Project Manager/Lake Services Lead, FB Environmental

New Hampshire's lakes are seeing an increasing number of cyanobacteria blooms. These blooms can produce toxins that make people, pets, and wildlife sick. So, what can we do to treat a lake that experiences widespread blooms every year? When is it appropriate to treat it with alum? Hear how several lake communities have used this treatment method and how it's worked. If not alum, then what?

C. Case Study: Restoring the Water Quality of Danforth Ponds

Presented by: Brea, Director of Programs, NH LAKES; Moselle Spiller, Outreach Coordinator, Green Mountain Conservation Group; Frank and Kathy Lalumie, Friends of Danforth Pond

Danforth Ponds in Freedom, which flow into Lake Ossipee, have been ranked among New Hampshire's more impaired surface waters. The 2018 Ossipee Lake Watershed Management Plan outlined various measures to prevent erosion and reduce harmful phosphorus levels and other compounds degrading the water quality of the ponds.

The Friends of Danforth Ponds and the Green Mountain Conservation Group were awarded a \$100,000 grant by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to address these challenges. Hear how the Danforth Ponds community is working together to install best management practices to reduce stormwater runoff for both small and large-scale projects. Learn about cost-share incentives that were developed to both encourage proper septic system maintenance and homeowner best management practice installations. In addition, hear about the educational and community engagement initiatives that were deployed.

D. Getting Your Message Out to the Media

Presented by: Mara Hoplamazian, Reporter, NHPR

While building relationships with reporters can be daunting, it's an important way to help communities restore and preserve lake health. Reporters have the unique ability to take your story and amplify its reach. The news media plays a crucial role in informing the public, serving the community, and helping you spread the word about your mission. This session will empower you to understand reporters' goals, communicate effectively with them, pitch your ideas successfully, and navigate any misunderstandings with confidence. Be sure to bring questions about the stories your organization wants to share!

12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Lunch

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Session 3

A. Cyanobacteria Committees: Why Your Community Needs One

Presented by: Nisa Marks, Watershed Coordinator, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services; Doug Darling, Tucker Pond Improvement Association; Kevin Kelly, Moultonborough Cyanobacteria Committee; Warren Muir, Wolfeboro Waters

By forming a Cyanobacteria Committee, communities can proactively tackle the challenges posed by cyanobacteria, safeguarding both public health and our lakes. Hear from representatives from three towns on what it takes to advocate for and implement these essential committees. And hear about the successes and challenges they have faced along the way and what's in store next.

B. Addressing Erosion at Your Boat Launch

Presented by: Jon Balanoff, Executive Director, Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance; Celeste Lunetta, Recreation Director, Town of Antrim

Boat ramps are owned, managed, and maintained by various entities throughout the state. Find out how various groups have worked to provide safe and lake-friendly boat ramps to provide access to our lakes. The Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance worked on a watershed management plan that pointed to the boat ramp as a major contributor to runoff. Hear how they used that information to get grant funding from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services to complete the work needed. Also, hear from Recreation Director Celeste Lunetta who worked with the Town of Antrim to improve their boat ramp.

C. Case Studies: Communities Making Lake-Friendly Living the Norm

Presented by: Brea Arvidson, Director of Programs, NH LAKES; Kat Kelleher, Conservation Program Coordinator, NH LAKES; and Beth Olshansky Mendum's Pond Community Member

Communities around the state are making lake-friendly living the norm. But what does that mean exactly? Join this interactive session to learn about the most important lake-friendly updates people can do on their properties. Then learn how the NH LAKES LakeSmart Program is becoming more user-friendly and how you can bring this essential program to your community to help your lake. Beth Olshansky from Mendum's Pond will highlight how her lake community has embraced lake-friendly living.

D. Lake Life Under the Microscope

Presented by: Amanda McQuaid, Associate Extension State Specialist and Professor of Water Quality and Ecotoxicology/Director of Lakes Lay Monitoring Program, University of New Hampshire

Examination of lake water under a microscope uncovers a whole new world that is invisible to the naked eye. What can examining the microscopic community tell us about lake health? Through this microscopic examination, participants will learn how to interpret the signs of environmental stress and the potential impacts on water quality, aquatic life, and human health. Understanding these indicators can guide efforts in conservation, pollution prevention, and sustainable lake management.

2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. Session 4

A. Managing Proposed Land Development Projects in Your Watershed

Presented by: Betty Higley, Meredith Neck and Island Alliance; Pam Kelly, Pawtuckaway Lake Improvement Association; Elizabeth Harper, Executive Director, Lake Sunapee Protective Association

When a development project is proposed on your lake or in your watershed, it can be concerning. So what can you do? Join this session to learn what resources are available to you. We'll focus on strategies for effective engagement and collaboration among those in lake communities, including ways to identify and address concerns, build consensus around development proposals, and bring in help when you need it. And you'll hear from lake communities that have worked through proposed development projects in their communities.

B. Putting Your Property and Community on a Low-Salt Diet

Presented by: Aubrey Voelker, Salt Reduction Program Coordinator, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

Dramatically rising concentrations of chlorides from salt applications have been identified in New Hampshire's waters due primarily to salt use on roadways, walkways, and parking lots during winter. Salt can be toxic to aquatic life and can foul waters used for drinking water supply. This problem is increasing in severity. What's being done to address this problem? Join this session to learn about the Commercial Green SnowPro Program, the NEW Municipal Green SnowPro Program, and how property owners can take other measures to reduce salt on their property.

C. Updates from the Field: Bringing Lake Kanasatka Back to Good Health

Presented; Lisa Hutchinson and Kirk Meloney, Lake Kanasatka Watershed Association; Bob Craycraft, Lakes Monitoring Program Manager, University of New Hampshire

For nearly four years, cyanobacteria blooms continued to appear on the surface of Lake Kanasatka, which flows into Lake Winnepesaukee. The community quickly took action to address the blooms. The Lake Kanasatka Watershed Association raised money with the town to fund a lake management plan. That plan and their advocacy helped persuade state officials to fund an alum treatment last spring to control cyanobacteria growth. Join this session to hear about this process from start to finish and how the alum treatment has worked so far.

D. Updates from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Cyanobacteria Program

Presented by: Nisa Marks, Watershed Coordinator, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services; Michele Busi, Beach Program Coordinator, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

Lake residents and volunteers are integral to the success of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services' cyanobacteria monitoring and management program. Join this session to learn more about the 2024 monitoring results, how to keep yourself and others safe, and how to help spread the word in your lake community.