

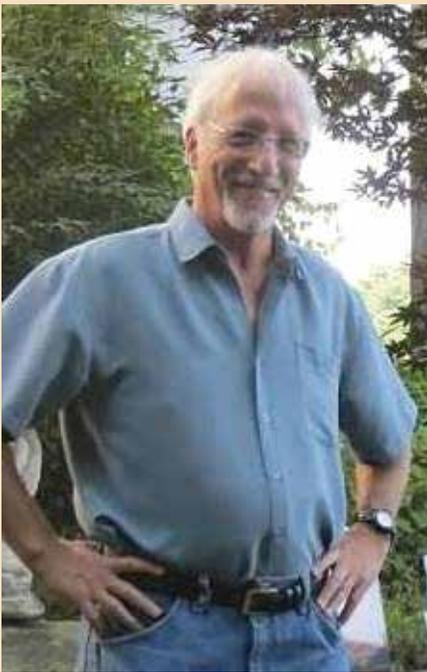
# LAKESIDE

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE LAKES ASSOCIATION

*The lake is my caretaker,  
my friend, and my therapist!*

*by Tom Duffy, Pawtuckaway Lake Improvement Association Member  
& 2013 John F. Morten Award for Exemplary Lakes Stewardship recipient*

 NEW HAMPSHIRE  
**LAKES**  
*Members dedicated to protecting lakes and their watersheds*  
Volume XXIII, No. 3, Fall, 2013



**Tom Duffy**

I love living on Pawtuckaway Lake and I have worked with many individuals over the years to protect this precious resource. Even though I grew up within walking distance of saltwater beaches in Connecticut I always wanted to live on a lake. The lake is my caretaker, my friend, and my therapist! I show it the love that it brings out in me.

In the early 1990s, I was inspired to participate in the Pawtuckaway Lake Improvement Association (PLIA) when the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NH DES) had just begun a large diagnostic study on the lake. I joined the water testing crew and learned about lake chemistry—particularly about the detrimental effects of phosphorous on lakes, the nature of algae and its bloom tendencies, and the remedies available to slow down the aging of the lake and protect the shoreline.

In my role as President of the lake association since 1998, I have helped with every task in our group's conservation effort. We have a strong corps of volunteer Weed Watchers that monitor the plant growth in the lake looking for non-native species, another group that monitors the two breeding loon pairs each year, and others who monitor water quality, 'no wake' signs, water levels at the dams, and fisheries and fishing tournaments.

Perhaps our strongest lake conservation effort is the New Hampshire Lakes Association Lake Host Program, expertly managed at Pawtuckaway Lake by Donna Danis. So far, our lake has no invasive milfoil, zebra mussels, or other such nuisance species that have spoiled many lakes in the Northeast. Each year, we petition the Town of Nottingham through the Town Warrant process to assist in funding our Lake Host efforts and each year they respond with a matching donation.

Our working relationship with the Town of Nottingham is mutually beneficial. The Conservation Commission has responded to complaints regarding bad shoreline management practices. PLIA regularly maintains the cleanliness of a section of two roads leading into Pawtuckaway State Park. We have also obtained grant monies from the Town and worked closely with Town officials to create demonstration sites showcasing runoff water reduction techniques, including rain gardens, around the lake.

In addition, we have worked to develop good relationships with state agencies. Pawtuckaway Lake is strongly influenced by Pawtuckaway State Park which is operated and managed by the New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development. We help the department monitor the park beach, holiday traffic, and help prevent the overpopulation of the park beaches and campground. During this past year, we have also worked closely with the NH DES to redefine lake water levels at two dams, and just recently we entered into a Performance Partnership Agreement with the department.

*The lake, continued on page 5*

# From the President...

## LAKESIDE

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I am looking for a good (actual) piece of wood to knock on, before I exclaim what beautiful weather we have recently been having. Despite a rather wet, hot, and muggy start to the summer, the last couple of months, at least through September, have been stellar. The summer wound down with many days of clear blue skies, low humidity, and warm sunshine.

By the time you receive this fall issue of *Lakeside*, you will have experienced cooler temperatures and are no doubt making the necessary preparations for winter, or are otherwise safely ensconced in warmer climes. As for me, I love autumn in New England and welcome the feeling of my blood quickening as the nights cool and the winds begin to prevail from the north. I am looking forward to tromping about in freshly fallen snow and traversing the edges of our not-yet-frozen lakes on snowshoes or cross country skis.

Aside from all this talk of colder weather to come, I hope that you enjoyed an absolutely marvelous summer. In only my second summer as President of NH LAKES, I had an extraordinary summer, meeting more lake association partners, individual members, and new business sponsors than I had in my entire first year!

Much of this increase was due to our intensive effort to bring a whole new LakeFest educational event—*Hands Across the Water*—to life on Lake Winnepesaukee in early September. Our level of activity also increased because of the interest and greater demand from our association partners for NH LAKES to attend their annual meetings.

Between Board members and staff this summer, we attended 15 association meetings, all on weekends; sometimes two in a day. We logged many miles and hours, but it was well worth it. We learned so much during these meetings as we listened to association members discuss organizational challenges and lake management concerns. Sometime during mid-summer I had the revelation that while most of our association partners are facing the same overarching issues—preventing the introduction and/or spread of aquatic nuisance species, monitoring and protecting lake quality, and recruiting and maintaining members—each association has its own unique character and local challenges. Much like our lakes, no two lake associations are the same. This reality makes our job here at NH LAKES, helping local lake associations build their capacity, more difficult but so very important.

To those of you who we met with this past summer, thank you for inviting us to your homes, tents, and your meeting halls—please stay in touch. And, for those of you whose groups we did not meet with, it is not too early to invite us to come to your next annual meeting—the summer of 2014 will be here before you know it!

Warmest and best regards,

Tom O'Brien, President

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# Advocacy Program Updates

by Tom O'Brien, NH LAKES President & Policy Advocate

Advocating for our lakes is a year-round job. NH LAKES staff and Advocacy Committee members work throughout the year in a variety of ways, and with a wide array of people, to advocate for and help craft laws, policies, and plans that protect our lakes and also allow for the enjoyment of our lakes. The NH LAKES Advocacy program began more than twenty years ago weighing in on a statewide recreational use conflict and has since weighed in on and initiated numerous statewide lake management and protection bills. During the past two years, NH LAKES has become increasingly involved in local advocacy efforts, working with individual local associations to help them address lake-specific management issues.

## Statewide Advocacy

About this time last year I updated you on the progress of our advocacy efforts during the summer of 2012 and expressed my disappointment about the lack of progress made on Senate Bill (SB) 224 pertaining to protecting loons from the toxic effects of fishing jigs containing the metal lead. This year I have good news to report! SB 89—the successor bill to SB 224—passed during the 2013 session, thanks to the strength of a concerted advocacy effort on the part of NH LAKES (and many of you), in support of its partner the Loon Preservation Committee. Following the official signing of the bill, Governor Maggie Hassan ceremoniously signed the bill surrounded by many loon advocates—including NH LAKES Board, staff members, and volunteers—at the Loon Center in Moultonborough on August 27.

In addition to the “Loon Bill” (as it became known), NH LAKES was in the frontline advocating for modifications to the Shoreland Act in an effort to correct and strengthen some aspects of it that had been weakened two years earlier. House Bill (HB) 513 passed with flying colors and we believe that the Shoreland Act is better for these efforts. NH LAKES continues to work with the Shoreland Advisory Committee and we expect this committee to meet in several venues around the state over the next 18 months to hear from communities and individuals about their experience with the Shoreland Act. Stay tuned to our *NH LAKES Advocacy Alert!* for information on these upcoming meetings.

Since the legislature went out of session in June, NH LAKES has continued to stay engaged in two legislative subcommittees where bills have been retained. These bills are HB 292 and HB 545.

**HB 292** is bill designed to create a ‘milfoil sticker’ to be required on boats using New Hampshire waters but that are registered in other states. The goal of this bill—to increase funding for the prevention and the control of aquatic nuisance species—is laudable, but the sticker program that is proposed is unlikely to bring in sufficient income compared to the amount of effort and cost to implement the program. At the time of this writing, HB 292 is still under consideration by a legislative subcommittee, but our prediction is that, in its current form, the bill will not pass. We do expect to get behind the right bill to increase funding to combat the growing costs of prevent-

ing the spread of aquatic nuisance plants and animals and efforts to control existing infestations of milfoil and other nuisance species.

**HB 545** would increase the number of boats that can be rafted (tied side by side at anchor) in the state’s designated rafting-restricted zones. Presently the number of boats that can be rafted in these zones is two—a number that we think is safe and sanitary, and in the best interests of all the other beneficiaries of our state’s lakes and ponds. We will continue to oppose this bill.

## Local Advocacy

In addition to our legislative and statewide public policy work, NH LAKES has also been working directly with several of our local association partners to help them respond to specific challenges that they face in the short term and also to help them build local capacity over the long term. Effective associations are critical to the stewardship of our water resources. Let me describe for you one such local story...

The members of the Pawtuckaway Lake Improvement Association (PLIA) in Nottingham have felt challenged by the direction and pace of a decade-long water level and flow study being conducted by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NH DES) on the Lamprey River, located downstream of Pawtuckaway Lake. Although this study over the years has included some public process components, during the past year, the PLIA became concerned about the process, feeling like the changes that were being proposed, and that would ultimately affect lake water levels, were too much and too soon.

*Advocacy Program, continued on page 6*



*A Common Loon and chick.* (Photo courtesy of Kittie Wilson)

# Education Program Updates

We had another very busy and successful summer helping to protect New Hampshire's lakes through education and great stewardship on everyone's part. As with our Advocacy program, our Education program works both statewide and locally. Here's just a few highlights of our summer work...

## Lake Host Program

Through our Lake Host Program, we stepped up our game this summer to protect our lakes against aquatic nuisance plants *and animals* through the new "Clean, Drain & Dry" method. Approximately 70,000 boaters throughout the state were taught this new procedure in 2013 and were provided with a new program decal and brochure. And, Lake Hosts caught at least 153 specimens of aquatic nuisance species hitching their way into or out of a New Hampshire waterbody!



Lake Host Katie Davis at Lake Armington in Piermont offers a boater the new Lake Host Program brochure.

## Rain Barrel Program

Through a grant from the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts, NH LAKES taught Laconia Middle School students about how rain barrels can be used to conserve water supplies and protect our lakes and rivers from polluted runoff. Students then painted rain barrels with water conservation and appreciation themes. The painted barrels were put on display in downtown Laconia and were raffled off at conferences and several festivals by NH LAKES staff.



A proud family wins a rain barrel at the Lakeside Living Expo.



A 7th grade Laconia student paints a loon on a rain barrel.

# Let's Get The Lead Out, NH!

Protect our Wildlife



## “Let's Get the Lead Out, NH!”

In the inaugural year of this NH LAKES statewide educational campaign, 12 lake associations and countless individuals pledged to take action to help get the lead out of fishing in order to help protect our loons and other waterbirds from lead poisoning. NH LAKES handed out hundreds of free lead-free fishing tackle samples at festivals and meetings and many local groups handed out campaign brochures and lead-free tackle at boat ramps.

### Lake Friendly-Landscaping Training Workshop: What, Why & Try!

In late-July, NH LAKES hosted a free lake-friendly landscaping workshop at Eastman Community Association in Grantham. Participants learned more about the problem of stormwater runoff, the impact to our lakes, and what resources are available to help homeowners reduce it. The day ended with all helping to build a vegetated buffer along Eastman Lake!



### These are just some of the highlights from the summer!

In addition to these programs and activities, NH LAKES hosted the 20th annual Lakes Congress educational conference and networking event, implemented the Summer Youth Employment Program in the communities of Colebrook and Laconia, and implemented a new Lake Conservation Corps Program at Canobie Lake in Windham.

### The lake, continued from page 1

Our group's best example of interaction with the community is the annual field trip to Pawtuckaway Lake that we host for the local fifth grade class. With an armada of pontoon boats, we bring the students out on the lake and teach them how to collect water samples and plankton samples—most students are fascinated to see these squiggly creatures bob around in magnifying jars! On shore, we con-

duct demonstrations about wildlife, not feeding ducks, and water safety. The outing ends with a late lunch and a rousing chorus of “Don't Pee In The Lake”—a song I wrote for kids. The kids love it and remember it years later when they see me around town!

I believe that we need to teach good stewardship of our lake resources to the young and old alike, and I believe that everyone can do

it; everyone can set an example of excellence in stewardship. The 60 or so active members of the Pawtuckaway Lake Improvement Association are doing it. If not us, who will do it? If not now, when will it happen?

*Tom Duffy is the current Co-President of the Pawtuckaway Lake Improvement Association. To learn more about the group, visit [www.pawtuckawaylake.com](http://www.pawtuckawaylake.com).*

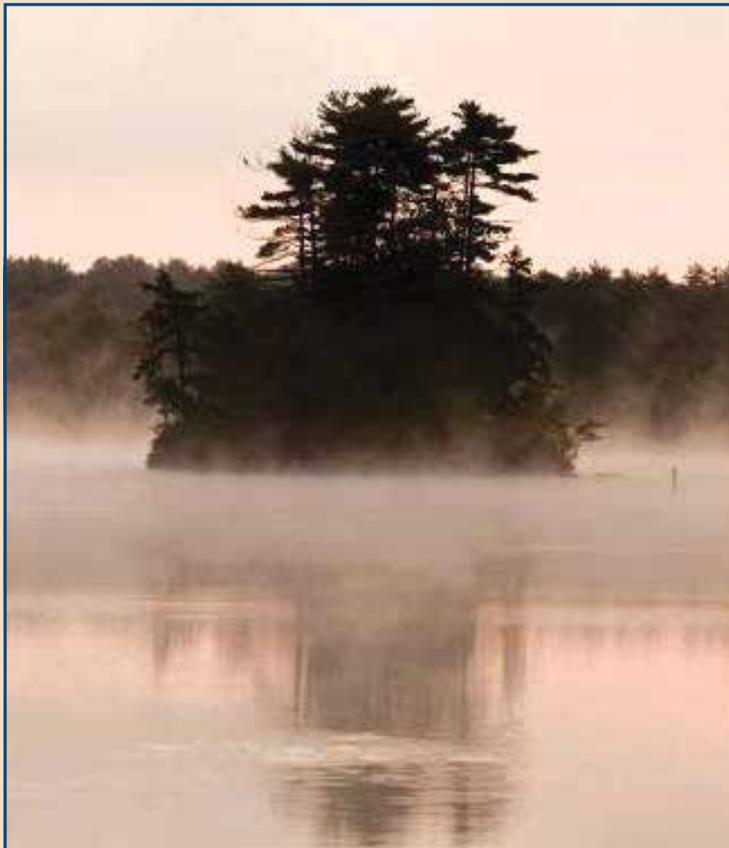
In an effort to slow things down so that they could better understand the science and the rationale behind the proposed changes, the PLIA requested additional public meetings. The NH DES staff responded positively and extended the period of public process and, just a week before this writing, the PLIA and the NH DES entered into a Performance Partnership Agreement (PPA). The PPA makes both groups partners in monitoring the effects of graduated changes in lake level drawdown, giving NH DES the opportunity to adapt the management plan to actual water quality outcomes, versus casting into stone a plan that can only predict certain water quality outcomes. I want to personally commend both the PLIA and NH DES for committing to this cooperative effort to improve water quality in Pawtuckaway Lake.

I included this local advocacy story not to discuss the specific details of the changes that were proposed at Pawtuckaway Lake, but rather to convey that lake and pond stewardship is dependent upon not only on a strong statewide organization, but also on the capacity and the effectiveness of local lake, pond,

and watershed associations. It is local associations, like the PLIA, that have both the greatest responsibility and the greatest opportunity to safeguard their favorite waterbody for current and future generations. NH LAKES is here to help build a statewide network of effective and capable lake stewards and groups, so that together we can protect the lakes of New Hampshire for future generations to enjoy.

#### **We want to hear from you!**

By the time you read this article in our fall *Lakeside*, both the House and the Senate filing periods for the 2014 Legislative Session will have passed and we will likely have a number of legislative service requests for which we will be either garnering legislative sponsors or exploring a best line of defense. But we can't plan our strategy without your input. To add your opinion on our legislative strategy in response to the 'bills' that are being proposed for the upcoming session, please go to our website at [www.nhlakes.org](http://www.nhlakes.org) and take our legislative survey. Thank you, in advance, for sharing your thoughts and concerns with us!



**Pawtuckaway State Park.** (Photo source: [www.nhstateparks.org](http://www.nhstateparks.org))

# Membership Matters

***New Members June 15 through October 3, 2013***

#### **Individuals**

Michael Beaudoin  
Bob and Jacqueline Blanchard  
Pamela Brown  
Lea Buttrick  
Kenneth Coleman & Susan Moreli  
James Connolly  
Harvey DeWees  
Ellen Edersheim  
David & Judith Felder  
Charles Forbes  
Jewel Fox  
Elizabeth Garlo  
Paul Lever  
Eric & Therese Louis  
Shelly Messenger  
Walter Milne  
Charles & Loretta Monteverdi  
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Chris & Faith Northrop  
Kerry Oedel  
Jeffrey Photiades  
Raymond & Charon Pinard  
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Reilly  
Margaret Schillemat  
Stephen & Jennifer Schweich  
Kathy Sullivan-Mallon  
Debra Ann Syrene  
Katherine Thatcher  
Jennifer Warburton  
Robert Weiss  
Steve & Constance White  
Harry Woodbury  
Janet O. Yardley

#### **Associations**

Alton Town Offices  
Kanasatka Watershed Association  
Sturtevant Cove Association  
Town of Freedom

# NH Charitable Foundation Invests in NH LAKES' Statewide Capacity-Building Initiative

Many hands make light work. But in the world of association management, fewer hands and cutting-edge technology work even better. NH LAKES is excited to announce receiving a \$5,000 grant from the Ruth and James Ewing Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation to research, acquire, and install new software that will: streamline office procedures; increase NH LAKES' capacity to

communicate with new and existing members; and, most importantly, extend new services to our local lake, pond, and watershed association partners throughout the state.

"The NH Charitable Foundation shares our vision for a strong, statewide network of local lake associations—a network that will have an effective and sustaining educational and advocacy impact

for years to come," says NH LAKES President, Tom O'Brien. "The type of relationship management software that we are implementing has come a long way in recent years and we look forward to the power and the impact that this technology will have helping us to build a community of individual, business, and association partners."

## How many lake-lovers does it take...

...to keep our cherished lakes and ponds of New Hampshire free from infestations of aquatic nuisance species? Well, if you consider just the NH LAKES Lake Host program, each summer it takes nearly 250 seasonal NH LAKES employees and 500 volunteers to clean boats and educate their owners at approximately 100 of the most highly-used public ramps around the state. Each one of these Lake Hosts, whether paid or volunteer, has been trained and possesses a thorough understanding of how the growing numbers of aquatic nuisance species threaten our freshwater resources. For those of you who are or have served as Lake Hosts in the past—thank you! **We count on your generous gift of time to make this program a success.**

As we close out the books on this very productive summer of lake stewardship, NH LAKES turns its attention to the challenges ahead, including the upcoming legislative session. This year, with your help, we will continue to work collaboratively to identify and secure additional funding for both preventing the spread of and controlling existing infestations of aquatic nuisance species in New Hampshire's lakes, ponds, and rivers.

To support these educational and advocacy

efforts, we ask for your help. NH LAKES receives grants to help sustain the Lake Host Program but we count on you to help us fund our advocacy initiatives. It takes a considerable investment of staff time and other organizational resources to effectively serve as your voice, and your lake's voice, at the Statehouse and Legislative Office Building in Concord. As you consider how much to contribute to our Annual Fund, know that **we count on your generous gift of money to**

**help make these efforts a success.**

If you haven't yet received our annual appeal in the mail, you can send in your gift using the envelope enclosed in this newsletter, make your gift online through our secure site at [www.nhlakes.org/donation](http://www.nhlakes.org/donation), or call our office at (603) 226-0229.

Thank you!



**NH LAKES held the inaugural LakeFest: Hands Across the Water event on September 7. While we didn't set the Guinness World Record for the largest floating raft of canoes and kayaks, we were thrilled with the paddlers' enthusiasm and excited for the opportunity to educate participants about the new Clean, Drain & Dry! method to prevent the spread of aquatic nuisance species. Learn and see more at [www.nhlakefest.org](http://www.nhlakefest.org).**

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*Autumn reflected in Village Pond in Marlow.* (Photo courtesy of Butch Lombardi, [www.eastbayimages.com](http://www.eastbayimages.com).)