

LAKESIDE

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE LAKES ASSOCIATION

The 2013 Legislative Session In Review

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

 NEW HAMPSHIRE
LAKES
Members dedicated to protecting lakes and their watersheds
Volume XXIII, No. 2, Summer, 2013

The NH LAKES Advocacy Program has had a very busy but rewarding legislative session with some notable successes, though, as of the date this article was written (June 26), some bills are pending the Governor's signature. The greatest focus of the Governor and the Legislature this year was the state budget, but inside of that greater tumult are some bills and budget items important to lakes. We are cautiously optimistic about the outcome of several of these and if the majority of them go our way we will consider this to be a successful session advocating on behalf of our lakes and ponds. I would have liked to give you a definitive report, but our *Lakeside* publishing deadline was upon us.

In reflecting on our strategy and our successes, it occurs to me that the most effective thing that 'we' did this year, was to hear from 'you'. Last summer we asked you, in the summer issue of *Lakeside*, to fill out a survey and tell us what your priorities were for the NH LAKES Advocacy Program. (Later this summer we will send out the 2013 survey, but in an electronic format, so please make sure we have your email address.) The 2012 survey identified five priorities, in the order listed below, and two priorities were added by NH LAKES.

1. Prevention and control of exotic aquatic species
2. Septic pollution
3. Drinking water
4. Stormwater and shoreline buffers
5. Protecting loons from fishing tackle made from (the metal) lead
6. Dedicated funding and budget processes related to lake management/safety*
7. Other**

*The 6th priority was added because we knew that there would be an initiative on the part of our fellow conservation organizations to protect or restore funds dedicated for specific conservation programs, the most notable being the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP).

**The 7th priority is a category that encompassed bills that addressed the following themes:

- Advocacy opportunities that would help develop or strengthen our relationships with other like-minded organizations or with lake-oriented municipalities, businesses or agencies.
- Bills that appeared to create unsafe conditions on lakes or that might cause user conflicts.
- Bills that addressed public process to provide better opportunities for local lake advocates to get involved in public process and advocate on behalf of their local interests.

Before I get into the legislative minutia, I want to thank everyone who responded to our requests for action made through the NH LAKES Advocacy Alert! Your emails, letters, phone calls and in-person testimony were invaluable. I cannot emphasize enough the power that you have, individually and collectively, to inform and influence the political process. For instance, we heard from legislators that they got more emails and calls on the 'loon bill' (SB 89) than on the 'casino bill.' Now that's grassroots advocacy! So thank you everyone. Now on to the details...

The legislative process can be quite involved and seemingly mysterious, particularly to the newcomer, but with some relatively simple research, the basic flow of the process can be understood. A very succinct primer is available at:

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From the President...

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I love lakes... especially this time of year. As I write, the water is clean and cool, the water levels are up from recent rains, and our lakes and ponds are teeming with birds, turtles, fish, frogs and—for the most fortunate among us—baby loons. It is indeed an exciting time of year and, by the time you read this, you will no doubt have had many a day playing in or relaxing around your favorite lake. And if you haven't, well...we need to talk...down by the lake.

While activity on your lake is likely in full swing, we are also busy at NH LAKES. In this summer issue of *Lakeside* we describe some of the work being done by our partners and some of the exciting things that we have in store for you. And, along with the great work that is being done by many, I would be remiss if I didn't write about the very serious threats that still exist to our lakes and the very important work that we are doing—with your help—on the education and the advocacy fronts. In this issue of *Lakeside* you will learn about our legislative activities and our successes this year. But first, let's talk about one of the greatest threat to our lakes—aquatic nuisance (i.e. invasive) species.

The numbers will have grown by the time you read this but, during the first six weeks of the 2013 Lake Host program, there were 40 'saves'—40 fragments of hitchhiking nuisance plants were caught that

would have otherwise made their way from one lake to another. The Lake Host program continues to be the most important thing that we do together—with you and your association—to prevent the spread of aquatic nuisance species. And, with your continued support of this program, we will be able to address the growing number of threats—like Asian clams and zebra mussels. In response to the increasing threat from these (and other) nuisance animals, NH LAKES has rolled out its 'Clean, Drain and Dry' initiative. Barring having wash stations at every boat ramp (which may be in our future), we must all take individual responsibility to ensure we are taking care of our boats—of all kinds—when moving between waterbodies.

You will be hearing a lot more about our 'Clean, Drain and Dry' initiative this summer and we hope that you will take these practices to heart as they are designed to help you take care of your lake, and your neighbors' too. **The first season of this new prevention approach will be capped off in early September with our *LakeFest 2013: Hands Across the Water* event through which we will try to set a Guinness World Record.** You may have already heard about this event as we covered it in our spring issue of *Lakeside* and have been promoting it throughout the state. By creating an opportunity for kayakers and canoeists to form the largest raft of its kind in the world, we will also be creating an educational opportunity second to none. Each participant will leave with a better understanding of their responsibility and role in preventing the spread of aquatic nuisance species.

In the meantime, and if we have yet to see you by the lake, please enjoy this issue of *Lakeside*. And I do look forward to seeing you around...

Stay safe and keep in touch,

Tom

NH LAKES gratefully acknowledges the support of:



info@MyLakeTown.com

www.MyLakeTown.com

Our partner in lake protection.

Have you seen your new NH LAKES website?

The address is still the same—www.nhlakes.org—but the site is much improved. Be sure to check it out to see what it offers all NH LAKES members—individuals, association, and corporate members alike.

www.gencourt.state.nh.us/misc/legprocess.html. For our purposes here, we have used some shorthand to describe how it works:

- For a bill to become law, it has to be passed by both the House and the Senate and then signed into law by the Governor (with exceptions for overrides and vetoes).
- When we state that a bill is ‘pending the Governor’s signature,’ you can assume it has been passed by both the House and the Senate.
- When either legislative body approves a bill, they do so voting it ‘ought to pass.’
- To kill a bill, it is voted ‘inexpedient to legislate.’ Either legislative body can do so.
- If a bill is ‘retained’ or “sent to study” it is essentially held over to the next session.

Below are listed some of the specific bills on which we advocated (and are still tracking), categorized by the seven (7) priorities listed above. What is important to note is that we may have spent relatively little time on an important issue/bill because it went away quickly or, conversely, moved relatively smoothly through the approval process. But this is difficult to anticipate so we have had to be proactive, vigilant, adaptive, and responsive. If you would like to know more about any of these bills, you can do an online search by inputting the bill number at: www.gencourt.state.nh.us.

Priority Area #1: Prevention and control of exotic aquatic species

HOUSE BILL 292, *AN ACT requiring milfoil decals on private vessels registered in other states or countries and operating on the inland waters of New Hampshire.* NH LAKES supports the concept of increasing the funds available to combat invasive (i.e. nuisance) aquatic plants and animals but this bill was flawed in many respects. In response, NH LAKES convened many of the stakeholders at a meeting for the purposes of identifying our mutual interests and differences. The bill was subsequently ‘retained’ by the legislature for study between sessions and will be revisited at the beginning of the next session in January 2014.

HOUSE BILL 527, *AN ACT repealing the exotic aquatic weeds and species committee.* This bill would have dissolved the exotic aquatic weeds and species committee. NH LAKES opposed this bill as this committee has brought legislative attention to this very important issue, serving as a forum in which NH LAKES and many of its partners directly participate. This bill was voted ‘inexpedient to legislate’ by the House of Representatives. The committee will continue to meet and Andrea LaMoreaux, NH LAKES Vice-President of Education and Communication, is representing us on that committee.

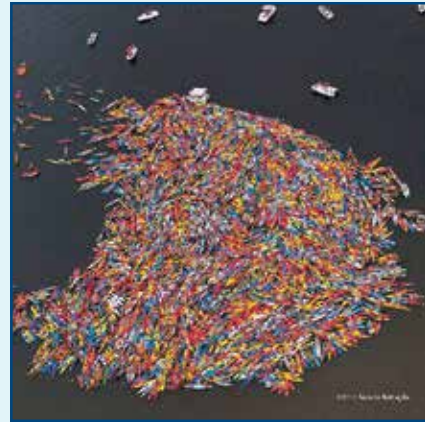
Priority Area #3: Drinking water

HOUSE BILL 393, *AN ACT relative to effluent limitations with regard to nitrogen and phosphorus.* NH LAKES supported this bill, the passage of which will reduce phosphorus (and nitrogen) in lawn fertilizer from getting into lakes. Both nutrients accelerate the growth of aquatic plants and can contribute to harmful algal blooms and

Legislative Session, continued on page 4

We need your help!

Our *LakeFest 2013: Hands Across the Water* event is the biggest event undertaking NH LAKES has envisioned.



This is what approximately 2,000 canoes and kayaks looks like from the air!
(Photo copyright 2011 by Nancie Battaglia, One Square Mile of Hope)

A Guinness World Record Attempt? What?

We know that we can’t make it happen without an army of enthusiastic volunteers. We have specific volunteer needs for the week leading up to the event and for the day before and day of—we need canoe and kayak handlers, registration takers, Lake Hosts, photographers, and more!

Please visit the event website at www.nhlakefest.org to learn more about this educational event and attempt at a setting a World Record, and to sign up as a volunteer. Not only will you make our job easier, you will help raise awareness about how canoeists and kayakers can help prevent the spread of aquatic nuisance species.

In the meantime, we could use your help in any one of the following ways:

1. Share your enthusiasm about the event with everyone you know through Facebook, Twitter and other forms of social media. Help us go viral!
2. Put posters around your town or distribute flyers at local gatherings. Just let us know how many you need or download them from the event website.
3. Identify businesses or groups who might like to be a sponsor or host a team. Provide us with the contact information at info@nhlakes.org and we will take it from there. Or, set up a team yourself—your local lake association, paddling group, or youth group would make a great team!
4. Create a flash mob in a public place and sing “Hands Across the Water.” (Don’t know what a ‘flash mob’ is? Then this option might not be for you!)
5. Let us know of any other ideas you might have to help us get the word out.

It’s going to be lots of fun but we won’t have a chance at breaking the world record unless you help!



cyanobacteria (some species of which are toxic). The bill was signed by the Governor 06/04/2013; Effective 01/01/2014.

HOUSE BILL 623, *AN ACT appropriating funds to the department of environmental services for the purpose of funding eligible and completed drinking water, wastewater, and landfill closure projects under the state aid grant program.* NH LAKES supported this bill in partnership with the municipalities that have built or upgraded municipal systems that serve to safeguard surface and groundwater, and which did so with the promise of state aide for debt relief, on which the state has since reneged. This bill was voted 'inexpedient to legislate' by the House of Representatives.

SENATE BILL 168, *AN ACT appropriating funds to the department of environmental services for the purpose of funding eligible and completed drinking water, wastewater, and landfill closure projects under the state aid grant program.* NH LAKES supported this bill. It was tabled by the Finance Committee and will not be taken up unless a committee motion passes to do so.

Priority Area #4: Stormwater and shoreline buffers

HOUSE BILL 513, *AN ACT relative to the shoreland protection act.* This bill modifies several provisions of the shoreland protection act relative to minimum shoreland protection standards. NH LAKES supported this bill and worked within and alongside the Shoreland Advisory Committee to help build consensus support for these revisions to the existing Shoreland Act. NH LAKES testified on several occasions to improve some of the protective standards that had previously been weakened and to restore the state's reasonable authority to enforce the law. This bill will become law pending the Governor's signature

HOUSE BILL 347, *AN ACT authorizing cottage housing development as an innovative land use control.* NH LAKES expressed support for the goals of this bill (e.g. reducing sprawl) but also reservations about its potential negative impact on rural residential areas associated with lakes and the impact of additional impervious surfaces. The bill was



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

passed by the House but voted 'inexpedient to legislate' by the Senate.

SENATE BILL 124, *AN ACT establishing an integrated land development permit.* This bill establishes a permit process for applicants seeking one or more land development permits from the Department of Environmental Services (DES). NH LAKES supported this bill which will provide an optional (on the part of the applicant) path to combine one or more of four environmental permits into one application and permitting process. The bill is pending the Governor's signature. The actual implementation of this integrated permit process appears to be quite complicated and a lot of internal work has to be done by DES in order to make it work.

Priority Area #5: Protecting loons from fishing tackle made from lead

SENATE BILL 89, *AN ACT relative to the definition of lead fishing sinkers and jigs and the penalties for prohibited sales of lead fishing sinkers and jigs.* This bill was strongly supported by NH LAKES and many of our partners, members, and sister conservation organizations. The Loon Preservation Committee provided the science and impetus behind this bill and NH LAKES and its advocacy constituents helped to get it over a very tough road. The bill is pending the Governor's signature.

Priority Area #6: Dedicated funding and budgets for lake management/safety

HOUSE BILL 411, *AN ACT repealing a future reduction in vessel registration fees.* This bill repeals a reduction in vessel registration fees that is scheduled to take effect July 1, 2015. This bill was requested by the department of safety. NH LAKES strongly supported this bill as the vessel (i.e. boat) registration fees were established with broad support and they presently fund programs that directly benefit boaters, such as navigational safety (i.e. Marine Patrol) and the DES grant programs for treating and preventing the spread of nuisance aquatic species. This bill is pending the Governor's signature.

HOUSE BILL 428, *AN ACT relative to funds for dam maintenance, removal and improvement.* This bill allows all dam owners, excluding the state, to receive money from the dam maintenance, removal and improvement revolving loan fund. NH LAKES supported this bill and it was signed into law by the Governor on 06/04/2013.

HOUSE BILL 549, *AN ACT establishing a committee to study a constitutional amendment to prevent dedicated funding for a specific purpose from being diverted from that purpose.* NH LAKES strongly supported this bill but in light of the difficult budgetary

Community Activism and Pond Stewardship in Hudson: Building Momentum over the Past Decade

A review by Jim Kegley, Lake Host Program Point Person, Town of Hudson

“It takes a community to save a pond.”

From my perspective, that’s where we’re still on the fence between success and failure, depending on whether our local pond communities can sustain efforts and mobilize resources coordinated with the larger community comprising our town officials, the fishing and boating community, state agencies and organizations, and professional contractors. I’m hopeful that a small outreach program involving our high school students, which started last year, will increase community awareness and the profile of our work. But, it’s been a long decade, and we still have a long way to go. Our success so far wouldn’t have been possible without the New Hampshire Lakes Association (NH LAKES) Lake Host Program. This is our story about the rise of community activism and pond stewardship in Hudson, beginning with one person’s concern and the connections he made that have continued to grow and expand over the years.

The Ponds of Hudson

Residents of the Ottarnic and Robinson Pond communities in Hudson, New Hampshire, near the southern border of the state, have been actively working to control Variable

Milfoil and Fanwort infestations for over 10 years. Throughout the past decade, our water quality and aquatic nuisance plant control efforts have included the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP), the NH LAKES Lake Host Program, two herbicide treatments at each pond, and a diver assisted suction harvester (DASH) program.

Our ponds and their surrounding communities were relatively quiet and inconspicuous before the ponds became infested with Variable Milfoil and Fanwort in the 1990s. Hudson is a residential community where people work and raise their families. Houses circle half of 34-acre Ottarnic Pond’s shoreline, and the only public access is a town boat launch. Eighty-eight-acre Robinson Pond has a small town beach and an accessible public boat launch. Homes also dot half the shoreline, and a town forest and island provide lots of public access for fishing and hiking.

Summers on Robinson Pond can be busy. Ninety boaters, anglers, recreational power boaters, and paddlers may arrive on a weekend, coming from up to 245 different waterbodies around New England and beyond, as recorded by Lake Hosts since 2006. Robinson Pond, in

particular, continues to be a notorious threat for the spreading of Variable Milfoil and Fanwort to other waterbodies due to its high seasonal use and accessibility. Lake Hosts working at Robinson Pond have contributed over 60% of the recorded ‘saves’ for the entire Lake Host Program from 2005 to 2010, rising from seven ‘saves’ in 2004, to a high of 297 in 2009.

Rise of Environmental Activism in Hudson

Environmental activism in Hudson was stimulated by a University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension Service community organization initiative in the early 2000s. Community meetings brought together residents interested in a wide variety of issues, including the preservation of Hudson’s natural resources. Hudson resident Curt Laffin led the formation of a Friends of Hudson’s Natural Resources group. This brought together several pond residents who began our local VLAP water quality monitoring program. Within that group, Rob Richtarek, a Robinson Pond waterfront resident, had become concerned by increasing aquatic weed growth around his canoe dock which prevented its use.

After Rob organized the VLAP team, he became aware of the DES program to chemically treat lakes infested with exotic plants with herbicide and the statewide Lake Host Program being started by NH LAKES in 2002. Rob took the initiative to submit and secure a herbicide treatment grant and a Lake Host Program grant for Robinson Pond, and to hire the pond’s first Lake Hosts. He hired Tom Gainan from Sandown who had heard about the new Lake Host Program on WMUR television. Tom has worked as a Lake Host at Robinson Pond every summer since.

I took over as Hudson’s Lake Host Program Point Person in 2005 after Rob moved away. Although Rob’s wife provided a funding link to the town through the Recreation Department, I became a liaison between the



A large crew of volunteers help clean up Robinson Pond. (Photo Source: Jim Kegley)

Community Activism, continued on page 6

program, our pond communities, and Hudson's Conservation Commission. Our pond communities have consisted of approximately 50 residents who have remained on a contact list, with about a dozen assuming active steward and leadership roles. We do not have any formal lake or pond associations in Hudson.

While Lake Hosts at Ottarnic and Robinson ponds have generally been paid, volunteers have worked as Lake Host Point Persons, VLAP Water Quality Monitors, Weed Watchers, and multi-faceted facilitators to a contracted DASH operator. Our informal volunteer network has really been the organizational backbone for our pond stewardship. Hudson Conservation Commission has been interested and supportive of the VLAP and Lake Host programs since their initiation.

Financing Hudson's Pond Stewardship Programs

The costs of these programs were relatively minor in comparison to the conservation commission's annual budget, which has to be approved by Hudson's Board of Selectman (BOS) each year. Our Selectmen and Conservation Commission members steadfastly supported the financial needs of our second herbicide treatments in 2009 and 2010, which were significant but single, short-term expenses tempered by DES' generous aquatic weed control matching grants. However, the battle lines have been more contentiously drawn since the start of our DASH program in 2010. We began the DASH program with hopes of obtaining more regular and enhanced quality and cost controls for weed growth over an extended period. But the program has required a substantially higher annual budget, which has been harder for many Selectmen to accept. And, innovative control methods have been met with skepticism.

Although the outcome of our first year of DASH work was promising, 2012 proved to be a challenging year for our community, as it did for many others. The effectiveness of our DASH program was compromised by the extremely mild winter that preceded the 2012 growing season. By the end of 2012, beds of Milfoil and Fanwort had rebounded more extensively than we anticipated. Now we are contending with and planning herbicide treatments for both ponds, but for financial



An herbicide treatment on Ottarnic Pond.
(Photo Source: areanewsgroup.com)

reasons we will have to space these out over the next several years. Our Conservation Commission has been challenged to withdraw from its land acquisition fund to cover the increasing expenses of a long-range plan for Variable Milfoil and Fanwort control. The viability and future of our DASH program is uncertain, depending on the extent of support it receives from the Selectmen and Hudson residents during future voting for budgets at Town Meeting.

The Importance of the Lake Host Program

Through all of this, the NH LAKES Lake Host Program has been a constant, stabilizing support. The relatively small costs of the program have been a good investment in the future of our weed control efforts. Our seasoned Lake Hosts, Tom Gainan and Sue Meagher, have established trusted relationships with the boating community, expanding our culture of concern to include an unending supply of new boaters unfamiliar with aquatic nuisance plants and animals. Their work has won respect from the community at large, leading our weed battles with good role models and sound education.

We do not know how our battles will end here in Hudson, but it is reassuring to think of the future of our ponds in Hudson is built around the ongoing contributions of the NH LAKES Lake Host Program.

Jim Kegley can be reached via email at jimkegley@comcast.net.



Robinson Pond, Hudson.

Thank you!

In mid-June, Judy King, Operations Assistant, left NH LAKES to take a full-time position with a nonprofit organization closer to home. Judy, in her almost eight years with us, played a key role in our membership program and in supporting the general operations of the office. Thank you, Judy, and best wishes!

2013 Morten Award

The 2013 John F. Morten Award for Exemplary Lakes Stewardship has been awarded to Tom Duffy of the Pawtuckaway Lake Improvement Association. The 'Morten Award' is the highest award bestowed by NH LAKES in gratitude for the volunteerism and personal impact that the award recipient has had in the conservation of our lakes and their watersheds.

Tom has been active at Pawtuckaway Lake for decades and has served in multiple volunteer positions. His impact is not limited to just the lake, however, as Tom has inspired many school children to appreciate the lake and has helped to develop and maintain an excellent

working relationship with the Town of Nottingham, fostering a lake community that transcends property ownership or proximity to the lake. Tom has seen to it that Pawtuckaway Lake is recognized and appreciated as a community asset, with stewardship the responsibility of everyone in that community.

NH LAKES received eight nominations this year by the June 10th deadline—a record as far back as anyone can remember. The array of nominees and their accomplishments was simply awesome, spanning the entire state, the lake issues, and the many ways in which people dedicated their time, talent, and resources.

Congratulations, Tom Duffy and to all the nominees for the 2013 John F. Morten Exemplary Lakes Stewardship Award!



Tom Duffy, 2013 Morten Award Recipient.

Membership Matters

New Members March 30 through June 14, 2013

Individuals

Nancy Devine • Henry Howell • James Killam • Richard Lof

Grants

Samuel P. Pardoe Foundation • TransCanada Pipeline USA

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circumstances, it was an uphill battle. This bill was voted 'inexpedient to legislate.'

Priority Area #7: Other – Partnership, Safety, User Conflicts, and Local Advocacy

HOUSE BILL 545, *AN ACT relative to rafting of boats. This bill modifies the restrictions on rafting of boats in a prohibited location or at a prohibited time.* NH LAKES opposed this bill primarily because it sought to increase the number of boats that could be rafted (tied up side by side) from three (3) to six (6) – although the numbers moved around throughout the testimony. Our primary concern was the creation of potentially unsafe conditions on our lakes, reminiscent of the problems which led to this restriction in the first place. This bill was retained by committee for further consideration between legislative sessions.

HOUSE BILL 588, *AN ACT extending the instream flow pilot program for 2 years and establishing a commission to study opportunities and options to improve the sustainability of the fish and game department.* NH LAKES supports this bill as it would give our local partners like the Pawtuckaway

Lake Improvement Association, and other stakeholders, more time to engage the sponsoring agency (DES) in an effort to achieve mutually agreeable outcomes for all concerned. This Bill was passed by both the House and the Senate and is pending the Governor's signature.

SENATE BILL 131, *AN ACT relative to a permitting process for the removal of submerged logs from certain great ponds.* NH LAKES supported this bill. This bill was signed by the Governor on 06/20/2013 and is effective 08/19/2013.

SENATE BILL 64, *AN ACT relative to public informational meetings on dams.* NH LAKES supported this bill because we believe it would improve public process and stakeholder notification. This bill was signed by the Governor on 06/20/2013 and is effective 08/19/2013.

SENATE BILL 103, *AN ACT relative to beaching, grounding, or tying a boat to shore.* This bill prohibits beaching, grounding, or tying a boat to shore on a public body of water without the permission of the owner, lessee, or person in control of property front-

ing or abutting the body of water. NH LAKES monitored this bill due to a number of positive and inadvertent negative outcomes that the law could have produced, if not well thought through. The bill was tabled by committee and will not be acted upon unless a committee motion is passed to do so.

So there you have it—this was the bulk of our 2013 legislative advocacy work at the statehouse. But this legislative and committee work does not cover the entire advocacy that gets done on behalf of our lakes. In fact, what NH LAKES does at the Statehouse and in Concord is dwarfed by the amount of advocacy that is going on around each lake and in each lake community in New Hampshire. Why? Because it is the people who live by, play on, work near, and watch over each lake, who ultimately determine its condition—the quality of its waters and its essential character. NH LAKES is uniquely positioned to advocate for lakes at the statewide level but it is through local associations (our partners) and each of you—our *Lakeside* readers—who can and do provide the local advocacy necessary to protect each individual lake.

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From the President...

We need your help!

Community Activism and Pond Stewardship in Hudson:
Building Momentum over the Past Decade

Thank you!

2013 Morten Award

Membership Matters

A note from our new Member Services Administrator

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A note from our new Member Services Administrator

Greetings NH LAKES community!

It's an honor to introduce myself as your new Member Services Administrator! In time, I hope to get to know you all. The fact that you are reading this newsletter leads me to believe that we share the same passion for the lakes and ponds of New Hampshire!

I started working at NH LAKES about a year ago as the bookkeeper. When Tom and the Board envisioned dedicating more staff time to meet the needs of our individual, family and business members and our association partners, I jumped at the opportunity.

A little about me—I grew up in New Hampshire but left to spend my early professional years in Cambridge, Massachusetts, at the Harvard University Art Museums, and then went on to Wisconsin to get a masters degree from the Graduate School of Business at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. After a short spell in the 'Land of 10,000 Lakes' working at the Walker Art Center, I served as the executive director for the Dubuque Museum of Art in Dubuque, Iowa. While I came to appreciate the river culture of the Tri-State area, I really missed the beauty of New Hampshire and came home. Since returning, I have had the privilege of working for a number of nonprofit organizations in a variety of capacities while raising my daughter who is now 13.

Having spent nearly a decade living elsewhere, I can simply say that the lakes and ponds of New Hampshire are the most beautiful I have seen. I firmly believe, and have said for years, that if everyone could spend one quiet week on a New Hampshire lake surrounded by family and friends, there would undoubtedly be world peace.

I am sincerely excited to work with you. Never hesitate to contact me and feel free to stop by to see me at our office or send me an email at mlovejoy@nhlakes.org.

Peace,
Martha Lovejoy



**Martha Lovejoy, NH LAKES
Member Services Administrator**

P.S. We have an exciting summer ahead and I want to make sure that none of you miss out. If you are interested in becoming a member or have not yet renewed your membership, we have included a remittance envelope in this newsletter for your convenience. Also, it has never been easier to renew your membership online at www.nhlakes.org.