

LAKESIDE

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE LAKES ASSOCIATION

Increasing Aquatic Nuisance Species Prevention & Management Funding: NH LAKES' Case for Support

 **NEW HAMPSHIRE
LAKES**
Members dedicated to protecting lakes and their watersheds
Volume XXIII, No. 4, Winter, 2014

1,409—that's the number of aquatic nuisance species "saves" that Lake Hosts have made through the New Hampshire Lakes Association (NH LAKES) Lake Host Program since 2002. For the past 12 years, NH LAKES has been working with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NH DES) and local partners at many of the busiest boat ramps in the state teaching boaters how to clean their boats and trailers to prevent the spread of exotic plants and animals—collectively referred to as aquatic nuisance species (ANS)—from waterbody to waterbody. Twenty years ago, 30 lakes in New Hampshire were infested with ANS. Today, that number has climbed to 68 lakes and 11 river systems—a disturbing trend, and one with very real impacts and costs.

You may know about the social and economic impacts that ANS infestations can have and the ecologic havoc that they can wreak, as you may be a Lake Host, Weed Watcher, or a Weed Control Diver or Tender. Whether you are helping to prevent the introduction of a destructive and noxious ANS into your favorite lake or the spread of nuisance species from your lake to other waterbodies, or are monitoring or managing an existing infestation in your lake, you are working on the front lines—and you know what these efforts are costing you, your lake association, and your community. If you are unable to volunteer your time, you may be contributing financially to prevention and management efforts, directly through your donations or indirectly through your property taxes or boat registration fees.

The ANS prevention and management work that you may be performing or supporting is crucial. If our lakes lose their ecologic balance or their inexpressible appeal, New Hampshire would become a very different place to live in or visit. In economic terms alone, the impact to New Hampshire's economy from freshwater boating, fishing, swimming, and drinking water is estimated to be upwards of \$1.5 billion annually—and this does not include revenue generated by waterfront property taxes.



For 12 years, NH LAKES Lake Hosts have been helping boaters prevent the spread of aquatic nuisance species.

We must all persevere and continue to engage in and support ANS prevention and management efforts because they are so important to everyone who has a connection to a lake. And although everyone who lives in or who visits New Hampshire may benefit in some way from healthy lakes, revenue to support lake management programs generally comes from those who benefit from our lakes the most—a 'user fee' rationale. The revenue available through state grants that helps to defray the cost of prevention programs (including the NH LAKES statewide Lake Host Program) and local 'control' efforts (including herbicide applications, weed control diver harvesting projects, and benthic barrier installations) comes directly from a portion of the revenue generated through motorized boat registration fees in New Hampshire.

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Protecting New Hampshire's lakes and their watersheds.

LAKESIDE

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From the President...



Welcome to our winter issue of *Lakeside*, NH LAKES' quarterly newsletter, through which we convey timely information to you, our kindred and fellow lake stewards. And, although it is midwinter, our work with you through this season is just as important as it is during the height of summer. For it is during these winter months that our advocacy program kicks into high gear and when we do most of our education program planning. Thank you for being with us during this important time.

In this issue of *Lakeside*, you will read about the scope and severity of the threats that our lakes are facing from aquatic nuisance (i.e. invasive) species and some of the many ways that NH LAKES and its local partners are tackling these threats. The threat from nuisance plant and animal species is indeed dire, but we can, and must, persevere.

Please take the time to peruse the summary analysis of our annual Advocacy Survey. We received a record-breaking number of responses this year, more than double that of last year—the more we hear from our membership, the better! What the survey illuminated is that, although we all agree on the importance of clean lakes, there is a broad range of opinions on the various strategies that we should employ to achieve that goal: from voluntary, educational programs to regulatory, compulsory mechanisms; and, from supporting increasing user fees to underwrite the necessary work, to being strongly opposed to such additional fees.

Clearly, whatever the solutions may be, there will be trade-offs. But, if we keep our shared goal foremost in mind—to protect and maintain clean, healthy lakes—we can continue to work together, and with our partners, to accomplish this critical mission.

Thank you for your support, your feedback, and for working with us as we protect New Hampshire's beautiful and priceless lakes.

Warmest regards,

Tom O'Brien
President

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Our partner in lake protection helping us reach new audiences in new ways.

NH LAKES' primary advocacy goal—the issue that we will focus most on in the state legislative arena this coming year, and for which we need your voice and support—is to increase state funding for ANS prevention and control grants. These grant funds—again, derived from a portion of the revenue generated by motorized boat registration fees in New Hampshire—are allocated to the NH DES, and, in turn, are awarded to nonprofit organizations and municipalities on a competitive basis to support prevention programs and control projects.

NH LAKES has been awarded state prevention grant funding since 2003 which has helped to support the Lake Host Aquatic Nuisance Species Education & Prevention Program. Since this program began in 2002, hundreds of paid and volunteer Lake Hosts, working in cooperation with local groups at boating access sites throughout the state, have conducted more than 580,000 courtesy boat and trailer inspections and, as mentioned previously, have made 1,409 'saves' of hitchhiking aquatic nuisance plant and animal specimens that were about to enter or had just left a waterbody. Local support contributed to the Lake Host Program—in terms of hard cash to augment paid Lake Host salaries and the cash value of volunteer time—annually totals more than double the amount of state prevention grant funding (as shown in Table 1 on page 4).

Numerous lake associations and municipalities have been recipients of state control grants over the years to manage aquatic nuisance plant growth. State grants typically cover the full cost of the first year of management for new infestations, and, for existing infestations, partially cover project costs. Research recently conducted by the Ossipee Lake Alliance (OLA) indicates that the annual statewide cost of controlling existing infestations is upwards of \$1 million (and rising), with the state's grant-funded share of this cost remaining flat (fixed by the dedicated share of boat registration fees). Over time, the cost burden of controlling infestations has steadily shifted to the local level—from the state to individuals, businesses, associations, and municipalities.



Lake Massasecum in Winter.

In addition to the rising costs of prevention and control, and shifting cost burden to the local level, we know that the threats from ANS are increasing and that our statewide prevention and control coverage is incomplete. When ANS programs were initiated in New Hampshire, the primary concern was combating nuisance plants. During the past couple of years, the threats from nuisance animals has grown more imminent, with Asian clams now in a few of our lakes, Chinese mystery snails documented in a couple dozen waterbodies, and the dreaded zebra mussels lurking in waters just outside our state's border. To date, no control projects have been conducted in New Hampshire to manage existing aquatic nuisance animal infestations. And, OLA's research revealed that approximately one-third of the waterbodies that are infested with aquatic nuisance plants are not being actively managed.

The bottom line with respect to prevention is that what we have been doing has been working, but the threats are increasing, and our overall statewide coverage may be insufficient to pre-

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In Memoriam

Jaye E. Aldrich

Jaye passed away on Nov. 6, 2013, at her home in Marlow over looking Sand Pond. Jaye was a past president of the Sand Pond Association, and she volunteered her time with the Lake Host Program and the Volunteer Lake Assessment Program.

Doris Roberts Entwisle

Doris passed away on November 12, 2013, in Towson, Maryland. Doris was an accomplished scholar, founder of the Harvey Lake Association, and long-time volunteer with the Volunteer Assessment Program and Lake Host Program.

Jaye and Doris will be greatly missed by NH LAKES staff and members of their lake associations.

Gifts made in Memory of Jaye Aldrich

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vent these threats from infesting more waterbodies. The Lake Host Program, which was enhanced in 2013 to address aquatic nuisance plants *and animals* through the new “Clean, Drain & Dry” technique, is currently active at approximately 100 of the most highly used boating access sites in the state; however, there are more than 600 boating access sites in the state! And, Lake Host coverage at these 100 ramps is not 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for the duration of the boating season. Even with the great work that Lake Hosts are doing each year in so many key places, there remains a **huge** window of opportunity through which aquatic nuisance species can enter and infest



Lake Sunapee. (Photo credit: Midge Eliassen.)

more lakes. To provide our waterbodies the best defense against invading aquatic nuisance species, we need to, at the very least, fund more local Lake Host groups to cover more ramps and to fund all groups to cover more weeks, days, and hours at the ramps.

This funding gap—between what is available to support existing prevention and control efforts and the amount of funding that is needed to expand this work—is what NH LAKES is focusing its legislative efforts on this year. We have other priorities to be sure—among them stormwater management, shoreland protection, and balanced recreational uses—but increasing the state’s share of funding to prevent and control ANS on waterbodies that are in the public domain is our highest advocacy and education priority at this time.

If we are to successfully prevent the spread of ANS and manage existing infestations, we must increase the size of the resource pie. We hope that you share our sense of urgency and of the importance of this issue—the “2013 - 2014 Legislative & Public Policy Survey” results indicated that the majority of respondents believe that this is the highest priority issue for NH LAKES. We hope that, when called upon, you will respond with your calls, letters, and testimony to your legislative representatives in support of increased funding for aquatic nuisance species prevention and control.

At NH LAKES, we look forward to fighting this good fight with you and better protecting and managing the lakes that we all love.

Table 1: NH LAKES Lake Host Program Statistics 2002 – 2013 (as of 12/16/13)

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Participating Organizations	38	46	51	56	57	68	70	71	74	73	77	81
Paid Lake Hosts	102	149	190	175	204	221	240	236	230	219	238	247
Volunteer Lake Hosts	59	167	216	318	353	429	470	420	517	475	500	500
Lakes with Lake Hosts	37	45	50	56	56	64	70	71	74	74	78	82
Ramps Covered	45	59	61	61	66	83	88	86	90	92	100	103
Inspections Conducted	15,878	26,583	31,629	34,878	34,573	44,183	55,924	53,756	62,295	68,158	77,254	75,988
“Saves” (aquatic nuisance species found)	4	7	16	54	54	157	224	297	267	39	137	153
Federal Funds	\$260,100	\$10,000	\$85,300	\$35,000	\$117,000	\$117,000	\$89,206	\$89,206	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
State Funds	\$0	\$165,000	\$150,000	\$185,000	\$185,000	\$185,000	\$161,000	\$123,333	\$133,367	\$169,000	\$200,000	\$210,000
Foundations								\$4,000	\$22,000	\$23,000	\$14,500	\$18,259
Local Funds (hard cash & equivalents)	\$37,155	\$112,382	\$151,238	\$200,756	\$183,179	\$292,017	\$334,061	\$341,535	\$393,273	\$404,751	\$486,455	\$509,045
TOTAL	\$297,255	\$287,382	\$386,538	\$420,756	\$485,179	\$594,017	\$584,267	\$558,074	\$548,640	\$596,751	\$700,955	\$737,304

The State of Infestation in New Hampshire

By Amy Smagula, Exotic Species Program Coordinator, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

New Hampshire is home to nearly 1,000 lakes and ponds and approximately 17,000 miles of rivers and streams. The good news is that the majority of these waterbodies are free from exotic aquatic species that can take over native species and ruin our recreational enjoyment of these waters. The bad news is that approximately 68 lakes and 11 river systems in New Hampshire are infested with exotic aquatic plants or animals—in fact, one of these waterbodies is host to six exotic species! While a relatively small percentage of our waters overall in New Hampshire are infested with exotic species (about 8%), and while our percentage of infested waterbodies is considerably lower than that of most other states in the Northeast, just one infested waterbody is too many!

Exotic Species	# of waterbodies containing infestations
PLANTS	
Variable Milfoil	70
Fanwort	9
Eurasian watermilfoil	5
European naiad	2
Curlyleaf pondweed	3
Water chestnut	1
Brazilian elodea	1
Didymo (alga)	1
ANIMALS	
Asian clam	4
Chinese mystery snail	20+

The best way to deal with exotic species is to prevent their introduction and spread into our waters, and if they make it into a waterbody, to deal with them rapidly and effectively so that they don't spread throughout the waterbody and into other waterbodies. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES), along with many partnering groups, has been working hard to prevent, detect, and manage a variety of exotic species in waterbodies throughout the state.

Here's a sampling of the good work that's been done during the past year...

Prevention

DES awarded an exotic species prevention grant to NH LAKES to support the 2013 Lake Host Payroll Grant Program. Through this program, from mid-May through early October, approximately 750



The Squam Lakes Association takes an active approach to preventing and managing the spread of aquatic nuisance species.

(Photo credit: Squam Lakes Association.)

Lake Hosts working at 100 of the most highly used boat ramps throughout the state introduced boaters to the new "Clean, Drain & Dry" approach to the prevention of exotic plants and animals. Lake Hosts conducted a total of 75,988 courtesy boat and trailer inspections and, while doing so, captured 153 fragments of exotic plants and animals. The number of additional exotic species "saved" Lake Hosts contributed to during summer 2013, and since the program began in 2002, by teaching boaters how they can clean their boats, trailers, and gear on their own before and after using the water, is immeasurable!

The New Hampshire Rivers Council (NHRC) has also been an active group in prevention efforts. For the past few years the NHRC has been the recipient of DES prevention grants to implement the River Runners Program. Through this program, NHRC conducts outreach and education activities with river groups throughout the state, including hosting workshops and field trips on rivers to monitor for exotic species growth.

Early Detection

On the plant front, there is good news—there were no waterbodies found with new infestations of exotic plants this past summer through the DES Volunteer Weed Watchers Program or by DES biologists. However, one waterbody—Wash Pond (a.k.a. Sunset Lake) in Hampstead—was added in November to the list of waterbodies infested with the exotic Asian clam, taking the total number of waterbodies infested with this new species of concern up to four.

Rapid Response

While there were no lakes or rivers in New Hampshire added to the list of waterbodies infested with exotic plants in 2013, a late fall 2012 discovery of water chestnut in the Connecticut River led local volunteers and river stewards to monitor that site in 2013. Laurie Callahan, a private consultant who spends a lot of time on the Connecticut River, conducted a field survey during the summer and reported that the infestation had expanded. Four volunteers, including Laurie, harvested 685 water chestnut plants (a total of approximately 22.5 gallons of material, measured using a 5-gallon bucket) by hand-pulling from the site. Laurie and her crew will continue to monitor the area.

Long-Term Management

More than 50 exotic aquatic plant management projects took place across New Hampshire during summer 2013—approximately 95% of these projects were supported, at least in part, by grant funding from DES. Each project was implemented according to recommendations outlined in a waterbody-specific long-term management plan developed by DES in accordance with integrated plant management techniques. Approximately 40 herbicide treatments, 23 Diver Assisted Suction

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Asian clams are a new aquatic nuisance species of concern in New Hampshire.

Kingswood Camp Partners with Lake Host Program to Protect Lake Tarleton

By Rob Wipfler, Co-director, Kingswood Camp

“Being able to help keep a place so dear to my heart, as Lake Tarleton, free from dangerous weeds was an experience that I am glad I could be a part of,” says Kingswood Camp counselor Sean Forester. Kingswood Camp, a traditional boys summer camp located on the southwestern shore of Lake Tarleton in Piermont, New Hampshire, has proudly partnered with the Lake Tarleton Association for several summers in an effort to protect the lake from the threat of aquatic nuisance species.

The summer of 2013 marked the 10th year that the Lake Tarleton Association was awarded a grant from NH LAKES to participate in the Lake Host Program—a program developed to prevent the spread of aquatic nuisance plants and animals into the lakes of the Granite State. At Lake Tarleton, the NH LAKES grant is used to hire a local resident to work as a Lake Host at the public boat launch, primarily on weekends from June through August providing boaters with information about how to prevent the spread of aquatic nuisance species and courtesy boat and trailer inspections to remove hitch-hiking plants, animals, and other debris. In order to qualify for a grant, the Lake Tarleton Association is required to match the grant funding with volunteer labor and out-of-pocket expenses associated with implementing the program locally. After association members are trained to become Lake Hosts, many donate their time to the effort. Over the years, a large number of volunteer hours have been contributed to the Lake Host Program at Lake Tarleton by counselors-in-training (CITs) from Kingswood Camp.

Helping young men forge an appreciation of, and reverence towards, the natural world has always been one of our Camp’s primary objectives. This is accomplished through our hands-on approach to outdoor activities including hiking, paddling, fishing, and photography. Our most sacred gatherings are held at the council fire circle at the lake’s edge, and the topic of discussion is often about the beauty of the local landscape and natural history. In time, campers relate to Lake Tarleton as much more than the place where they learned how to canoe and windsurf, or spent their first night sleeping in a tent. When we developed our CIT program, it made perfect sense to include Lake Host education and volunteer opportunities. CITs, many of whom have spent years at the camp and have a genuine appreciation for Lake Tarleton, value the chance to become stewards of the lake.

“The experience of my ten years at camp without the beauty of Lake Tarleton would have been completely different. I am grateful to be able to give back to something that has given me so much,” continues Forester.

The CITs receive their Lake Host training on one of the first nights of camp. The training session is led by Charley Muntz, a Lake Host veteran, and former president of the Lake Tarleton Association. Following training, the CITs work hour and a half shifts in pairs at the public boat access site, supervised by camp and lake association members. The arrangement has been described as a “win-win” situation by Kingswood CITs and Lake Tarleton Association members. The association is able to provide the camp volunteers with signed verification of community service hours, often required by high schools for graduation. The volunteer hours of the CITs contribute to the association’s goal of having a Lake Host presence at the boat launch every day from Father’s Day to Labor Day.



Camp Kingswood youth.

The Kingswood CITs express nothing but positive reviews of the experience. They enjoy working in teams to man the boat launch, and report that visitors to the lake are overwhelmingly supportive of their efforts. It is our hope that the partnership of Kingswood Camp and the Lake Tarleton Association can serve as an example for other camps and lake associations around the state.

To learn more about Kingswood Camp, visit www.kingswoodcamp.com. Rob Wipfler, Co-director of Kingswood Camp, can be contacted at rob.wipfler@gmail.com.

Membership Matters

New Members

October 4 – December 17, 2013

Individuals

Mark and Pat Allen
John and Erica Banderob
Mark and Kristen Begor
Phillip & Suzanne Boulter
David Buley
Ms. Diane Coll
George and Ann Colony
Richard and Cathy Cunningham
Mrs. Laurie DiClerico
John and Mary Ann Ferrell
Liam Fortin
Bruce and Cindy Goodwin
James Grier
Doug and Laurice Haynes
Dale and Sue-Ellen Higgins
Mr. & Mrs. Black Hinchey
Paula Hinckley and Carl Sack
John and Linda Hooper
Nathan and Lindsay Hubbard
Anne and Joel Huberman
William and Cynthia Lord
Martha Lovejoy and George Schell
Robert and Anne Lumnah
Glenn and Holly Martin
Victor Maslov
David and Suzi Maybee
James McElroy
Douglas McIninch
Jeffrey and Dale Milne
Paul and Ellen Nelson
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Norman Sevigny
Peter and Samantha Shanley
Karen Shields
David and Pat Simmons

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Engineered System Solutions
Island Real Estate of New Hampshire, LLC
Sunset Park Campground, LLC

2013 - 2014 Legislative & Public Policy Survey Results are In!

The “2013 - 2014 Legislative & Public Policy Survey” brought in a tremendous amount of feedback! The survey, which was made available online, yielded 169 responses—approximately 100 more than we received in 2012. We thank all respondents for their willingness to use the online tools that we employed—conducting the survey in this way made our jobs a great deal easier.

The results of the survey provided, on the one hand, great clarity and affirmation of what we have been doing while, on the other hand, and not surprisingly, a fairly wide range of opinions. Summing it up very simply, respondents generally seemed to agree more on the problems and less on the solutions. For instance, the question about how important it is to prevent and control aquatic (i.e. invasive) nuisance species resulted in an overwhelming majority of respondents indicating that these efforts are highly important. However, in breaking down that priority category into examples of specific solutions, the responses were more nuanced. Nevertheless, we did get substantive, valuable feedback to a range of possible strategies to fund the prevention and control of aquatic nuisance species.

Here are a few highlights of the survey:

- Of the respondents, 55% identified themselves as NH LAKES members; 13% as former members.
- 71% of all respondents identified themselves as members of their local watershed, lake, or pond association.

Here’s how survey respondents ranked the priorities that were listed:

Issue	Ranking
A. Drinking Water Quality/ Toxicology/Pharmaceuticals	4
B. Stormwater Runoff	2
C. Septic System Pollution	3
D. Prevention & Control of Aquatic Nuisance Species	1
E. The Impact of Lead (the metal) on Loons	5
F. Dedicated Funding for Lake Management & Safety	6
G. Partnership with Organizations and Agencies	7
H. Various	-

Of the top ranked priority—Prevention & Control of Aquatic Nuisance Species—respondents had this to say:

- 98% of respondents agreed that this was a high priority.
- 75% agreed with increasing dedicated boat registration fees for this purpose.
- 32% supported instituting a registration fee on non-motorized boats, with 48% opposed.
- 67% supported a mandatory boat washing program, while 11% were against such an idea.
- 76% were supportive of roadside signs to educate drivers entering New Hampshire, with 7% against the idea.
- 72% were in favor of making it illegal to transport any hitchhiking plants or animals (in addition to exotic species) on vessels.
- 94% supported NH LAKES partnering with research institutions to better understand how to prevent and control aquatic nuisance species.

These percentages are clear indicators of the sentiment of survey respondents, with the only close ‘vote’ being in regard to instituting registration fees on non-motorized boats. That idea, by the way, is not something that NH LAKES is proposing, but we know that it has come up in legislative circles—we thought it would be good to gauge your sentiment on this idea in the event that it is in fact proposed.

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Harvesting (D.A.S.H.) projects, and dozens of diver hand-removal projects were conducted. While private contractors were hired to assist with many of these projects, volunteer divers, weed pullers, and weed tenders provided a great deal of support for these projects.

A Call for Help!

A lot of work has been done by DES and partnering groups to keep our waters free from exotic species—but there’s plenty of work to be done to prevent new infestations and to knock back exist-

If you are interested in the complete results of the survey you can find a summary on our website at www.nhlakes.org/current-issues.

Clearly, whatever the solutions may be to our advocacy efforts on the entire range of water quality and lake usage issues, there will be trade-offs, as that is the nature of coalition building in the legislative environment. But if we go in with a strong sense of who we are as an advocacy constituency—that we want what is best for all of our lakes—we can continue to work together and with our partners to accomplish this critical mission.

If you have any questions or wish to provide additional comments on our advocacy priorities, please contact Tom O’Brien at tobrien@nhlakes.org or (603) 226-0299.



NH Statehouse in Winter.

ing infestations to keep our waters healthy and enjoyable. There are many boat ramps on lakes and rivers not being staffed by Lake Hosts, several waterbodies not being monitored by Weed Watchers, and approximately one-third of the waterbodies infested with exotic species are not currently being managed—these waterbodies need local groups to help spearhead management efforts! If you can help, contact Amy Smagula, DES Exotic Species Coordinator, at Amy.Smagula@des.nh.gov or (603) 271-2248.

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2013 - 2014 Legislative & Public Policy Survey Results are In!

LakeFest 2014: Raft-a-Palooza!

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LakeFest 2014: Raft-a-Palooza!

How you can help a cause that's close to your heart!

We love that you support our mission and the important work that we do to protect our precious lakes and ponds. We could not continue to do our work without that critical support. This year, at LakeFest 2014: Raft-a-Palooza (August 3, Endicott Park, Lake Winnepesaukee), we invite you to support our mission as well the important work that others are doing around the state to protect our lakes! Here's what you can do...

1. Register for Raft-a-Palooza! Registration is open and it's not going to get any more affordable. Register between now and Memorial Day, and for just \$5 you can take part in our attempt to set the Guinness World Record for the largest free-floating raft of canoes and kayaks. The cost of registering for this event will continue to go up so don't delay.

2. Get sponsored and win some prizes! This year, when you register for LakeFest, you'll have the opportunity to set up a fundraising page and invite others to support the work that you do to help us keep New Hampshire's lakes clean and free of aquatic nuisance species. It's easy!

3. Create a team (a fleet!) and participate in the 50/50 Nonprofit Share Program and raise money for your local 501c(3) nonprofit organization or your group's Lake Host payroll. If you would like more information about participating in this opportunity, contact Martha Lovejoy at (603) 226-0299 or mlovejoy@nhlakes.org.

Don't wait—Register today at www.nhlakefest.org!



Help us break a Guinness World Record while raising awareness about preventing the spread of aquatic nuisance species.

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