



A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE LAKES ASSOCIATION

Invasive? Nuisance? Exotic? Aren't they all bad?

by Tom O'Brien, NH LAKES President



Twenty years ago, 30 lakes in New Hampshire were known to have some level of aquatic invasive species infestation (primarily exotic species of milfoil). Today, that number has climbed to 68 lakes and 11 river systems—a disturbing trend and one with very real impacts.

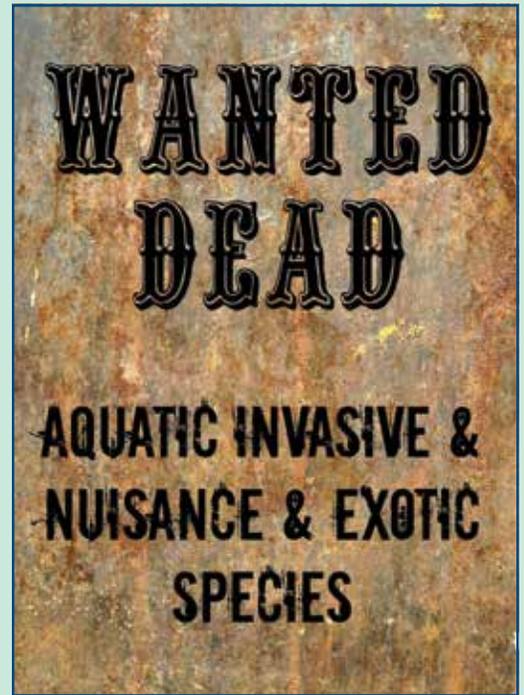
But our readers, by and large, know this—don't you? It's some of the other 1.3 million people who live in New Hampshire, and some of the many tens of thousands of visitors to New Hampshire, who may not know about the spread of invasive plants and animals that are not native to our waters. These are the people we need to educate and activate in response to this crisis. To do so, however, we must use terms and a common language that accurately and consistently describes what we are talking about.

About a year ago, NH LAKES staff began intentionally using the term 'aquatic **nuisance** species' (ANS) to describe invasive non-native species, consistent with the National Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force. However, the feedback we received from many people is that the term 'nuisance' does not fully convey the severity of the problem and that using 'nuisance' instead of 'invasive' may undermine the progress we have made over the years increasing the public's understanding of the problem. We heard from people that the term 'invasive' more accurately conveys the insidious nature and seriousness of this threat. The NH LAKES Public Policy and Advocacy Committee took this up as a topic of discussion and the end result was a unanimous recommendation that NH LAKES revert back to using the term 'aquatic invasive species'—a usage we have now officially adopted. I am writing this article to encourage you, if you aren't already, to also use the term 'aquatic invasive species' when referring to invasive, non-native species like variable milfoil and the Asian clam.

So, what's the difference anyway, between the terms 'invasive,' 'nuisance,' and 'exotic?' And, why does it matter—aren't they all bad? I hope you find the following explanation a useful perspective...

I have personally been aware of this terminology debate—about those things we variously call 'native' or 'indigenous' versus 'non-native,' 'exotic,' 'alien,' 'invasive,' or 'nuisance'—since my first years in this profession. In fact, back in college we simply described plants and animals that were 'from here' as 'native' and those from 'somewhere else' as 'non-native' or 'exotic.' The terms were not a value judgment, as many of our ornamental trees and shrubs were exotic (from somewhere else, such as Europe or Asia) but were enjoyed for their beauty or their resilience and resistance to environmental stressors (like urban pollution) from which many of our native plants were vulnerable.

For instance, several exotic species of trees from the genus *Tilia* (linden or basswood, as the native species is known) were imported into the



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From the President...



Welcome to the spring issue of *Lakeside* and to another New Hampshire spring! It was a long winter and the longer, warmer days are, no doubt, a welcome change for us all. Change is the watchword for me in the spring—each day being different from the last as the snow melts, the earth warms, the birds sing out, and the unbound lakes and rivers beckon. Change is also a constant at NH LAKES as we continually respond to existing and growing threats to our lake experience and to how we work with you and other lake stewards to protect our lakes.

In this issue of *Lakeside* you will read more about Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)—one of the biggest and growing threats to our lakes—and how we and our partners are adapting approaches to enlist as many individuals and boaters as possible to prevent their spread. Soon, boaters—power boaters, sailors, and paddlers alike—will be out on the water. For some, this means taking the boat out of the marina, boat house, barn, or cellar and putting it in or by the water's edge for the season. For others, this means getting the boat ready at home for a summer of exploring a variety of lakes and rivers throughout New Hampshire and beyond. It is the very nature of this transient boat use that presents one of our biggest challenges as boats, trailers, and recreational gear are the primary vectors for transferring invasive species from one waterbody to another.

Through our Lake Host AIS education and prevention program, we have observed that the predominant boaters at the busiest public boat ramps are power

boaters. Canoeists and kayakers, on the other hand, are able to put in almost anywhere. Even though kayaks and canoes arguably pose less of a threat of spreading invasive plants and animals, they nevertheless can and do. I have seen streamers of aquatic plants hanging from painter lines on kayaks and have had to wash off my share of muck from the bow seams and bottom of my canoe.

At NH LAKES, we asked ourselves, "How can we reach paddlers who are putting in by way of paths and beaches and cartop boat ramps?" In 2013, we responded to this by hosting "*LakeFest 2013: Hands Across the Water*" through which hundreds of canoeists and kayakers were taught the "Clean, Drain & Dry" method to preventing the spread of AIS. This event was so successful that we are returning to Lake Winnepesaukee at Weirs Beach in August this year and hosting "*LakeFest 2014: Raft-a-Palooza!*" Once again, we will attempt to set the Guinness World Record for the largest raft of canoes and kayaks in the world. All canoes and kayaks (we hope at least 2,100!) will be inspected by a Lake Host, and cleaned, drained, and dried, if needed. And, at this year's post-rafting festival, we will roll out our new watershed education program for families and young children. The donation of hundreds of (free) parking spaces from The Lobster Pound restaurant at Weirs Beach, the expansive boardwalk along Lakeside Avenue, the beach at Endicott Rock Park, and the protected area of the lake just off the park make this venue the perfect location to host our family-friendly festival and educational event.

Working with our members and partners through this summer's Lake Host Program, Lakes Congress on June 27, and Raft-a-Palooza on August 3, we will help protect our lakes from the spread of AIS. Thank you for being part of this environmental protection movement, for supporting NH LAKES, and for working to protect the one lake or the many lakes that you love.

Sincerely,

Tom O'Brien, NH LAKES President

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Membership Matters

New Members

December 18, 2013 – April 3, 2014

Individuals

Mr. and Mrs. James Bapple
Ms. Celia Belletete
John Belletete
Ms. Brenda Dargie
Donald and Brenda Dargie
Mr. Tom DeWitt
Joseph Eisenberg
Dr. and Mrs. Robert Fairweather
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Jason Reimers
Adrian Ricci
Byron and Linda Rooks
Linda Sala
William and Roberta Schnoor
Mr. and Mrs. Sidney S. Watt
Mark Wilson

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Driftwood Island Association

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In Memoriam

Paul Martin,
in memory of Doris Entwisle

Register before it's sold out!



Registration for the 2014 Lakes Congress is OPEN! This all-day annual educational conference and networking event will be held on Friday, June 27, 2014, at Church Landing at Mills Falls in Meredith along the shoreline of beautiful Lake Winnepesaukee. This is an event not to be missed by lake residents and enthusiasts, lake and watershed association members, municipal and state agency personnel, researchers and management professionals, and political leaders.

The theme of the 2014 Lakes Congress is "Holistic Lake Management & Protection." By fostering an approach that integrates watershed management, pollution prevention, and education and advocacy, and that enhances the capacity of stakeholder groups, we will build a community of stewards that will pass New Hampshire's lakes on to future generations in better condition than they were inherited.

There will be so much for attendees to choose from at the 2014 Lakes Congress. We encourage lake associations to send multiple representatives! After the opening session, which will feature the keynote address given by Vicki Quiram, Assistant Commissioner of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental

Services, attendees will have the opportunity to attend three of 12 concurrent sessions. Individuals and groups will also have the opportunity to meet one-on-one with John Edie, NH LAKES Board Member and retired tax and nonprofit organization policy specialist, to discuss their lake association governance, tax, and charitable donation questions.

We expect that the 2014 Lakes Congress will be sold out early, so don't delay—REGISTER TODAY at www.nhlakes.org.



This year's Lakes Congress will feature many corporate, nonprofit, and agency exhibitors. Exhibitors new to the event include Environmental Canine Services and a fascinating demonstration by their pollution smelling dogs! (Photo source: Portland Press Herald.)

Have you named NH LAKES?

Making a gift to NH LAKES through your will or revocable living trust is a simple way to support the NH LAKES mission and help to protect our lakes and their watersheds into the future.

If you wish to name NH LAKES in your will or estate plan, we should be named as: *New Hampshire Lakes Association, Inc., a nonprofit corporation, organized and existing under the laws of New Hampshire, address 14 Horseshoe Pond Lane, Concord, NH 03301.* Our tax identification number is 22-2668396.

If you have chosen to include NH LAKES in your estate plans, please let us know!

Clamming in New Hampshire's Freshwaters?

by Amy P. Smagula, NH DES Limnologist/Exotic Species Program Coordinator

Yes, finding clams in New Hampshire's freshwaters—including our lakes and ponds—is a possibility, but not a possibility that any of us should be looking forward to. In fact, we all need to be working together to help prevent the Asian clam—an aquatic invasive animal that is making its way throughout the north-eastern United States—from hitchhiking its way into our waters here in New Hampshire.

What is the Asian clam?

The Asian clam is not to be confused with the large, meaty Quahog clam found along our coastal waters that is considered, by many, to be a delicacy. The freshwater Asian clam is a small—typically less than 1.5 inches in size—round shellfish with yellow-green to dark brown coloring and thick, concentric rings on its shell. Eating Asian clams is not recommended since they are filter feeders that may take up pollutants—including mercury and toxins from cyanobacteria—from our lakes and then concentrate these hazardous materials in their tissues. (Plus, it would take a lot of work to shuck enough of these small creatures to make a meal!)

What problems do they cause?

Asian clams, with a life span of one to seven years, can release 2,000-8,000 offspring in a year, resulting in the rapid expansion of their populations in waterbodies. Asian clams can outcompete native mussels for habitat and food, litter lake bottoms with sharp shells that can injure swimmers and waders, cause potentially toxic cyanobacteria blooms, and clog water intake pipes.

Asian clams and New Hampshire

The Asian clam is native to the freshwaters of southern and eastern Asia. It is believed that immigrants to North America brought the clams as a food source and subsequently released them into the wild sometime between the 1920s to 1930s. Today, the Asian clam is found in more than 40 states and is expected to continue spreading. Four populations of the invasive Asian clam have been documented in New Hampshire waters: the Merrimack River (from Bow, south); Cobbetts Pond in Windham; Long Pond in Pelham; and most, recently, Wash Pond in Hampstead. It's possible that birds may have carried Asian clams

or their larvae into these waters or that larvae hitchhiked their way into these waters by boat or other recreational gear.

There are likely more populations of the Asian clam in New Hampshire that have yet to be documented, and for that reason, the Department of Environmental Services (DES) has begun monitoring for this aquatic invasive species in New Hampshire's waterbodies—YOU can help!

Asian clam Volunteer Monitoring Program

Volunteer groups at a handful of lakes throughout the state were trained by DES staff during summer 2013 to use simple dredge and sieve equipment to collect and screen sediment samples collected from lake bottoms in knee-deep water. When the filtering out of the relatively small sand particles in a sediment sample resulted in the appearance of Asian clam shells on the screen, the shells were counted and the location of the sample collection was recorded with global positioning system (GPS) technology. All data was reported to DES biologists for future tracking of Asian clam populations. Overall, the pilot program was successful.

During summer 2014, monitoring groups will be able to borrow Asian clam monitoring kits when they pick up their Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP) sampling equipment at the Jody Connor Limnology Center at the DES Concord office and the VLAP satellite water quality laboratories. If your group doesn't participate in VLAP, email me (Amy. Smagula@des.nh.gov) and we'll figure out a way to get a sampling kit to you!

Looking Ahead

By gathering data from both volunteer monitoring efforts and special studies conducted by state and federal biologists, we will gain a better understanding of what impact Asian clams are having on New Hampshire's waterbodies. This information will be critical in efforts to formulate feasible and effective strategies to manage Asian clam infestations.



Three Asian clams were found (top left quadrant) in this lake sediment sample collected by a volunteer.

(Photo courtesy of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services.)

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Don't let your lake/pond go unrepresented!

by Karen M. Lord, NH LAKES Volunteer

Has your lake association entered a team yet to participate in LakeFest 2014: Raft-a-Palooza?

This event, hosted by NH LAKES, will take place on Sunday, August 3, on beautiful Lake Winnepesaukee in Laconia. Along with many other members of my lake association, I participated in this fun and educational event last year. I am excited to volunteer my time as the LakeFest Lake Associations Coordinator this year to get groups, including my own lake association—the Silver Lake Association of Madison—to take part in LakeFest 2014!

In our second year attempting to set the Guinness World Record for the Largest Raft of Canoes and Kayaks, we guarantee fun knowing what a great time attendees had last year and how many of them insisted that they “could not wait for next year!” The rafting attempt is a unique experience the whole family can enjoy and afterwards there will be a family friendly on-land festival featuring live music, food, paddling equipment vendors, educational displays, activities, and more.

While we know everyone will have fun at LakeFest, it's the educational message of the



The Silver Lake Association of Madison Team enjoyed LakeFest 2013 and will be back in 2014! Will your association be there? (Photo courtesy of Debbie Bolduc.)

event that we want all participants to take home. At NH LAKES, we are battling Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) every day as these unwanted plants and animals threaten to hitchhike via boats—including canoes and kayaks—into our pristine lakes and ponds. At LakeFest, all canoeists and kayakers will learn about the “Clean, Drain & Dry” practice that is essential for preventing the spread of AIS.

This is where I ask for your lake association's help... Last year, teams organized on their own, representing their local lake associations, businesses, or just a group of friends. They came to LakeFest with spirit and enthusiasm and had a great time. This year, we need more teams from all around New Hampshire to participate—with more teams, not only will we have a better chance of setting the rafting record, we'll educate more

boaters about how to prevent the spread of AIS.

There's a lot in LakeFest for your lake association. By participating as a team in LakeFest, not only will members of your lake association have a great time while helping to prevent the spread of AIS, your group will have the opportunity to do some simple (primarily online) fundraising to benefit your association, or NH LAKES, or both!

Is there is a “Captain” amongst your lake association who would be great at recruiting members to join a team? If

‘yes’, please email his/her contact information so I can help your captain get started. I can be reached at oldstorekml@gmail.com.

Registration for the Raft-a-Palooza is only \$5 per boat for a limited time only—start forming your team TODAY!

In Memoriam Peter Jensen

Peter passed away unexpectedly on February 5, 2014. Peter was known by many in the Moultonborough area for his deep sense of community. Peter served as long-time Chair of the Moultonborough Milfoil Committee and will be missed.

Charles David “Dave” Barney

Dave passed away peacefully on February 11, 2014. Dave and his wife Carolyn lived for over 20 years at Goose Pond in Canaan. Dave was an active member of the Goose Pond Lake Association and will be missed by many.

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In the Meantime

The best way to deal with Asian clams is to prevent their spread into our waterbodies. All boaters need to be vigilant in helping to prevent their spread by always taking time to “Clean, Drain & Dry” boats, trailers, and all recreational gear before and after boating. If your local waterbody has a boat launch that isn't covered by Lake Hosts, contact the New Hampshire Lakes Association (lakehost@nhlakes.org or (603) 226-0299) to find out how your ramp can be covered through the Lake Host Program, even if the boat ramp isn't open to the general public.

If you find a creature in your waterbody this summer that matches the description of the Asian clam, please take a sample or a photograph and contact me as soon as you can! I can be reached at Amy.Smagula@des.nh.gov and (603) 271-2248.

Laurel Lake Association—60 and Going Strong!

by Kathy Olson, Laurel Lake Association

60 and Going Strong!—this was the title of the lead article in the Laurel Lake Association 2013 annual newsletter, expressing our excitement for the association reaching this major milestone. While our association was started in 1950, we consider 1953—the year it was incorporated—as the date to celebrate. Laurel Lake is a small, beautiful, clean lake in Fitzwilliam, located in the southwest corner of New Hampshire. As an association we have much to boast about—our lake has excellent water quality, an abundance of wildlife and waterfowl visit every year, and it doesn't contain any aquatic invasive plants or animals. Our association has a great relationship with the Town, and, most importantly, our lake association members are committed to keeping Laurel Lake clean and healthy for future generations.

Like all volunteer organizations, our membership numbers have fluctuated over the years. Although we were founded in 1950, our earliest records only go back to 1982. In that year, we had 79 members. Membership remained at that level until a major membership drive was spearheaded by a devoted Board of Directors member who visited almost every house and camp around the lake to solicit members. In 1988, we had 169 members and, by 1991, membership had jumped to 278. Membership peaked at 317 members in 2007 and, during the past few years, has been around 270. We are pleased with our membership levels as our lakefront community encompasses fewer than 200 properties. Two additional membership drives have been conducted since 1998 which have helped to keep the Association's existence and purpose visible to the community. Our members represent a diverse collection of Laurel Lake lovers, from year-round residents, to families who vacation here every year, to people who haven't visited in years but continue to support our group.

How have we acquired and maintained such strong association membership?

I think there are two driving factors. The first is that our members are actively involved in preserving the quality of the lake and the lake



Hosting sail boat races is one of many ways the Laurel Lake Association has built membership and a community of lake stewards.

(Photo courtesy of the Laurel Lake Association.)

experience, working to keep the lake as the wonderful place where many people grew up. When the Laurel Lake Association was founded the goals included: identifying lake hazards with buoys; posting pre-911 fire numbers on properties; conducting water testing; and, responding to environmental/safety issues. Again, our written records only go back to 1982 and we were already doing water testing then and continue to do it three times a year now. We have also been monitoring the lake for invasive weeds for years, and have recently expanded our activities to include surveying the lake three times a summer. In 2013, we began the NH LAKES Lake Host Program with volunteers greeting boaters at the public boat landing to teach them how to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive plants and animals into our lake and other lakes as well. And, recently, the Association joined with a group of town residents to oppose efforts to re-open a long-closed quarry which sits above the lake and the operation of which has the potential to pollute the lake and degrade the quality of life around the lake and town.

We also maintain strong association membership by our members celebrating the lake together, building a community of lake stewards and friends. These events begin with a kick-off pot luck to welcome summer. From then, we begin a summer's worth of celebrating, including hosting: our annual meeting which draws about 100 people, with a speaker to discuss topical interests; the ever popular canoe/kayak race, with classes of races that allow adults and children alike to join in the fun (this race will be celebrating its 23rd year this year!); the Fourth of July flares around the lake; and the Labor Day weekend sailing regatta.

The Association is also kept strong due to the dedication and diversity of its Officers, Board of Directors, and many committee volunteers. My husband, Steve, and I have volunteered at various activities over many years and have been on the Board for several years. However, our level of involvement pales by comparison to so many other Board members and volunteers, some of

Laurel Lake, continued on page 7

whom—for more than 20 years—have been on the Board, collected water quality samples, served multiple terms as an Officer, and coordinated events. All of our programs are organized and conducted by volunteers who step up and pitch in when needed to: collect water samples; monitor the lake for weeds; act as a safety spotters in their boats during the canoe race and regatta; cook hot dogs at events; drive water samples to Concord; and the list goes on. The diversity of our Board and volunteers also keeps the Association vibrant—they come from all parts of the lake, some are year round residents, many are second, third, or more generation of lake visitors, and they are of different ages.

What keeps an association vibrant? Putting together programs and activities that appeal to a variety of ages keeps the Laurel Lake Association vibrant. Face-to-face connections all around the lake remind people of what the association does and encourages membership. And low dues help—how can you not afford \$10 per adult and \$5 per child to help fund programs to keep your beloved lake clean, fun, and protected for future generations?

To learn more about the Laurel Lake Association, visit www.laurellakeassn.com. Kathy Olson can be contacted at ksolson@bigplanet.com.

Call for Nominations: 2014 Morten Award for Exemplary Lake Stewardship



In September 2002, a special award was created in honor of the late John F. Morten (1914-1989), in recognition of his lifelong work to protect New Hampshire's lakes and ponds. It was his vision and grassroots efforts that helped create the Lakes Region Federation, which later became the New Hampshire Lakes Association (NH LAKES) upon its merger with the New Hampshire Lakes Legislative Coalition. It was John Morten who saw the value of a statewide umbrella organization to represent lake interests with both the legislature and state agencies.

Mr. Morten exemplified selfless dedication to the lakes he loved so much, giving generously of his time, talents, and financial resources to help protect them. He was a person who made things happen—the creative idea man, leader, and activist who was organized, determined, and persistent in the achievement of any task. It is in tribute to his vision, dedication, commitment and vigor that NH LAKES

established the John F. Morten Memorial Award for Exemplary Lakes Stewardship.

If you would like to nominate an individual for the 2014 Morten Award, visit the NH LAKES website at www.nhlakes.org to download a nomination form, email info@nhlakes.org, or contact the office at (603) 226-0299. All nominations must be submitted by June 2, 2014.

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United States during the mid-1900s and planted in place of the American elm trees that were dying from Dutch elm disease. Lindens have done quite nicely in our urban landscapes and, as far as I know, have not presented any significant ecological problems (other than being a bit messy—don't plant them over your driveway!) On the other hand, Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*), introduced because it does better in urban and suburban environments than our native Sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), has invasive characteristics and has spread into woodlands, often out-competing native trees.

Non-native species that spread rampantly and which have negative impacts on the local ecology or economy are considered 'invasive.' Not to confuse things here, but natural scientists also consider some native plants and ani-

mals to be invasive (like wild grape and poison ivy) because they can grow to dominate an ecosystem to the detriment of other plants and animals within that ecological community. Today, in officialdom, these 'bad' plants and animals are referred to in a number of different ways. Federal Executive Order 13112 of February 3, 1999, defined 'nonindigenous' species as an organism (plant, animal, microbe) found living beyond its historic native range and defined 'alien' species as any species that is not native to the particular ecosystem in which it is found. Thus, alien = nonindigenous = exotic = non-native. In New Hampshire statute, these non-native plants and animals are often referred to as 'exotic,' with the inference that exotic is bad. And, in our lakes and rivers, the plants and animals that we have come to know as invasive,

including Eurasian water milfoil and the Asian clam, are also exotic (i.e. from somewhere else).

Again, why do we think this is important? Because we want to get our message across as effectively as possible to boaters, legislators, and the general public. In order to do that, we all need to use the same terms in a consistent manner. When we talk about aquatic invasive species (AIS) we want everyone to know exactly what it is we are referring to—invasive, alien, non-native, and exotic species whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm.

Please join us in using 'aquatic invasive species' to describe these threats and in the battle to prevent their spread into our lakes!

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