

# LAKESIDE

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE LAKES ASSOCIATION

## NH LAKES Recognized as Outstanding Volunteer Champion



Volume XXIV, No. 4, Winter 2015

The New Hampshire Lakes Association (NH LAKES) was awarded the 2014 Outstanding Volunteer Champion Award at the Spirit of NH Awards ceremony hosted by Volunteer NH on November 10. NH LAKES received the award for its management of the Lake Host Program—an aquatic invasive species education and prevention program that has leveraged tremendous volunteer participation since its inception in 2002. During summer 2014, approximately 500 individuals volunteered a total of 11,000 hours preventing the spread of invasive plants and animals into New Hampshire waters.

NH LAKES dedicates the Outstanding Volunteer Champion Award to all Lake Host Program volunteers. During the past several summers, these thousands of individuals have eagerly given up their time out on the lake with family and friends to teach others how to protect our lakes for everyone's enjoyment. In addition, NH LAKES thanks the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) for supporting the program—without the agency's support, we would not be able to inspire such a tremendous volunteer effort and our lakes would be more vulnerable.



NH LAKES and DES staff celebrated the Outstanding Volunteer Champion Award along with many volunteer Lake Hosts at the Spirit of NH Awards.

## It's Official!

On August 3, 2014, 396 canoes and kayaks were launched off of Weirs Beach at Endicott Rock Park in Laconia and onto Lake Winnepesaukee within a 15-second window, officially setting a new Guinness World Record for the largest simultaneous launch of canoes and kayaks. The effort, organized by NH LAKES, shattered the previous record of 308 canoes and kayaks set by a group in Tasmania. The record attempt was the feature activity of *LakeFest 2014: Raft-a-Palooza*, an all-day family-friendly festival and educational event. While we had our sights set on bringing the record to New Hampshire, we had an even bigger goal—to educate as many boaters as possible about how to protect New Hampshire's lakes from the spread of aquatic invasive species. We were successful on both accounts!

## LAKESIDE

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NEW HAMPSHIRE LAKES ASSOCIATION  
14 HORSESHOE POND LANE  
CONCORD, NH 03301  
603.226.0299 FAX 603.224.9442  
WWW.NHLAKES.ORG INFO@NHLAKES.ORG

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# From the President...



It is always surreal for me, writing a letter to you that you will not read for another month or more. Maybe this is what it was like during my grandfather's boyhood when end-of-year school test results were shipped from Newfoundland to England so students wouldn't know for months whether they had passed and advanced a grade. But, it is hard to resist writing to you about the weather and goings-on right now and the look and feel of New Hampshire in real time.

I am writing to you on November 29, having just had my Thanksgiving Day leftovers for lunch. It is a winter wonderland outside today, with the trees, cars, and buildings covered in wet, heavy snow from the Thanksgiving Eve storm that walloped most of the state. The storm, which came on the busiest travel day of the year, was accurately predicted, so people who could get an early start or waited until Thursday morning to get travels underway. Those hardest hit lost power and may be without it for several more days. The stories are just starting to come in of the Thanksgiving dinners delayed or re-routed to local restaurants. Fortunately, the spirit of gratitude and goodwill is everywhere, as evidenced by the abundance of food donated to the local Friendly Kitchen and by people shoveling adjacent walkways and sidewalks for those that can't.

No matter how and where you spent your Thanksgiving, I hope that you were safe with family and friends, and had a chance to reminisce about time spent at your favorite lake. I also hope that this issue of *Lakeside* finds you now enjoying winter.

In this issue of *Lakeside* we have exciting news to share! In October, we learned that we had indeed set a Guinness World Record at our *LakeFest 2014: Raft-a-Palooza* event held in August. In November, our Lake Host Program volunteers (all 500 of them!) received a premier statewide award for their volunteerism. Although we don't pursue accolades, it is great when the people involved—particularly our volunteers—get the recognition they deserve. And, with this kind of recognition, our educational message gets that much more lift.

In this issue are also the results of our *2014 - 2015 Advocacy Survey*. Once again, we got a great response to our online survey and heard loud and clear about the need to strengthen statutes and programs that prevent and help to control the spread of aquatic invasive plants and animals. We have also included a timely article about a statewide road salt-reduction initiative.

Lastly, I want to express our thanks to all of you who supported NH LAKES during 2014, whether it was with your time and talent, your financial support, or both! The work and support of every individual and every local association partner is important to achieving our shared mission of protecting New Hampshire lakes and ponds for current and future generations. Working together, we can achieve our common goals—no matter what the weather brings!

Sincerely,

Tom O'Brien  
NH LAKES President

NH LAKES gratefully acknowledges the support of:



Our partner in water conservation & stormwater reduction, one rain barrel at a time.

[www.greenconcord.org](http://www.greenconcord.org)

[info@greenconcord.org](mailto:info@greenconcord.org)

# The 2014 - 2015 Advocacy Survey Results are In!

Thank you to everyone who took the time to take the “2014 – 2015 Advocacy Survey” during the fall. We have already acted on the input that respondents provided, putting some strategies into play in the current session of the State Legislature. Below is a summary of the highlights of the survey results and some of our actions as of the writing of this article.

We began the survey by asking respondents to rank ten issues from a list of issues that NH LAKES has advocated for in the past, and about which we receive regular inquiries. The table below lists the ten issues that were in the survey, how respondents ranked them, and a comparison with 2013 rankings.

## NH LAKES Advocacy Survey Results 2013 & 2014

Lake Protection/Management Issue	Ranking	
	(Note: “1” is most important while “10” is least important.)	
	2013	2014
A. Drinking Water Quality/Toxicology/Pharmaceuticals	4	5
B. Stormwater Runoff	2	3
C. Septic System Pollution	3	4
D. Prevention & Control of Aquatic Invasive Species	1	1
E. The Impact of Lead (the metal) on Loons	5	7
F. Dedicated Funding for Lake Management & Safety	6	2
G. Partnership with Organizations and Agencies	7	10
H. Restrictions on Personal Watercraft	Not listed	9
I. Canada Geese Contamination of Shorefront & Swimming Areas	Not listed	8
J. Enforcement of the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act	Not listed	6

While the feedback—how respondents ranked the issues—reinforced what we thought was most important to our constituency, it did provide us with some new information. Issue F (“Dedicated Funding for Lake Management and Safety”) jumped from a ranking of sixth in 2013 to second in 2014. This is perhaps explained by the fact that 2015 is the first year of the legislative biennium and the year in which the two-year state budget gets set for 2016 - 2017. The budget for state

agencies is an important area of advocacy for us, as we want to ensure the state’s lake management and safety programs are adequately funded. We will strive to protect dedicated funds (derived from user fees such as boat registrations), as that is how aquatic invasive species prevention and control programs and many boating safety services are funded. Issue J (“Enforcement of the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act”) broke into sixth place, although this issue was not included in the 2013 survey. The most consistent carry over from 2013 to 2014 was in our top priorities: aquatic invasive species, storm-water runoff, septic system pollution, and drinking water, joined by dedicated funding to round out the top five.

For those of you that took the survey, you know that we burrowed deeper into the details of how we can better prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS). While the responses we received were strongly in favor of placing greater responsibility on boaters to clean, drain, and dry (i.e. decontaminate) their boat, trailer, and gear between waterbodies, we also received important feedback on the impracticality of provisions such as the requirement for boaters to provide proof of decontamination prior to launching.

To read the full summary of the survey results, go to [www.nhlakes.org/current-issues](http://www.nhlakes.org/current-issues).

Survey feedback, and discussions with agency staff and legislators, helped us to narrow our 2015 advocacy strategy to three tracks:

1. Improve the makeup of the State’s Exotic Aquatic Weeds and Species Committee by adding all responsible state agencies and other commercial and nonprofit stakeholders and require the committee to make legislative recommendations each year.
2. Require groups that hold boating events which trigger securing a state permit (e.g. fishing derbies, boat parades, and regattas) to conduct and document the inspection of participating boats for aquatic invasive species. Note that inspection would assume removal of visible aquatic invasive species and verbally confirming that the boat and gear has been cleaned, drained, and dried between waterbodies.
3. Provide the State with the authority to temporarily close part or all of a waterbody for all non-essential boat traffic for the purposes of treating (with the intent of controlling or eradicating) infestations of aquatic invasive species.

Our legislative strategy for the 2015 Legislative Session is underway. We will do our part to keep you informed through the *NH LAKES Advocacy Alert!* e-burst and hope that you respond to our calls for support and action. If you do not receive this e-burst, or if you have any questions or comments, please contact Tom O’Brien, NH LAKES President and Policy Advocate, at [tobrien@nhlakes.org](mailto:tobrien@nhlakes.org) or (603) 226-0299.

# New Salt Applicator Certification Law a Win for Business and the Environment

by Eric Williams, Watershed Assistance Supervisor, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services



Wintry weather is here, and along with it the need to keep our pavements safe for vehicles and pedestrians. For many years in New Hampshire, municipal public works departments and the state Department of Transportation have trained their employees on proper use of salt, adopted winter maintenance policies, and have been exempt from liability under state law if they follow those policies. But what about commercial and institutional parking lots and driveways?

Until recently, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

(DES) had not quantified the impact of road salt used to maintain parking lots at our stores, offices, and schools. The need to look more closely at commercial contributions to road salt arose in four impaired (polluted) watersheds in the southern Interstate 93 corridor where salt reduction in the range of 25% to 45% is needed to meet water quality standards.

Road salt is sodium chloride, and it is the chloride ion that is toxic to aquatic life in fresh water if its concentration averages 230 mg/l over a four-day period, or 860 mg/l over a one-hour period. Background concentrations of chloride in New Hampshire surface waters are typically in the single digits as salt is not present in our bedrock and surficial geology. There is no economically viable way to treat chloride in stormwater runoff, nor are there economically viable salt alternatives at this time.

After detailed study, DES found that as much as 50% of salt loading in impaired watersheds comes from commercial parking lots and driveways. Chloride impairments are not limited to the I-93 corridor; as of 2014 there are 47 documented chloride impairments in New Hampshire.

Since we do not have sufficient chloride data to determine the impairment status of all waters, DES performed a statistical analysis of impaired watersheds to determine thresholds above which waters are likely to be impaired. Based on the analysis, a salt loading rate of 200 tons/acre/year will likely cause violations of water quality standards at some time during the year. Analysis of land cover data showed that this threshold was likely to be met in watersheds where land cover classified as “developed” and “transportation” exceeds 15% of the total. From this, we can infer that there are chloride impairments in New Hampshire that have not been documented with water quality data, most likely in the southeastern quadrant of the state, which is more highly urbanized. In less urbanized areas, chloride impairments are more likely to be found in the watersheds of smaller streams with limited dilution capacity and a high proportion of roads, driveways, and parking lots.

Working with the Department of Transportation, DES established an I-93 Salt Reduction Work Group in 2006. This group included representatives from the Towns of Derry, Londonderry, Salem, and Windham, the two regional planning commissions, environmental groups, and private sector salt applicators in the corridor. One of the first concerns raised by both



Patrick Santos and Justin Pelletier of the UNH Technology Transfer Center demonstrate spreader calibration at a salt applicator certification workshop in Derry.

*Salt Applicator Certification, continued on page 5*

public and private sector winter maintenance professionals was the need to address liability concerns if commercial salt applicators are expected to reduce salt loading. Stakeholders felt that commercial applicators were induced to use more salt, rather than less, due to concerns over liability for slip and fall claims.

We heard the message and conveyed the details to the Legislature, which passed a commercial salt applicator certification program, including limited liability for claims arising from winter conditions, in 2013. This is the first law of its kind in the nation. The law became effective in time to begin certifying qualified salt applicators for the 2013-14 winter, resulting in 230 certified applicators. Entering the 2014-15 winter, there are over 350 certified commercial salt applicators.

To qualify for certification, applicants must complete a full day of salt reduction

training provided by the University of New Hampshire Technology Transfer Center and pass an exam. The goal of the training is to teach salt applicators how to maintain safe surfaces using salt efficiently because excess salt is wasted salt and can pollute water. The course focuses on the chemical properties of salt, application rates and techniques, environmental impacts, and the proper calibration of equipment.

In addition to protecting salt applicators, the new law also provides limited liability to property owners who hire certified salt applicators to maintain their lots. Hiring a certified salt applicator is good business and good for the environment!

*For more information, see the DES web site at [des.nh.gov](http://des.nh.gov) and click "Salt Reduction" on the A to Z list.*



*Patrick Santoso of the UNH Technology Transfer Center demonstrates how to make salt brine at a salt applicator certification workshop in Derry.*

## Membership Matters

*New Members  
September 10, 2014 – December 10, 2014*

### Individuals

David S. Bartlett  
Angela Bergeron  
Janet Bourne  
John Canto  
Emily & Robert Carr  
Ronald & Priscilla Carr  
David Coffman  
Hugh & Peg Crawford  
Jim & Sue Creighton  
Stephania Dedman  
Maryellen & Len Dejong  
Jim & Martha Donoghue  
Scott Ellis  
Gail Freeto  
Tom G. Gainan  
John & Elaine Gardner  
Lawrence & Eileen Gil  
Rachel Graham  
Erin Graichen  
James Grier  
Chip Hamblet  
John Jude  
Elizabeth & John Jutila  
Corey Lane  
Elisabeth Langby  
David C. Lorch  
Helen Mathieson  
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Dean Peightell  
W. Kirk Phelps  
Jim & Patti Potter  
Gene Rosenthal  
Dr. & Mrs. David H. Sachs  
Anne Sayers  
Jack & Val Scarborough  
Ray & Audrey Sears  
Candace Sharp  
Elizabeth L. Snider  
The Honorable Judith T. Spang & Carl Spang  
Max & Helga Stamp  
Tracy Tarr  
Linda Townsend  
Lisa Vermavy  
Peter Warren  
Bob & Helen Watkinson  
Ken & Susan Weidman  
Barbara M. White  
Sarah Woods

### Foundations

Audrey Hillman Fisher Foundation

# Thank you, Dana!

*NH LAKES seeks exceptional candidates for board service*



*Dana Bisbee*

(George) Dana Bisbee stepped down from the NH LAKES Board of Directors this past December, at the conclusion of his second term. His service to NH LAKES was exceptional and his presence will be sorely missed. Along with serving as NH LAKES Board Chair during an executive transition in 2011, Dana headed up the Governance Committee and served on the

Executive and Advocacy committees. He also brought a tremendous wealth of knowledge about the environment and the law, from his days as an Assistant and then Acting Commissioner of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services and from his current occupation as head of the Environmental Practice at Devine Millimet Attorneys at Law.

NH LAKES is always looking for new board members, as we have term limits and strive to keep our board and committees fresh and energized. While the governance responsibilities of a statewide nonprofit organization are challenging, our board members have told us that the rewards are many. The ultimate reward is having the opportunity to play a key role in protecting all of our lakes and ponds.

We seek individuals for board service who have diverse backgrounds and who can consider issues from a statewide perspective. While a strong affinity for lakes is very important, we look for individuals with professional experience and expertise in areas such as, but not limited to, non-profit finance and fundraising, political advocacy, educational programming, marketing, and strategic planning.

If you are interested in board service with NH LAKES, or would like to recommend a candidate, contact Tom O'Brien, NH LAKES President, at [tobrien@nhlakes.org](mailto:tobrien@nhlakes.org) or (603) 226-0299.

*Current NH LAKES Board Members are listed at [www.nhlakes.org/Board](http://www.nhlakes.org/Board).*

## Why and How to Give to NH LAKES

Thank you to everyone who supported NH LAKES in 2014, particularly in response to our annual appeal!

Currently, member dues and contributions cover only half of our annual operating costs. We make up the difference primarily through grants, which can be speculative and tenuous from year to year. As stewards of this organization and its mission, the Board of Directors and staff have committed to raising enough unrestricted donations each year to cover all of the operating expenses and reduce our dependence on grants. This means doubling our annual income through membership contributions. Obviously, this is something we cannot do without your help.

Here's how you can support NH LAKES:

- Renew your membership on time each year. For your convenience, you can set up your membership to automatically renew. To do so, go to [www.nhlakes.org/join-us](http://www.nhlakes.org/join-us).
- Make a gift to NH LAKES each year over and above your membership dues. This can be done in response to our annual appeal or another special appeal. You can even make a gift in memory of a loved one or in recognition of someone who has recently done something extraordinary for your lake or lake association. To make your gift, go to [www.nhlakes.org](http://www.nhlakes.org) and select the "Donate" button. If you wish, you can spread your donation throughout the

year by setting up scheduled contributions—weekly, monthly, quarterly, or semi-annually.

- Invite family, friends—even your lake association (if it is not already a member)—to join NH LAKES, or give someone a gift membership!
- Name NH LAKES in your estate plan. To learn more about planned giving, visit [www.nhlakes.org/planned-giving](http://www.nhlakes.org/planned-giving).

Your contributions to NH LAKES are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

If you have questions about any of these options, or have other ideas on how you can support NH LAKES, contact us at [tobrien@nhlakes.org](mailto:tobrien@nhlakes.org) or (603) 226-0299.

# Attention Lake Host Program Groups: Our Member Services Program Can Help You Raise Funds!

If your local lake association is not a 501c3 charitable nonprofit organization, but has donors interested in making charitable contributions to your local Lake Host Program payroll, NH LAKES can help.

NH LAKES will accept donations from your supporters, allocate these funds to your Lake Host payroll, and provide donors with appropriate documentation for tax purposes.

If your group is interested in taking advantage of this service offered through our Member Services Program, please call Martha at (603) 226-0299.



## Congratulations, Amy!

Please join the NH LAKES Staff and Board of Directors in congratulating Amy Smagula, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) 2014 Employee of the Year!

Amy has done so much for our lakes during the last 15+ years, overseeing the Clean Lakes Program and Exotic Species Program, and participating in leadership roles in regional and national lake management and protection initiatives.

Over the years, Amy worked closely with NH LAKES through the Lake Host Program and the Advocacy Program. She has worked one-on-one with numerous lake associations throughout the state, training Weed Watchers and developing and implementing aquatic invasive species management plans.

Thank you and congratulations, Amy!



DES 2014 Employee of the Year Amy Smagula (center), with DES Assistant Commissioner Vicki Quiram (left) and DES Commissioner Tom Burack (right).

## In Memoriam

On July 12, 2014, **Elizabeth Story Wright** of Dublin passed away. Elizabeth was very involved in her community, and in 2006, after successfully leading the Beach Hill-Dublin Lake Watershed Project, she was named "Dublin Citizen of the Year."

On October 9, 2014, **Col. Robert James Madden**, U.S. Army (ret.), of Derry passed away. 'Bob' was a long-time participant of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Volunteer Lake Assessment Program at Beaver Lake.

Linda and Bob were protectors of lakes and we are thankful for their contributions. They will be missed.

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SAVE THE DATE – May 29, 2015!

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# SAVE THE DATE – May 29, 2015!



**When:** Friday, May 29, 2015—join us to kick off summer!

**What:** The focus of the 2015 Lakes Congress—our 22nd annual all-day educational and networking event—is to provide training to participants in hands-on skills that they will use to educate, advocate, and organize to help protect and manage their local lakes. *The event will feature Eric Eckl, a nationally-renowned public relations and marketing campaign strategist for environmental causes and principal of Water Words That Work, as plenary speaker and workshop presenter.*

**Where:** Church Landing at Mills Falls, Meredith, New Hampshire. *Attendees will receive a special discounted rate to stay at any of the Mills Falls Inns in Meredith on Thursday, May 28—to reserve your room, call (800) 622-6455 and mention that you will be attending the 2015 Lakes Congress.*

**Registration:** On-line registration will open in early February at [www.nhlakes.org](http://www.nhlakes.org).

**To Sponsor/Exhibit:** Visit [www.nhlakes.org/lakes-congress](http://www.nhlakes.org/lakes-congress) for information and application, or call us at (603) 226-0299.