

# LAKE SIDE

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE LAKES ASSOCIATION

## Opening Day

by David W. Packard, NH LAKES Board of Directors and three-season lake resident



Volume XXV, No. 2, Summer 2015

“Grab the kids and pack the car, we’re hitting the road! It’s Opening Day!!” For the sports-minded, this might be the first Red Sox home game (or whatever their favorite hometown team may be). For those who match wits with fish, this might mean the first day to go down some worms. For those New Englanders with a second home on a lake or pond, it certainly is the day that your family makes the pilgrimage there to open it for the season. Call it the “lake place,” “cottage,” or “camp,” the summer place might be a majestic home fit for all seasons; but most are three-season homes that are dormant over the winter months. Here’s what Opening Day is all about at our family’s Little Slice of Heaven.



We open during the last day of April when we have hopefully experienced the last of the subfreezing weather. If you have seen the movie “On Golden Pond” don’t believe what you see. Unless you made special arrangements, you won’t find the power on or the phone working or the condition of the interior ready for summer fun. If you don’t have a well, you won’t have running water. The cable (yes, we live in the 21st century) will be down and out. The fridge and cabinets will be bare. You might find that the uninvited winter residents—of the rodent variety—are still lurking and need to be evicted. Don’t seem so surprised—when you moved out, they were anxiously waiting to invade and live snuggled away from the winter winds. If we are fortunate, our neighbors—the loons—will have already moved in and are calling a welcome back to THEIR lake.

Our cottage is a composite of vintage and modern. The old part of the house is up on blocks. It is typical of the 1950’s style of a camp that was simply meant for summer enjoyment. Along the way, an enclosed porch was added on the lake side. Sometime in the 1990s, it gained a family room sitting on a concrete slab along with the attached one stall garage. Those later additions sound quite modern until you understand that there is no city water line; there is no well. Drinking water is brought in by 5-gallon jugs. Per common practice, the water for the toilets, shower, and dishwasher (yup, civilized living!) all come from a plastic line that goes out into the lake. Since it isn’t a four-season house with the heat left on all winter, the pipes need to be refilled with water. This lucky homeowner first installs the main water pump which was uninstalled and stored in a basement all winter so it wouldn’t freeze and break. Then, bravely, I waded out into the lake and install the plastic line. Believe me when I say that this can be a rather brisk and stimulating task depending on the depth of the water! I use a small pump to push water through the line, the main pump, and then fill the house pipes, toilet, and water heater. Only then—if there are no leaks and luck is with us—the main pump brings up full pressure and the environmentally safe antifreeze added in the fall is pushed out of the pipes. This significant little

*Opening Day, continued on page 4*

## 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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Tracey George, Speedy Printing, Concord, NH

# From the President...



Summer is here and our lakes are as refreshing and as enjoyable as ever! While we know that there are challenges and water quality threats to all of our lakes, this is the season to celebrate and enjoy our lakes to the fullest. We hope that you are enjoying your summer at the lake—if you haven't gotten there as much as you would like, there's still time!

NH LAKES kicked off summer early this year by hosting the 22nd Lakes Congress on May 28 and 29. We expanded our one day educational, training, and networking event to include a pre-conference evening presentation, which received rave reviews! The main conference on the following day offered attendees 15 presentation sessions covering topics across the lake stewardship spectrum. Thanks to our key sponsors—the Lovett-Woodsum and The Jack and Dorothy Byrne foundations—we were able to bring Erik Eckl, nationally-recognized communications strategist and founder of Water Words That Work, to the Lakes Congress as plenary session and workshop presenter.

Also on the educational front, we have been busy this summer administering the award-

winning Lake Host Program, with Lake Hosts providing courtesy boat inspections and teaching boaters how to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species at 100 of our busiest public access boat ramps. Two new groups joined the program this summer. We are grateful to all the Lake Hosts and our partners that sponsor the Lake Host Program.

In mid-June, our advocacy engagement with the state legislature wound down, as the 2015 legislative session came to an end. This was a state agency budget year and, as of this writing, the state does not yet have an approved budget. On the non-budget side of things, we came away satisfied with some modest legislative successes in the lake management and protection arena. Our advocacy engagement continues year round, albeit in various public policy forums and commissions on which NH LAKES participates.

NH LAKES is hosting nine different gatherings at members' homes this summer, with both members and not-yet-members, and attending many meetings of local association partners. These gatherings and meetings are critical, allowing us to better understand your needs and to share with you our goals and aspirations for NH LAKES. If you are interested in joining a gathering or in a NH LAKES presentation at your meeting, please contact us to do so.

Thank you for all that you do to protect our lakes. See you lakeside!

Sincerely,  
Tom O'Brien  
NH LAKES President

## Healthy, Clean & Safe Lakes for Future Generations:

Making a legacy 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 into the future.

If you wish to name NH LAKES in your will or estate plan, we should be named as:  
*The 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!

# NH LAKES *Advocacy Update*

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



NH LAKES sought legislative sponsors for three bills during the 2015 session of the New Hampshire Legislature, all pertaining to Aquatic

Invasive Species (AIS), and only one of which we were reasonably confident would get passed. Our goal was designed to bring greater awareness and understanding of AIS and that was accomplished.

Our legislative work wound down quickly once crossover occurred in March and the state budget became the priority of both houses of the legislature and the Governor. Crossover is that time in mid-session when bills that are passed in one house 'cross over' to the other house. All bills must pass both houses—the House of Representative and the Senate—in order to be forwarded to the Governor for her signature. Crossover marks the time when the majority of bills that were introduced into the New Hampshire Legislature are put to rest and don't make it to the other side. This session there were relatively few bills affecting lakes, but several affecting water resources and wetlands.

I attended the Governor's state budget address this session. It was my first such address in New Hampshire and I found it quite fascinating. Of course, the Governor's budget document represents only the first salvo, as the House soon followed with its version, which was then followed by the Senate. In the end, compromise is the way they will get to an approved budget by June 30—one which both houses approve and the Governor will sign. As of this writing they are not yet there.

The House budget proposed cuts in funding

for the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NH DES), identifying eight staff positions to be eliminated that supported programs with a nexus to water resources. NH LAKES, with its conservation partners, advocated for the restoration of these positions. The Senate restored these positions in its version of the budget, but again the budget is not yet final.

The budget of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department (NH F&G) has some structural problems that we hoped would be addressed. That agency is no longer able to support all of its programs and services through the sale of hunting and fishing licenses alone. NH LAKES and its conservation partners advocated for state general fund support of this Department, provided that the Fish and Game Commission, which sets policy and governs that Department, more fully reflect the agency's entire mission (not just hunting and fishing) and that the power of the commission be advisory only. These changes would result in NH F&G being governed in a manner like that of other state agencies. As of this writing, the Senate, in its budget version, has provided general funds to the Fish and Game Department and, perhaps more importantly, restored the Department's ability to set its own license fees, a power that was taken away by a previous legislature.

NH LAKES has also been active in the Exotic Weeds and Species Committee, a statutory committee that was created by the state legislature. Our primary goal has been to broaden the makeup of this committee to include agencies and stakeholders that deal with both invasive plants and animals. We will fully achieve this goal by the passage of HB 281, which is waiting the Governor's signature. Our focus is to

help all committee members get up to speed on the best practices for preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species and controlling AIS infestations.

We also serve on the Shoreland Advisory and Lakes Management Advisory committees (in which we hold leadership positions), and on the NH Water Council. The Shoreland Advisory Committee has worked hard to build consensus between a cross section of lake, river, and business interests in order to develop recommendations to the NH DES that we believe will improve the implementation and effectiveness of the Shoreland Act. I think it has been the willingness of people to learn more about the 'other side's' perspective that has made this consensus building process possible.

All of this work requires an investment of time and resources. But, most importantly, it depends on you, the members of NH LAKES, staying tuned in, engaged, and committed—willing to step up locally to defend your favorite lake if it is threatened and to support in some way our advocacy efforts statewide. It is our collective voice which will have the greatest impact.

We are developing our 2015-2016 advocacy priorities over the course of this summer and fall so please let us know your priority issues and concerns. Not all lake issues have a legislative fix but there are many ways, through its various paths of engagement, that NH LAKES can affect change. Let us know how we can help you to be effective advocates at the local level and please work with us as we build our statewide lake advocacy network. You can reach me at [tobrien@nhlakes.org](mailto:tobrien@nhlakes.org) and (603) 226-0299.

# Spread the word with our new videos!

The NH LAKES Lake Host Program kicked off summer with two new videos to help spread the word about the aquatic invasive species problem in New Hampshire and how Lake Hosts are helping to defend our lakes.



Each video is approximately 15 minutes in length and both can be viewed on our website at [www.nhlakes.org/lake-host](http://www.nhlakes.org/lake-host) and on our YouTube channel (go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search for 'New Hampshire Lakes Association').

Each member association of NH LAKES and all Lake Host groups will receive a DVD copy of the videos. If you would like to help spread the word in your community, you can request DVDs by emailing [info@nhlakes.org](mailto:info@nhlakes.org)

or calling our office at (603) 226-0299. Thanks for helping spread the word, and enjoy the show!



## Opening Day, continued from page 1

step was added as too many spring days were spent crawling under the house repairing burst copper pipes when that "little bit" of water left in the lines froze and split the pipes (adding to my collection of gray hairs).

The dock has to be moved out into the lake. It used to be a major enterprise requiring muscles and guttural conversations with The Deity. Ultimately, after a few years of gaining painful experience with the process (more gray hairs), a catalog was consulted and the credit card exercised to acquire six large plastic wheels that were eventually mounted to the dock legs (another project!) allowing the dock to be pushed onto shore in the fall and back into the oh-so-cold water in the spring.

Meanwhile, the smarter of our married duo goes about taking linens out of storage bags and making the beds. She also removes the silverware and utensils from the oven (remember the vermin mentioned earlier?) and returns them to the kitchen drawers. Upper cabinets remain uninvaded so those items stored there

have remained secure. Clothes are placed in drawers and closets. The curtains are pulled back and blinds returned to their full upright position. Windows are opened to let the cold out. How strange that a closed cottage can retain so much winter. Where will that cold air be during the coming hot and muggies?

The process of reacclimating ourselves and making this our fair weather home again continues; we start making lists of to-dos, groceries, and supplies. Oh what fun, to make trips to establish ourselves again as "the regulars" at the grocery and hardware stores. Even though this is our tenth season (amazing to actually count the years!) WITHOUT FAIL, the tools I need are "at the other house" or the condiments and other duplicate foodstuffs are sitting in the cabinets "at the other house." We then have the opportunity to have the now-annual debate about whether we buy the replacements or wait to bring the ones we meant to bring with us up on the next trip. What do you want to bet that those items will be forgotten again on the next trip (remember all

those gray hairs?).

The outside chores—cleaning up winter debris, raking lots of leaves, cleaning out flower beds, planting the new crop of annuals in window boxes, placing the bird bath and feeder, raking the beach (another joy you only get from waterfront living), and resurrecting the outdoor furniture and knick-knacks—suck up the daylight hours and contribute to sore muscles and a thirst for an adult beverage. After a hearty dinner—whether it's hot dogs off the grill or a meal at one of the many local cafes in the Lakes Region (along with that well-deserved adult beverage)—it is time to crash into those fresh sheets.

Awaking the next day to sun pouring in the windows and glistening off the water makes the wild (and exhausting) activities leading up to that moment all worthwhile. Opening Day may take place in late spring, but for those who love lakes and go through what it takes to get back into this delightful groove, it is the first day of this summer. We are once again prepared for grandkids, family, and friends to share in the joy of being on the water.

# “Best Lakes Congress ever!”

2015

## Lakes Congress

Tools for Lake Management & Protection

learn, train & network with NH LAKES



Lakes Congress 2015: What a spectacular—almost surreal—way to kick off summer! On May 28 and 29, NH LAKES hosted the 22nd annual Lakes Congress on Lake Winnepesaukee in Meredith. The weather—sunny, clear blue skies—and the setting at Church Landing—just a stone’s throw away from beautiful Meredith Bay—couldn’t have been better. Many attendees commented that this year’s event was the “best Lakes Congress ever!”

But what really made the event spectacular were the people—all 155 individuals—who gathered together over the two-day event to build their skills in educating, advocating, and organizing to help manage and protect their favorite lake, and all our 1,000 lakes in New Hampshire.

While this year’s Lakes Congress drew many long-time attendees, it attracted several new participants. One first-timer

commented, “There was a certain buzz in the room before the event started. My take away is that these are all like-minded folks who relish the opportunity to spend time with each other and learn about something they care deeply about. This may be the one time a year that they have this experience.”

Another first-time participant commented, “While it was my first Lakes Congress, I was impressed with the all-day presentation by Eric Eckl of Water Words That Work. I have already modified our webpage based on his expertise. I was developing a page to present this summer’s *E.coli* test results and I totally rearranged the page based on his input.”

If you missed this the 2015 Lakes Congress—or even if you didn’t and just weren’t able to get to all the sessions that you wanted to—you can view most of the presentations given during the event by visiting [www.nhlakes.org/lakes-congress](http://www.nhlakes.org/lakes-congress).



*“The Floating Classroom—what an excellent and fun experience in lake science!”*

### Thank you to our 2015 Lakes Congress Sponsors!

The Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation

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## SAVE THE DATE

### for the 2016 Lakes Congress!

Thursday, June 2, and Friday, June 3, 2016!

# From Cess to Success!

by Pat Tarpey, Executive Director, Lake Winnepesaukee Association

**Are you concerned that failing septic systems might be contributing pollution to your lake? Here's a story about how town leaders and a lake association have joined forces with local residents to help minimize septic system pollution in their watershed...**

Protecting the water quality of Lake Waukewan is a high priority for the Town of Meredith and the Lake Winnepesaukee Association. Not only is the lake a recreational and economic asset, it is also the primary drinking water supply serving over 3,000 residents and the Meredith Village business community, and provides the largest inflow to Meredith Bay, Lake Winnepesaukee.

Due to low amounts of oxygen in the bottom waters and occasional blooms of toxic cyanobacteria, the quality of Lake Waukewan does not meet the standards to fully support aquatic life and recreational uses. The 2005 Lake Waukewan Watershed Management Plan identified numerous potential sources of pollution to the lake including development pressure, recreation activities, septic systems, erosion, and land use practices.

Septic systems, if not functioning properly, can release nutrients, bacteria, pharmaceuticals and other contaminants into groundwater and surrounding lakes. As part of a comprehensive strategy to address pollutant loading from septic systems, the Waukewan Watershed Advisory Committee conducted a septic system risk analysis of all Meredith properties located within 250 feet of Lake Waukewan. The analysis indicated that potentially 30% of the septic systems on Lake Waukewan might be in failure.

In response to the findings presented in the watershed-based plan, the failure of the drinking water supply to support designated uses, and the results of the septic system risk analysis, the Town of Meredith adopted



a health regulation in January 2013 requiring properties located within 250 feet of Lake Waukewan to have the septic systems certified as functioning. To assist property owners in meeting the requirements of the health regulation, the Lake Winnepesaukee Association (LWA) implemented the Septic System Improvement Initiative, providing cost sharing grants to property owners to have evaluations of their septic systems completed.

Of the seventeen evaluations completed to date, nine systems (53%) were found to be in failure. Another four property owners bypassed the program, independently replacing their failing systems, bringing the total number of known failures to 13 out of 21 (62%). All of the systems found in failure were over 30 years old.

Numerous residents have expressed their appreciation for the program, even those whose systems were found to be in failure.

Phase II of the Septic System Improvement Initiative program opened in September 2014 and provides cost sharing grants to property owners whose systems are in need of replacement due to failure. Funding is available for 10 system replacements, paying one-third of the cost to repair/replace the system up to a maximum of \$4,000.

Funding for the Initiative is provided by a combination of Local Source Water Protection Grant and Watershed Assistance Grant programs administered by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services.

The Septic System Improvement Initiative has garnered interest from other towns and lake associations who are tackling similar challenges in dealing with pollution from failing septic systems. New Hampshire law requires site assessments of systems within 200 feet of great ponds or 4th order rivers in New Hampshire when property changes hands to determine if the septic system meets state standards. However, this is only an assessment and not a physical evaluation to determine if the system is functioning properly. Furthermore, if the assessment indicates the system does not meet state standards, the State does not have the authority to require an upgrade of the system before the property is sold.

It is up to municipalities to pass stricter regulations to better protect our lakes from septic system pollution. And, experience has shown that lake associations can serve an important role in making septic system upgrades a reality.

## Membership Matters

March 19 – June 12, 2015

### Individuals

Bruce and Barbara Casper  
Gary and Diane Clark  
Jim and Susan Coakley  
Donald and Susan Colbert  
John-Michael and Kristin Girald  
Jane Goldthwait  
James Grier  
Right Reverend and Mrs. Frank Griswold  
Mr. and Mrs. Brack Hinchey  
Robert Leavy  
Ann Montgomery  
The Honorable Bob Odell  
W. Kirk Phelps  
David and Kristina Sachs  
Jack and Val Scarborough  
Lisa and Richard Scheffler  
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Scholz  
Betty Shea  
Winston Sims  
Dr. and Mrs. Robert Spear  
Jeff and Barbara Troxell  
Marian Tucker  
Beth Urda  
Donna Van Ness and Frank Murphy  
Ken and Susan Weidman  
Dwight Gertz and Virginia Welles

### Businesses

Milfoil Extractors, LLC

## Your NH LAKES Executive Team

### Leadership New Hampshire

In 1991, a group of New Hampshire citizens—people from all walks of life—gathered at the Governor's invitation, to engage their fellow citizens in a two-year conversation, reflecting on the history, traditions, and institutions of the state. Across the state, in all 236 cities, towns, villages, and unincorporated areas, they met to ask "What makes our state a good place to live?" And "What can we do to ensure that it will continue to be so for all those who will come after us?" They issued a report titled, "New Hampshire: My Responsibility," and it made a number of recommendations of steps to be taken to ensure a strong sense of community.

One of the recommendations of that 1991 report was the establishment of a program that would: "increase civic engagement and strengthen communities through connecting and educating a diverse pool of engaged or emerging leaders about the state of New Hampshire." From that recommendation was born

Leadership New Hampshire (LNH). Each year since then, LNH has gathered between 28-38 emerging and established leaders from across the state and engaged them in a comprehensive study of the communities, issues, challenges of the state, introduced them to and had them interact with policy makers, NPO's, business leaders, and citizens from hometowns to prison inmates: all for the purpose of "building a community of informed and engaged leaders."

We are pleased to report that NH LAKES President, Tom O'Brien, graduated from the LNH program this past May and NH LAKES Vice President, Andrea LaMoreaux, has been selected for the class of 2016. This professional development and engagement program has proven to be a great way for your NH LAKES executive team to broaden and deepen its understanding of New Hampshire and to build valuable networks of fellow professionals across all sectors of our economic, social, cultural, and political spectrum. To find out more about this program, visit [www.leadershipnh.org](http://www.leadershipnh.org).

## We Count on Your Support!

NH LAKES relies on the financial support of individuals like you to sustain our operations annually. We have had a great response to our spring membership campaign but there are some of you who have yet to renew. If that's you, we have enclosed a membership renewal envelope with this newsletter for your convenience. Or, you can renew your membership online at [www.nhlakes.org](http://www.nhlakes.org).

If you have already renewed your membership, please share this newsletter and the membership envelope with a neighbor or friend! NH LAKES currently has about 1,000 members, but we know that there are many, many more people who love New Hampshire's lakes as much as you do and appreciate the important work that we do to protect these gems for future generations! Thank you!



Early summer brought the birth of two baby loons on Pleasant Lake in New London. Photo by Kittie Wilson.

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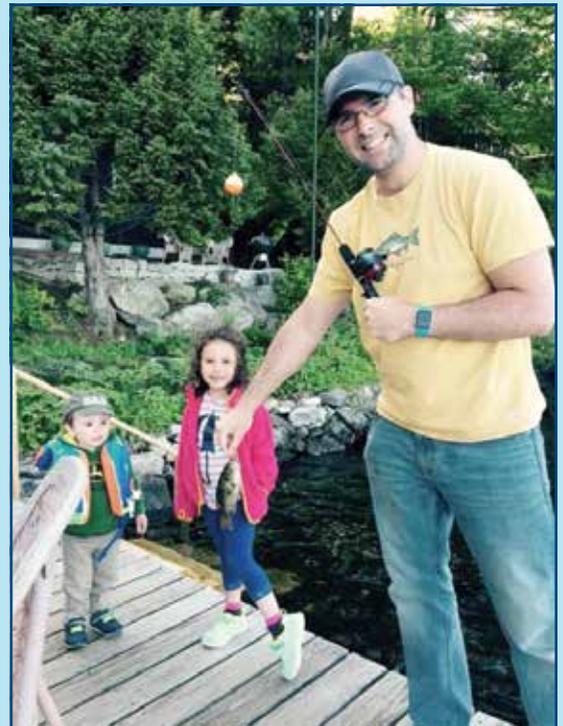
Printed on stock that is 30% recycled fiber with chlorine-free pulp, using timber from managed forests.

# JM Girald Joins NH LAKES Board of Directors

This spring, NH LAKES welcomed John Michael (JM) Girald to its Board of Directors. “JM Girald brings great business savvy and experience to NH LAKES and I am looking forward to him applying his expertise to our member services program,” commented Tom O’Brien, NH LAKES President. “JM also brings great perspective as the father of three young children, budding lake stewards all. He is a great addition to an already fine Board.”

JM Girald has had the pleasure of enjoying many of New Hampshire lakes over the course of his life spending the most time on Lake Sunapee. He values and enjoys all that our lakes have to offer, in particular the reflections of mountains, trees, and clouds on still water, fishing, swimming, and boating. JM has been an advisor to entrepreneur owner-managers and their privately-held businesses for his entire professional career. For the past 12 years, JM has worked at Bigelow, LLC, a boutique mergers and acquisitions advisory firm in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. In 2015, JM will launch a new business venture with a focus on working with entrepreneurs to help grow and build the value of their businesses. He is a graduate of Villanova University where he was fortunate to meet his wife during their sophomore year. They now reside in Rye, New Hampshire, and are busy raising three children who are all within 3.5 years of each other.

The success of NH LAKES is due largely to its volunteer Board—all of our current board members as well as those that have served before them. To learn more about our Board, visit [www.nhlakes.org/board-of-directors](http://www.nhlakes.org/board-of-directors). If you or someone you know loves New Hampshire lakes and is interested in contributing their “time, talent, and treasure” to NH LAKES, please contact Tom O’Brien at [tobrien@nhlakes.org](mailto:tobrien@nhlakes.org) or (603) 226-0299.



New NH LAKES Board Member, JM Girald,  
and two of his three children.