



A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE LAKES ASSOCIATION

NH LAKES Bestows Stewardship Award!



Volume XXV, No. 3, Fall 2015

On August 8, Robin Loveland—founder, past President, and current member of the Franklin Pierce Lake Association—was awarded the 2015 John F. Morten Award for Exemplary Lakes Stewardship by Tom O’Brien, NH LAKES President, at the annual meeting of the Franklin Pierce Lake Association.

The Franklin Pierce Lake Association Board of Directors nominated Robin for the 2015 Morten Award. Here’s what they had to say about Robin...

We are honored to nominate Robin Loveland for this award because without her, we would not exist. Robin single-handedly pioneered the formation of the Franklin Pierce Lake Association (FPLA) in August 2009. She nurtured the fledgling association for the next four years, contributing unaccountable hours of time and financial support that she still will not divulge.

During 2009, the first year of formation, Robin completed the necessary paperwork to register the association as a nonprofit organization with the state, implemented the Lake Host and Weed Watcher programs, and with her husband’s expertise, launched the association website. She also instituted annual water testing for the lake which she and a few friends financed. She researched other local lake associations and, with the provisional board of directors, created governing by-laws. She designed, printed, and organized the distribution of tri-fold brochures to every household on the lake to inform them of the new association and to solicit membership.

In 2010, during the second year of FPLA’s existence, Robin established an on-going liaison with Public Service of New Hampshire to obtain and relay information to members regarding seasonal lake levels and filling and draining dates (something that had been a yearly mystery to homeowners). Adding social events to the association calendar was also a second-year initiative: thus, our annual meeting, potluck supper/silent auction and July 4th boat parade came into existence. To ensure the future of the FPLA, Robin sought out similar-minded neighbors with diverse backgrounds and expertise to join the Board of Directors. And, at the first annual meeting in August 2010, by-laws were voted on and the Board of Directors, with Robin as President, was formally inducted. Robin also established contact with the Loon Preservation Committee (LPC) to educate lake members about the needs of newly nesting resident loons and to



Tom O'Brien, NH LAKES President, awarded the 2015 Morten Award to Robin Loveland at the Franklin Pierce Lake Association annual meeting in early August.

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LAKESIDE

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From the President...



Welcome to the fall issue of *Lakeside*. As always, I feel privileged to be writing this column. This fall, the experience is particularly gratifying for me. Closing in on my fourth year as President of NH LAKES, this past summer has been the most meaningful time yet of my tenure. While I spent many hours in public policy meetings and working with numerous agency and elected officials, my time with you—our members—was truly special. It was an incredible season of engagement for me and NH LAKES.

This summer I met with members on Squam Lake, Indian Pond, Spofford Lake, Silver Lake in Madison, Thorndike Pond, Sargent Pond, Franklin Pierce Lake, Wicwas Lake, the Big Lake, and Forest Lake in Whitefield, to name just a few. We held nine member gatherings around the state, gave presentations to upwards of 14 lake associations, and had dozens of conversations with our members and prospective members about our lakes and the challenges they face. These meetings and con-

versations were in addition to the invaluable information that we received from our 775 Lake Hosts and their local organizing groups that helped over 70,000 boaters prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

The stewardship of our lakes is clearly a very personal story for each of us. Those who shared their stories with me over the course of the summer revealed their passion and commitment for doing their part to help keep their lake clean, safe, and enjoyable. Whether you recently arrived at your lake of choice or can recount the childhood stories of your first lake experiences, your stories reflect the deep connection that you feel to your special lake.

I have not yet lived along a lake but have managed many and enjoyed so many more. Through my visits with our members, I continually learn how to better assist and represent you. Someone asked me whether I have been to all 1,000 of our lakes and I confess that I have not—at least not yet. I will keep working at it and look forward to meeting all of you at your lake to learn more about how NH LAKES can help with your lake stewardship efforts.

Thank you for the work that you do and the support of NH LAKES that you provide. Please let me know when I can visit with you.

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:
*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!

You Can Help us Save Time and Money!

You receive *Lakeside* because you are a member of NH LAKES. So you know a few things about us already. You know that we have a small, hard-working staff with a dedicated Board of Directors. If you've been a member for a few years, you also know that we work hard to make the most of our year-end appeal. Like all nonprofits, this is the time of year NH LAKES Board of Directors and staff send letters and emails, write personal notes (last year around 500 personal notes were written!),

and make phone calls asking for financial gifts to support operations. We enjoy this work and we take it on with enthusiasm. We are passionate about and proud of the work we do all year long in sustaining the quality of these exquisite natural resources and we don't mind investing this time sharing that with you. Like you, we love our lakes and recognize the necessity of raising money so we can continue to protect them.

This year, we are asking you to save us some time and money by making your annual appeal donation early using the remittance envelope inserted in this newsletter or by going to our website at www.nhlakes.org. If you make your donation now, we will not need to send you emails, letters, write you a personal note or check in with a phone call, but we do look forward to calling to **thank you** for your support!

Stewardship Award, continued from page 1

have Franklin Pierce Lake resident loons included in the annual loon census. That contact led to a close collaboration between lake residents and the LPC resulting in the protection of a nesting loon pair during the summer of 2013 and the first loon chick hatch on Franklin Pierce Lake in over two decades.

Robin's third year of leadership in 2011 solidified all the initiatives that had begun in the first two years. The Lake Host Program was expanded to include

paid Lake Host coverage at the town boat launch every weekend, water tests were expanded to include a broader range of parameters (including checking mercury levels in fish), and an annual training for volunteer Weed Watchers was instituted. Robin organized field trips to nearby weed-infested waterbodies to practice and improve plant identification skills. At the end of her third and final year as President, Robin graciously agreed to stay on the Board for one more year as our

Treasurer to facilitate the smooth transition to new board leadership. During that time, Robin encouraged the FPLA Board to establish a reserve fund that would help treat any invasive species infestation. With Robin's help, that fund has now grown to over \$5,000.

Under Robin's guidance, the FPLA has grown from one woman's dream into a vital, informed, and informative community asset to all Franklin Pierce Lake dwellers, community members, and visitors. There is no doubt that Robin's dedication has not only kept Franklin Pierce Lake free of invasive weeds and prepared us to detect any invasion rapidly, but has resulted in the education of hundreds of lake visitors about the dangers of invasive species and, as such, has benefited all of New Hampshire's lakes. Robin's many initiatives continue to be central to our enjoyment and stewardship of our common resource that will endure.

NH LAKES Board of Directors Chair, Susan Goodwin, added, "it is people like Robin—one of thousands of volunteers across the state—that keep our lakes clean and the special places they are for everyone living in or visiting New Hampshire. And, although Robin is one volunteer among many, her work has truly been exemplary."

To learn more about the Morten Award and to nominate an exemplary lake steward from your community, visit www.nhlakes.org/morten-award.



The annual boat parade is just one of many activities the Franklin Pierce Lake Association offers to help build community around the lake.

NH LAKES *Advocacy Update*

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

As I mentioned in my opening letter to you, this past summer I spent considerable time in meetings, corresponding, and in conversation with agency and public officials, our partners, and our Public Policy and Advocacy Committee members, steadily advancing our advocacy strategy. One particular highlight was a half day spent on Little Squam Lake with members of the New Hampshire Legislature's Exotic Weeds and Species Committee observing the work of the Squam Lakes Association's milfoil control team aboard their Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting boat. Dedicated expertise and hard work is showing at Squam how successful associations can be in managing variable milfoil infestations. This outing gave the committee members—most elected officials—an opportunity to gain an appreciation of just how daunting invasive species management can be. They, indeed, saw what it takes.



The Squam Lakes Association implements a comprehensive program using certified Weed Control Divers and a Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting boat to manage variable milfoil.

This is a major part of our strategy—to educate public policy decision makers and our current and potential partners about the costs and incredible work that is needed just to keep a milfoil infestation in check and, correspondingly, just how important it is to stop the further spread of all aquatic invasive plants and animals. This is only one of the issues where the NH LAKES strategies of education and advocacy work together. Education is, in fact, the first task when trying to affect public policy and we sincerely appreciate the willingness of so many of our elected officials and dedicated public agency staff for their attention to our concerns and their willingness to collaborate with us.

One of the initiatives that came out of the last legislation session was an ad-hoc working group of staff from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES), Fish and Game Department, Department of Safety Marine Patrol Unit, and NH LAKES, to explore educational approaches that would result in more boaters adopting the clean, drain, and dry approach for preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS). The group met last spring before the legislative session ended to begin planning an outreach program for the participants of on-water special events, such as boat regattas and fishing tournaments. As a result, educational materials about AIS prevention are now provided to every group that is issued a permit to conduct an on-water event in New Hampshire—approximately 900 events were held this past summer! Our workgroup met again right after Labor Day to identify the strengths and weaknesses of this initiative and to discuss additional educational opportunities. The outcome and progress of these efforts will be reported to the Exotic Weeds and Species Committee for inclusion in its report to the full Legislature.

As part of our legislative efforts, we have also been sharing with public officials legislative concepts designed to achieve all boaters' full compliance with clean, drain, and dry protocols for AIS prevention. (If you are not aware of these important practices, please visit our website at www.nhlakes.org/lake-host to learn more.) We have been very clear that if educational efforts do not prevent the further spread of AIS then we must make these practices a requirement of all boaters. While we cannot say for sure at this time whether these concepts will be submitted as Legislative Service Requests (LSRs) this coming legislative session, we will keep the pressure on to ensure that the clean, drain, and dry protocols become the norm and that every boater practices them. We are insistent that the spread of AIS can and must be stopped.

Our work on AIS is not the only focus of our advocacy program. We continue to work on improving the Shoreland Protection Act and work closely with the DES in the Lakes Management Advisory Committee to ensure that the agency has the resources to remain focused on our lakes. DES, along with the other agencies, has insufficient resources to do all things well, so we remain the voice for support of proactive and effective lake management programs.

In preparation for the upcoming 2016 Legislative Session, we have developed and posted our annual advocacy survey. The survey can be accessed on the home page of our website at www.nhlakes.org. Please complete the survey by the end of November so that we can learn more about what your priorities are. We work for our members and can do so best when you share your concerns and priorities with us. You can always reach me at tobrien@nhlakes.org and (603) 226-0299.

OUR SUMMER BY THE NUMBERS

2015

Memorial Day Weekend - Labor Day Weekend

NEW HAMPSHIRE LAKES ASSOCIATION

108 days of making connections



working together for healthy + clean + safe lakes



Lake Host inspections
preventing the spread of
aquatic invasive species

70,000+

155 22nd Annual Lakes Congress
conference participants



160

Watershed Warriors

14 Annual Lake Association
meeting presentations

9 Lake Keeper gatherings

Lake Association
members attending

500

Lake Keepers
attending

210

ASSOCIATIONS IN ACTION! If your association has adopted an innovative approach to keep your lake healthy or a method to help your group operate more effectively, let us know—we want to share your examples with other local lake groups! Email or call us: info@nhlakes.org or (603) 226-0299.

Synchronized Swimming for Milfoil?!

by Kevin Brenker, President, Crescent Lake Association

“Failure is not an option. We have to use every means, program, and tool to keep invasive species of any kind from getting into Crescent Lake,” says Tim Perry, Chairperson of the Crescent Lake Association Aquatic Invasive Species Committee, likening his association’s approach to protect their lake from aquatic invasive species to a popular sports metaphor. This association’s aquatic invasive species prevention efforts include not only lake hosting and weed watching, it includes synchronized swimming (well, sort of) . . .

Crescent Lake is a 116-acre mesotrophic lake with a maximum depth of 24 feet, located near the New Hampshire-Vermont border and bounded by the towns of Acworth and Unity. The lake is approximately nine miles from the Connecticut River and offers good fishing, clean water, and a decades-old, very active Crescent Lake Association. Thanks to this group, the lake is free from aquatic invasive species.

In the early 1990s, the Crescent Lake Association (CLA) adopted the Department of Environmental Services Weed Watcher Program to monitor for invasive plant growth in Crescent Lake. The CLA recruited members to conduct routine weed-watching ‘patrols’ in assigned sections of the lake. The group’s weed-watching efforts coincided with their adoption of the newly-launched Lake Host aquatic invasive species education and prevention program from NH LAKES.

“Our first invasive species efforts were entirely volunteer-based,” explains Stan Rastallis, long-time Crescent Lake resident and invasive weed activist. “However, we soon realized that our ability to sustain weed-watching efforts with only volunteers made for hit or miss survey efforts, resulting in areas of the lake not being surveyed consistently.”

To address this problem, in the mid-1990s, CLA hired a marine biology firm to provide a detailed map of the plants growing throughout the lake. The Association then expanded the Weed Watcher Program to include an annual

‘Milfoil Swim.’ During this swim, volunteers donning SCUBA and snorkeling equipment would conduct underwater surveillance efforts in areas deemed aquatic invasive species ‘hot spots’ due to their proximity to the public boat launch and the prevailing wind patterns.

Now in its 12th year, the annual Milfoil Swim has grown to include approximately ten swimmers working together, in a synchro-



For 12 years, members of the Crescent Lake Association in Acworth/Unity have participated in an annual Milfoil Swim.

nized manner, to survey the plant growth within the entire nearshore area of Crescent Lake. On a calm morning in June, before the boating season gets too active, these ‘synchronized swimmers’ are split between two pontoon boats. They divide up the entire shoreline into survey segments and review milfoil and other invasive species pictures and characteristics. Once in the water, the swimmers have all eyes on the lake bottom looking for any growth—plant or animal—that is new, unusually thick, or suspiciously invasive. Pontoon ‘chase boats’ follow the swimmers to protect them from boat traffic and each boat has a spotter.

In June the water can be cold and the wearing of full-length wet suits has become a required tool so that the swimmers can remain in the water for up to two hours. “Thanks to the generosity of Stan Rastallis who hosts a post-swim luncheon and sauna, we’re able to warm up, get some calorie boost, and chat about what we saw,” says CLA President Kevin Brenker.

To date, no milfoil, or other invasive species plants or animals, have been found in Crescent Lake.

With weed-watching efforts, an ever expanding Lake Host Program, and the annual Milfoil Swim, Crescent Lake is well-protected from aquatic invasive species. But that doesn’t mean this Association is resting on its laurels. “We feel like we have a proverbial ‘target’ on our back with respect to the lake’s proximity to the Connecticut River which has a number of invasive species infestations,” explains Brenker. “We’ll continue to look for best practices across the country on how to prevent invasives from spreading and we hope that the New Hampshire legislature will add additional funding to help keep our lakes and rivers clean.”

To learn more about the Crescent Lake Association, visit www.crescentlake.org.



Invasive Aquatic Plant Update: 2015 Growing Season

by Amy Smagula, Limnologist, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

The summer of 2015 was an active one for new finds of aquatic invasive plants in New Hampshire. Unfortunately, four new infestations of variable milfoil and three new infestations of spiny naiad were identified growing in our waters.

Variable milfoil

Variable milfoil was identified in Turee Pond in Bow, Pine Island Pond in Manchester, Oxbow Pond in Canterbury, and Pawtuckaway Lake in Nottingham. Variable milfoil spreads primarily by fragmentation and can easily be transported by boaters who move from waterbody to waterbody without cleaning their gear. The infestations at Turee Pond and Pawtuckaway Lake likely occurred as a result of recreational gear bringing in variable milfoil fragments that settled to the lake bottom and formed stands of new growth. The infestations in Oxbow Pond and Pine Island Pond likely occurred as a result of water inflows bringing in fragments from upstream infested sites.

Spiny Naiad

Spiny naiad was documented in Glen Lake in Goffstown, Island Pond in Pelham, and the Salmon River and Northeast Pond in Milton. This low-growing invasive aquatic plant forms a dense cover on the bottom of waterbodies. It is very brittle, fragments easily, and produces seed. Spiny naiad populations seem to follow boom and bust patterns in New Hampshire—a year or two of dense growth quickly peters out to sparse or non-existent populations in waterbodies. It has not been documented (yet) to persist as an annual issue.

False Alarms are OK!

Sometimes plants can be tricky to identify and false alarms happen. I always tell volunteers that we welcome specimens and that false alarms are OK because it means that, not only are they looking for the plants, they know the key characteristics that trigger concern.

In August, Weed Watchers on Northeast Pond in Milton suspected that they had found fanwort in an inlet to the lake. The photographs they sent to the Department of Environmental Services (DES) did appear to show fanwort so state biologists visited the site to investigate. DES determined that the plant was water marigold, a native species that closely resembles the invasive plant fanwort. No fanwort was found in the lake. We are thankful for this false alarm, especially since water marigold is an uncommon native plant in New Hampshire. Kudos to the volunteers of the Milton Three Ponds for the vigilance and their concern!

Prevention and Early Detection is a Must!

The new aquatic invasive plant infestations documented during summer 2015 highlight the importance of prevention and early detection programs. Only the infestation in Pawtuckaway Lake was an early find. The other five infestations were widespread and in need of large-scale management to bring them under control. At Pawtuckaway Lake, the milfoil infestation was found and marked by local Weed Watchers and immediately reported to DES. Divers were dispatched quickly to remove the growth and Weed Watcher efforts were stepped up to survey for growths elsewhere in the lake. Much time and resources will be needed to reduce the widespread and dense infestations found in the other waterbodies.

To establish a Lake Host aquatic invasive species education and prevention program in your community, contact NH LAKES at info@nhlakes.org or (603) 226-0299. To initiate a Weed Watcher early detection program, contact the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services at (603) 271-2248 or Amy.Smagula@des.nh.gov.

Please report any growth in your lake that appears even remotely suspicious so that it can be identified and verified as native or invasive, before it becomes widespread. Remember, false alarms are OK!



Weed Watchers at Northeast Pond in Milton were relieved to find out that they had found the native (and relatively rare!) plant water marigold (left) in a tributary to the lake instead of invasive fanwort (below).



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Membership Matters

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Membership Matters

June 12 – September 17, 2015

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Crystal Lake Boat Ramp.

By Paul Harrington, Lake Host, Crystal Lake, Enfield