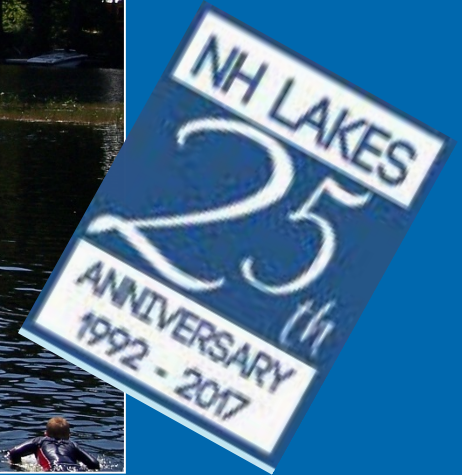


Lake Stewardship in NH: We Are in This Together



***NH LAKES: since 1992 Protecting
New Hampshire's 1,000 Lakes***

**Mascoma Lake Association
Tom O'Brien – NH LAKES President
July 8, 2017**



“Our lakes are going to be protected forever only by the combined efforts of people and organizations – working together locally and statewide - to achieve this common purpose” (Tom O’Brien – NH LAKES President))

“No lake is an island” (Peter Sorlien – NH LAKES Director)





Who is NH LAKES?

- **Dedicated to inspiring responsible care and use of NH lakes for the benefit of current and future generations.**

Why do our Lakes Need Protection?



Or Even Just for This....



Protection from What?

- Aquatic invasive plants and animals
- Polluted runoff (stormwater)
- Increased frequency of more intense precipitation events
- Warming water temperatures
- Overuse, misuse or abuse of lakes
- “Those People....” (or is it us?) ☺



NH LAKES Is:

- The **only statewide** lakes education and advocacy group
- **Member** supported
- Incorporated as a **501(c)(3)**
- ~130 member **lake associations**
- ~1,000 family/individual **members**

The organization has:

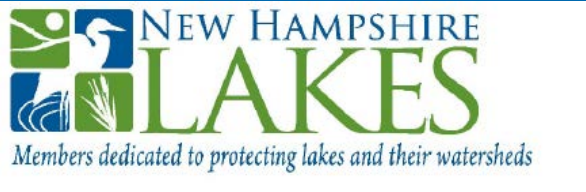
- **Four** year-round staff
- Approx. **800 seasonal staff** (300 paid; the remainder volunteer)
- A 17-member Board of Directors
- Is based in Concord
- An annual budget of \$850,000



What does NH LAKES do?

- Educates and advocates statewide for greater understanding, appreciation, protection and stewardship of our lakes
- Provides lake protection resources and tools to its members throughout NH
- Supports and promotes state laws and policies based on sound science
- Collaborates with other organizations and participates in the legislative and public policy arena to achieve lake protection





What we did!

- **Advocated for the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act** - Then worked to protect it, improve it, and have it enforced.
- **Lead & Loons** - instrumental in passage of **SB 89** (2013) prohibiting the sale and use of lead fishing jigs one ounce or less (along with lead sinkers), which went into effect June 1, 2016. Lead jigs one ounce or less had been responsible for over half the deaths of adult loons in NH in recent years.
- **Clean and Drain** - driving force behind the passage of **HB 1589** which went into effect January 1, 2017 requiring all boaters to clean off any aquatic vegetation and drain boats and trailers whenever they exit a waterbody.
- **NH LAKES is represented Statewide on:**
 - The Public Water Access Advisory Board
 - The Water Quality Standards Advisory Board
 - Lakes Management Advisory Committee
 - The Exotic Aquatic Weeds and Species Committee
 - The NH Water Council
 - NH Lives on Water (a public/private partnership)
 - The Environmental Roundtable

What we did! (cont'd)

- **851,000 courtesy boat inspections** (2002 – 2016) by NH LAKES Lake Hosts
- **1,550 ‘saves’** of hitchhiking aquatic invasive species on boats and trailers that were about to enter or had just left a water body (2002 – 2016).
- So far **in 2017, 4 ‘saves’** have been made through the Lake Host program including zebra mussels!!
- Recognized with the **Spirit of NH Outstanding Volunteer Champion Award** for the Lake Host Program (2015)





What we did! (cont'd)

- Received the **National Invasive Species Awareness Week Outstanding Invasive Species Volunteer Award** for the Lake Host Program (2015)
- **24rd annual Lakes Congress** (educating, training, and networking) drew 222 attendees over the two-day event.
- Over 516 youth become official **Watershed Warriors** in 2016 up from 160 the previous year.



But...we need to do more!

- Threats are increasing
 - Aquatic Invasive Species
 - ✓ 85 waterbodies contain an infestation of aquatic invasive plants.
 - ✓ Aquatic invasive animals are on the increase and closing in from neighboring states.
 - Runoff Pollution
 - ✓ ~80% of water quality problems are caused by polluted runoff water
 - Changing Weather Patterns
 - ✓ Less frequent but more intense rainfall events
 - ✓ Warmer water and shorter ice cover accelerates plant growth



But...we need to do more! (Cont'd)

- Our Response – NH LAKES needs to grow
 - Conservation Programs
 - ✓ Continuously improve Lake Host™ program to increase effectiveness and position for future growth
 - ✓ Initiate Polluted Water Runoff Program
 - Lake Policy and Grassroots Advocacy
 - ✓ Increase our capacity so we can proactively influence through the local and state governments
 - ✓ Be the go-to organization for lake policy in New Hampshire.
 - Outreach
 - ✓ On-line resource platform
 - ✓ Take our message on the road – boat shows, Old Home Days, day camps, community gatherings, etc.

What can you do?

- Become a member!
- Volunteer!
 - Lake Host
 - Lakes Congress
 - Mascoma Lake Association
 - Serve on the Board
 - Serve on a committee
 - Become an advocate for NH LAKES



A Logical Extension!



Supports locally by working statewide
Advocates for your lake
Amplifies your voice with other associations
Shares and reapplies effective local programs

.....to name a few!

Conversation?



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Thank You!

Questions?

