

# Mascoma Lake Association

SPRING 2021 NEWSLETTER

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### ICE OUT

April 9

(earlier on the Lebanon end of the lake)

### BOAT PARADE

Saturday, July 3rd • 3 pm

Rain date Sunday, July 4th

Meet at the Rail Trail rope swing  
prior to start.

### LOON CENSUS

Saturday, July 17 • 8-9 am

Yearly statewide loon count organized by the  
Loon Preservation Committee.

To volunteer you need a boat, census form,  
a pen, ability to identify loons, a watch,  
and a pair of binoculars.

To participate contact:

[terri.m.lynch@gmail.com](mailto:terri.m.lynch@gmail.com)

### ANNUAL MEETING

via Zoom

Saturday, July 31 • 9 am

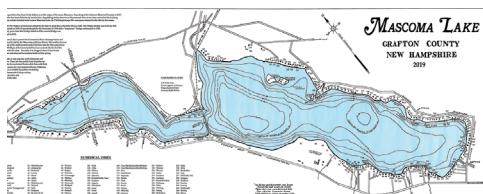
Details will be emailed prior to meeting.  
Make sure we have your correct contact info.

### MLA CLEANUP

August • TBA

Check website for updates:

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



### Mascoma Lake Maps

We have a few copies of our most recent map still available for purchase at \$25 each, with an additional charge for mailing. This is the blue-and-white one that provides names of all property owners along the shoreline in 2019. Thanks to Sandy Haynes, Kim Potter, and Chris Ross for their work on this project.

We also have vintage maps: both the pastel-colored 1995 one and the 1971 edition (which lists property owners in that year). These older maps are free.

If you would like any of these maps, please email [MLA@mascomalakeassociation.org](mailto:MLA@mascomalakeassociation.org). Your map(s) can be delivered to you at your home if local.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE • by Allison Flint

Welcome all! As we continue to grow as a community organization, we do so by our own enthusiasm and energy to spread the mission of what the MLA does and aims to continue: *The objectives of the Mascoma Lake Association are to protect Lake Mascoma and its environment, to promote the responsible and sustainable enjoyment of the Lake by all its users, and to educate the public on issues related to these objectives.* If you haven't already encouraged your family members, friends, and neighbors to join the MLA, please do so now so we can keep going and keep growing.



*Board Zoom: The MLA Board at its April 2021 meeting (not pictured: Kim Potter, in Scotland for the past year, hopes to return this June).*

While we're still living in the uncertain Covid pandemic, our board will again meet by Zoom this year. The Annual Meeting is set for July 31st at 9:00 am (although this is not firm yet). Last year's virtual meeting brought MLA members in from other states (and countries) to be part of the process. There will come a time when we will be able to be together again at La Salette—and we will also broadcast on Zoom to include all.

This is my last year as president of the Association and I'm pleased to hand over the reins at the Annual Meeting. The Board appointed newly-elected member Martha Rich to the office of Vice President last fall. With the upcoming membership vote at the Annual Meeting, she is willing to step in as President and lead this amazing group. You all know Martha from her efforts with David in leading the milfoil team and in my opinion, the MLA is in most capable hands.

It's been an honor to give my time and efforts as President for the past few years. I have tried to follow my parents' ethos in serving others and giving back to my community and will continue to support the MLA. I thank you for all you do.

**VP's Message • by Martha Rich.** On behalf of the Board and all members of the MLA, I want to thank Allison for her leadership. Working at her side this past year, I've been able to see how thoughtful and conscientious she is in guiding our organization. Her fairness, open mind, and good ideas have strengthened the MLA's operations, while her skill with digital platforms turned out to be invaluable in 2020. Allison's commitment to Mascoma Lake and deep knowledge of its history make her a hard act to follow, which is why I'm grateful that she'll stay on the Board for another year as an advisor. We'll try to live up to her example.

## BOARD MEMBERS

Allison Flint • President

Martha Rich • VP

Robert Barr • Treasurer

Bud Lynch • Secretary

Sandy Haynes • Membership

Peter Swanson • Webmaster

David Beaufait

Karen Hambleton

Mark Manikian

Dorrie MacMeekin

Kim Potter

## Gardening with Nature: Conservation Landscaping for Lakeside Park

by Martha Rich



*"Pink means keep!"*  
Pattie Fried points to the tag fluttering from a small Summersweet bush at Mascoma Lakeside Park. "This is an unusual plant to find in this area. It's *Comptonia peregrina*. Not rare exactly, but worth keeping here. We have a lot of beautiful native plants in this park."

Pattie knows this because she's begun a project to promote native plantings at the site—and reduce invasive species currently flourishing along the shoreline. As an intern with the New Hampshire Master Gardener program, she's been studying horticulture in a class through the UNH Cooperative Extension, which prepares Master Gardeners to serve as trained volunteers sharing their enthusiasm, scientifically-based gardening knowledge, and spirit of community service with the general public. (<https://extension.unh.edu/resource/about->

new-hampshire-master-gardener-program)

After completing the three-month class, interns apply their new learning to real life projects, logging at least 55 hours of service to meet needs in their local communities. In Pattie's case, that meant consultation with individuals and groups—the Enfield Conservation Commission, Enfield Village Association, Lakeside Park Committee, and Department of Public Works, as well as her UNH mentor Emma Erler—to arrive at a long-term "land restoration" plan for Lakeside Park.

The first phase will be removing invasives such as Japanese knotweed, honeysuckle, buckthorn, and multiflora rose. "Some of them can be pretty," she concedes, "like that rose—but some sources say it gives birds diarrhea." In their place, she envisions introducing more native shrubs and plants that are both beautiful and good for songbirds: high-bush cranberry and blueberry, for example. Creating this healthy habitat will require some digging and earth-moving, including temporary re-location of the existing perennial flower beds, before restoration and re-planting can proceed. Those pink tags will aid in preserving existing shrubs and trees, like black cherry and alder, that should anchor the native landscape.

With a volunteer workday in mid-May to

kick off some shoreline clean-up, Pattie hopes to involve interested community members in the project as it proceeds. She herself is new to gardening. It's something that interested her "way back in high school," but she "went in a different direction" with her family business (Lou's Restaurant in Hanover). Now, in retirement, she hopes to contribute to her community in a new way. She's excited to get started, but she's also willing to be patient—a good mindset for horticulture.

Full conservation landscaping of the Lakeside Park shoreline is likely to take three years. Beyond that, Pattie can see further possibilities: an accessible sensory garden, an educational conservation trail tracing historical pathways, plantings to serve as way stations for migrating butterflies, a small wetland garden, naturalized plantings of spring bulbs to create "swaths of color." Plans like these will require continued close consultation with town organizations and considerable proposal writing for grant funds. Pattie is ready to do the work. Master Gardeners commit to at least 20 hours per year of ongoing community service in horticulture, and she doesn't expect that to be hard. "I just love this place," she says. "This park is such a wonderful thing for the town. I'm glad to do something to help."

## Mascoma Lakeside Park Committee

### SPRING 2021 REPORT

by Meredith Smith, Chair

The Mascoma Lakeside Park Committee (MLPC) has been busy throughout the year, meeting regularly, first in person and since April 2020, on Zoom. At long last, the pavilion is well underway with completion expected in summer of 2021. Unexpected delays with site work postponed start of construction until October of 2020. Winter put the pavilion construction on pause until early spring. Once completed, the pavilion will be low maintenance with trim and columns faced in PVC.

The overall design echoes the nineteenth-century architecture of Main Street. Close to the pavilion, a flat area to accommodate an events tent has been created as part of the park site work. The former temporary bypass road access point has been permanently eliminated, and Phase Two of park improvements include a new access point from the Rail Trail to the park and pavilion. Architect Mirski has planned for ADA accessibility throughout the park, allowing people of different abilities to access this beautiful place on the lake.

In late fall, the Lakeside Park Committee welcomed new volunteer and Enfield resident, Pattie Fried, as a member of MLPC. A Master Gardener intern, Pattie will use Lakeside Park as her community service project to become a Master Gardener. Like Paul Mirski's pro bono design work, Pattie's

garden expertise and that of her mentors is a tremendous gift to our community. Pattie will be focusing on native plants and shrubs and, working with plantings supportive of Lake Smart goals. We are incredibly grateful to both Mr. Mirski and Pattie Fried for their generous contributions to Lakeside Park.

In April, Pattie brought invasive species expert Emma Erler (UNH) to the park to identify invasive plants and shrubs. One Japanese knotweed was found, along with buckthorn and numerous Japanese honeysuckle. Removal will begin with a work weekend on May 14 and 15, assisted by Hypertherm volunteers and others from various conservation organizations and the Lakeside Park Committee.

The fund-raising campaign continues for the second phase of park construction to include ADA paths, trails, plantings, and parking lot improvements. A grant application has been submitted to the Land and Water Conservation Fund for \$125,000 which, if successful, will need to be matched at the same level and fulfil the budget of \$250,000 for proposed work. Members of the MLPC have begun efforts to raise the match for this grant in anticipation that the Town will be successful. Two grants, one from the Landecker Foundation (\$15,000) and another from the Eastman Charitable Foundation (\$5000) have been received to date towards the match. It should also be noted that the Mascoma Sailing Club and EVA have each pledged to contribute \$2000 annually to the

park's maintenance, making the park independent of tax-payer funding.

A permanent sign will be installed this spring, welcoming people to the park. The sign has been funded through a generous donation from Enfield Village Association. The sign will also remind visitors of the park's "pack it in, pack it out" policy and alternative parking areas. Parking at Lakeside Park is limited due to Shoreline Protection laws and honoring our commitment to become "Lake Smart," encouraging good lake stewardship. Therefore, MLP Committee encourages those who are simply accessing the Rail Trail to seek alternative parking in nearby sign-posted parking areas.

The park has quickly become a destination for people from throughout the Upper Valley. Whether it be someone just enjoying a peaceful moment, picnickers, kayakers, fishermen, ice skaters, Rail Trail enthusiasts, or disabled veterans coming to kayak or bike, Lakeside Park is a popular spot year-round! It is truly a park for all Enfield to be proud of.

The Mascoma Lakeside Park Committee wishes to thank all their donors who have made this park a reality and especially to Paul Mirski who has given untold hours of his time and Pattie Fried who is working tirelessly on landscaping plans and plantings. Fund-raising is ongoing for the needed upgrades and improvements. We welcome donations, however small, and of course, volunteers!

## Loon Census 2021 • July 17

by Terri Lynch

Each year the Loon Preservation Committee in Moultonborough organizes a statewide Loon Census to monitor the number of loons on New Hampshire's lakes and ponds. Last year 481 adult loons, 83 loon chicks, and four immature loons (one to two years old) were counted on 118 of New Hampshire's lakes and ponds.

On Mascoma Lake we had nine adults and three loon chicks during the 2020 census. I will organize Mascoma Lake's participation again this year. About twelve boats (motorized are preferred but all are welcome) are needed to cover the 1,158 acres of our lake. Volunteers will need to be at an assigned section of lake for the full hour, recording all loon activity seen and then reporting findings back to me. I will review reports and submit results to the LPC.

This is a rain or shine event. Most volunteers have enjoyed this time on the lake—but it is an all-weather event.

This year the census will take place on Saturday, July 17, 8:00-9:00 a.m.

If you would like to participate, please contact me directly at terri.m.lynch@gmail.com



Vital Communities' popular Valley Quest program has included an updated version of the Mascoma Lake Loon Quest in its Climate Connections Super Quest for 2021. Quests are self-guided "treasure hunts" to explore the natural and cultural history of the Upper Valley.

The one here, originally designed by two high school students, is "a water quest on Lake Mascoma in search of a fabulous bird. It begins and ends at a wonderful little park, Mascoma Lakeside Park, recently opened at the site of the non-motorized boat launching area. It is the perfect spot to bring a picnic!" We note that construction is underway on the pavilion at the park, so Questers will need to avoid that section.

To learn more about this

family-friendly activity, visit:

<https://vitalcommunities.org/valleyquest/quest/the-loon-quest/>

## FOR THE LOVE OF LOONS

by Terri Lynch

The awesome sound of a loon call through my open bedroom window is my best wakeup call. After an especially long winter, spring finally arrived, as the ice went out in the first week of April. 2020 was a difficult year by most standards for people, but it was a better year for loons on Mascoma Lake. In 2019 we had only three adult loons for the July census, no nests or chicks. Poor water clarity was mostly to blame, making it difficult for loons to spot and catch fish.

In 2020 we had nine adult loons and three chicks for the census, the result of two successful nests. One in Lebanon hatched two eggs and another in Enfield hatched one. The pair at the Lebanon end even used the floating nesting platform for only the second time in a decade. Two chicks survived till fall and are presumed to have fledged. Those immature loons spent the winter and will spend their first few years on the ocean off the coast of New England. They won't return to the freshwater lakes/ponds until they are near breeding age (three to four years old).

Not all the loon news last summer was good. One of our chicks sustained an injury that caused it to beach near the Lebanon boat launch. The injury was too severe, and it died shortly after arrival at the Bird Sanctuary in Henniker. Most likely this was caused by a collision with a boat. Loon chicks are extremely difficult to see in early summer, when boat activity is at peak and loon chicks are at their tiniest. I will float a couple signs warning boaters that we have chicks, but the loon family moves around a lot and can be quite a distance from the signs. The best way to avoid injuring a loon chick is to look out for and steer away from any adult loons on the lake. The chicks will likely be near an adult loon but unable to fly or dive and avoid a boat. Sometimes the adults leave the chick(s) alone on the surface while they catch food for them. Slowing down and keeping watchful will help you avoid hitting a chick. The most productive pair of loons will only produce two chicks a year, so each chick is very precious and important to the survival of the species. Loons are still listed as threatened.

Soon we will hear more loon calls as the males establish their territory and start calling for a mate. By early May, the two floating nesting platforms we have will be anchored in place with hopes for successful nesting. If a nest is started, signs and ropes will be used to help protect it. Hopefully, we will have successful nests again this year. Loons are known to be good indicators of the health of a lake so their presence on Mascoma is encouraging. I know their image is one many of us delight in by the sight of them on so many mailboxes, signs, and flags around the lake. We can all do our part to help keep them here on Mascoma.

### Everyone Can Help the Loons:

Give them space: Steer clear of them while boating, kayaking, swimming.

Use non-lead tackle and recover all fishing line.

Keep away from any loon nests:

Eggs can be abandoned if people or animals come too close.

Never chase or otherwise harass the loons. It is against the law!



To learn more about loons, the Loon Preservation website is very helpful:

<https://loon.org/>

If you spot any loon that seems in trouble please contact the LPC at (603) 476-LOON (5666), or call me directly at (802) 558-0082

# Eagles Continue to Inspire Hope and Awe • Article & Photos by Kathie H. Schuster



The parents in 2020.



Juvenile thinking about flying in 2020



Fearsome 2" talons • Photo by Steve Preston



Tree blowdown - nest and all



Adults occupying new nest in 2021

Our beautiful Mascoma Lake is home to much wildlife. A pair of bald eagles are year-round residents. They have been nesting here since 2013 or earlier and have managed to have four to five young fledge in that time. Last year the adult pair had a successful breeding season with one healthy chick who grew to be a strong juvenile eagle. It was fun to see this young eagle learn to fly, bathe, and catch fish. It was reassuring to see how the adults attended to his needs but increasingly gave him the distance needed for independence.

Just after hatching, the chick was covered with fuzzy pale grey down feathers, then grew a coat of dark brown feathers. The plumage develops some mottled variation, gradually changing. Adult plumage is typically acquired by the age of five or six years old. An average adult has about 7,000 feathers which if weighed might only be one pound! The feathers are interlocking, hollow, strong, and flexible. Feathers are the essence of the bird, allowing it to stay warm, cool off, fly, and attract a mate. The bill stays dark colored until reaching about four years or older, then will be bright yellow.

Notice the feet on the adult eagle. The scaly yellow covering provides protection from potential injury while grasping their prey. Each foot has three forward-facing toes and one backward. The sharp talons at the end of each toe can grow to be 2" long. The talons have tremendous force and allow the eagle to hunt, fish, and defend itself.

Eagles' eyes are the largest in the bird world. They have 3-D vision and good depth perception. This binocular vision is important for judging distance when hunting for food. Their visual acuity and color vision are excellent because they have up to five times more cones (photoreceptors in the retina) than humans. Eagles and other birds of prey also have special oil droplets that may function as light filters, much like polarized sunglasses that reduce glare and may aid the bird to see fish.

In January 2021, the adults were seen checking out possible nesting sites. On March 7th, an adult was noted nesting in an impressively large nest at the top of a tall pine tree. Incubation of eagles eggs generally lasts 32-36 days. However, apparently during a strong windstorm around March 29th, the wind blew the tree down and the nest was destroyed. Fortunately, both adults escaped without injury as they were seen sitting above the fallen tree in early April. Since that time, they have been seen together at another nest. Given the lateness of the season, it is unlikely that they will be breeding for this year, but they are at least still here on the lake.

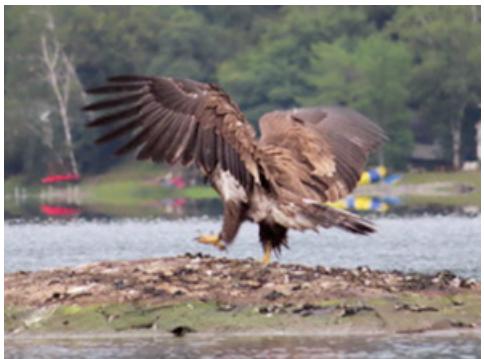
How fortunate we are here in Enfield to have resident eagles that have repeatedly chosen to nest here. They offer inspiration of strength and hope and perseverance. The biodiversity of plant and animal life at Mascoma Lake is magnificent, and it reminds us that as the caretakers of this lake environment, we have an awesome responsibility to maintain its natural setting.



Stunning adult in 2020 • Photo by Steve Preston



Juvenile learning to fly in 2020



Juvenile touching down after flight in 2020



Results of blowdown



Adults building new nest in 2021



## 2021 Mascoma Sailing Club Log

by Kate McMullan and Sally Sharp

Mascoma area sailors were delighted to see an early ice-out this year on Tuesday, April 6th. A few members of the Dartmouth Sailing Team ventured out on the water that very day. The following day, a longtime MSC member skied Sunapee in the morning and returned home at noon to sail on Mascoma Lake all afternoon. Another MSC sailor has enjoyed many high-wind windsurfing opportunities since the April 6th ice-out. The sailing season is off to a great start indeed!

This is Mascoma Sailing Club's twelfth season at what is now Mascoma Lakeside Park. It is our twenty-first season as a sailing club. We look forward to an active season of sailing, racing, and hopefully some teaching. We're optimistic we can reinstate some of our community-oriented sailing programs put on hold last year due to Covid-19, including Women Can Sail, Community Sailing, and some informal racing ... all of which are open to community members at no cost. We hope you will consider joining in the fun—do keep an eye on the Enfield Listserv for our weekly MSC updates!

There is a lot of interest in sailing this year as people look for Covid-19-safe outdoor activities. We look forward to introducing some novices to lake sailing and to teaching new members—on a one-to-one, masked, and well distanced basis—how to safely use club boats. You will see individual member boats out on the water, club-owned boats being shared in ways that conform to Covid-19 protocols, one-on-one teaching from separate boats, and plenty of racing (including a couple of regattas) which can all occur safely and easily and provide lots of outdoor fun for all. Our goal, of course, is to get back to where we were two years ago.

In the meantime, we continue to be thankful for the wonderful sailing resource that Mascoma Lake is to all of us.



## Mascoma Lake Skating Creates Ice Fun

by Joan Holcombe and Nancy Lee



Hatched in the early Spring of 2020, the Mascoma Lake Skating Association, a new Enfield enterprise, creates skate trails criss-crossing the Lake for all to enjoy. As Mary Reynolds and Joan Holcombe reminisced about the disappearing winter ice and their dream for skating on the lake all winter long: "How about creating trails?" says one. "Why not?" says the other.



Remarkably, in the midst of a national pandemic and seriously fracturing political turmoil, this small endeavor took root. Folks searching for activities that allowed social distancing, healthy air, exercise, renewed friendship, and recommitment to community found what they were seeking and more on the Lake. Folks rallied with high levels of enthusiasm, financial support to fund the plowing, and lots of good advice.

Quickly, these two women expanded their ranks and forged a greater vision. Ben Prime researched and gathered new equipment to better clear our trails. Carol Williams offered skate lessons. Bridget Labrie recruited members of the Town of Enfield to problem solve our parking. Nancy Lee joined us in hosting a welcome and information table and ideas to support future activities and expanded plowing. Mary Reynolds applied for official papers and 501(c)(3) status. And Joan Holcombe set up safety equipment, self-rescue training, and materials for all to learn

about safety on the Lake.

The team brought in key partners, tapping the collective wisdom of our region: Mascoma Lake Association; Enfield Town Recreation; Lakeside Park Committee; Upper Valley Trails Alliance; Nordic Skater; Hanover, Lebanon, and Enfield Fire and Rescue members; snowmobilers, ice fishermen, and many more. This new venture, along with other long-standing winter sporting, has expanded to attract visitors from the larger community and beyond, enriching business and providing greater knowledge of ice and water safety. Our small vibrant village is once again on the map—in winter!



It is the mission of this small group to further develop great recreational skating opportunities on Mascoma Lake. As well, it is the goal to share this vast space with other winter sports people: xc skiers, sailors, kiteskiers, fishermen, snowmobilers, snowshoers and walkers. And it is a great joy to watch all winter long so many smiling people as they rediscover or discover for the first time the fun of having a big puddle of ice in our backyard!



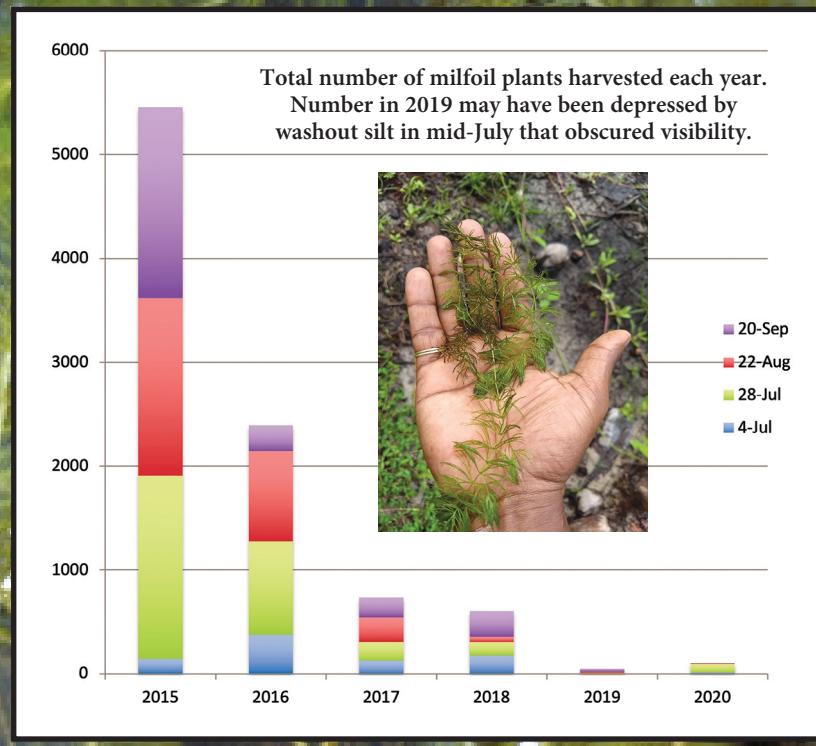
## Dartmouth Yacht Club

The College is in the process of deciding whether to open the DYC this summer, monitoring Covid data closely to make the best-informed decision. John Brady, of the Snowsports and Sailing Programs in the Dartmouth PE Department, reports that he has a great staff lined up if opening proves to be possible.

For updates, please contact him at [John.Brady@dartmouth.edu](mailto:John.Brady@dartmouth.edu) or visit the website: <https://recreation.dartmouth.edu/recreation/dartmouth-yacht-club>

# Milfoil Control: A Quarter-Century Brings Progress

by Martha Rich and David Kelman



This will be the 25th year that Mascoma Lake has had volunteers working to control Eurasian milfoil. As coordinators of that effort for the past decade, we've seen genuine progress in reducing this invasive aquatic weed in our water. That's encouraging, because Eurasian milfoil can ruin a body of water if it's not kept in check. It can form thick mats that crowd out other plants, harm fish, and make swimming and boating difficult. Like other invasive species, it's tenacious and aggressive, with many strategies for multiplying.

We weren't sure how last summer would go, when the pandemic required adaptations in our usual methods for locating, marking, and digging out plants. We changed harvest protocols to keep divers and boat crews safe, and held fewer, smaller "synchronized swims" with snorkelers searching underwater. At the same time, though, we were lucky that the water had cleared from the mud inundation of the previous year; visibility was good. In addition, as always, we had a solid group of weed watchers around the lake, who looked diligently for milfoil plants from boats, paddleboards, and shorelines. We ended up feeling that the search-and-harvest program in 2020 was as thorough as it had been in recent years.

As a result, we are very happy to report that the total harvest of Eurasian milfoil in 2020 was a mere 104 plants. We continue to feel optimistic about progress in milfoil control. As the graph indicates, our annual harvest has dropped dramatically from a high of 5,454 plants in 2015, the year we introduced new search methods. Even perennial "hot spots"—areas of the lake that showed persistent infestations in past years—are far more free of milfoil. Overall, the trend looks good.

This doesn't mean we can relax. We can never expect to eradicate Eurasian milfoil; we can only learn to live with it and control it. Every plant that escapes our attention can swiftly become a new colony. Given that reality, we will continue to rely on everyone who cares about this lake to do their part.

## Here are the ways you can help:

- If you see an orange-yellow foam-noodle milfoil marker, please leave it where it is and avoid motorized boating near the marker.
- Do not attempt to remove milfoil yourself. It must be harvested by trained personnel. Improper removal will contribute to its spread. (It's also illegal in New Hampshire to dig up aquatic plants of any kind without a permit. Removing native plants such as bass weed can create more inviting conditions for invasive milfoil to grow and even increase cyanobacteria risk.)
- If you think you see Eurasian milfoil, let us know and we'll follow up on suspected sightings. You don't have to be an aquatic plant expert, just an alert citizen!
- If you're a SCUBA diver, or want to become one, we welcome new divers. With the state-approved training, it takes one day to learn the techniques of proper milfoil harvesting.
- If you're a swimmer, you could join our "synchronized swims." You need to be able to swim with a mask and snorkel for up to two hours (with breaks when you'll tread water for a few minutes). You'll need a wetsuit for flotation and staying warm.
- If you live on the lake and would like to monitor the water near your property on a regular basis, you can join the "neighborhood weed watch." Your commitment as a watcher would be to cruise your area from the shoreline to a depth of 12-14 feet when the lake is still and the sun is not directly overhead (usually early morning or late afternoon). We ask that you report at least once by July 15 and a second time by the middle of August. We particularly need weed watchers on the 4A side from the Baited Hook to the head of the lake.

**Questions or interested in volunteering?**

Contact: David Kelman & Martha Rich: [ssmilfoil@comcast.net](mailto:ssmilfoil@comcast.net) • 802-233-9964

# Water Quality Questions: Coronavirus, E-coli, and Cyanobacteria • by Jim Martel

In this COVID pandemic age, one may wonder if the coronavirus can survive in our lakes and ponds? According to the CDC, there is no evidence that the virus is able to survive and infect people in natural water bodies, in either marine or freshwater environments.

However, coronavirus can be spread between people gathering in water outdoors. Yes, there is strong evidence that if people are in close contact with each other (within six feet) they may spread the virus via the small respiratory droplets that occur when we talk, cough or sneeze. There is no evidence that the virus can spread from the lake water to a person.

*"Can I catch COVID-19 from feces of other people, while swimming?"* There is no evidence that the virus is able to survive and infect people via feces in recreational water. The World Health Organization (WHO) has stated: "While investigations suggest the virus may be present in feces in some cases, to date, there have not been reports of fecal-oral transmission of COVID-19." WHO is assessing ongoing research on the ways COVID-19 is spread and will continue to share new findings on this topic.

Although coronavirus may not be a problem in our lakes, e-coli and cyanobacteria are always a threat. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) has a program to take periodic samples at Shakoma Beach and Dartmouth

Sailing Club. If they find high concentrations of e-coli or cyanobacteria they contact the Town, who can close the beach for a day or more. The beach remains closed until further sampling shows that concentrations are back to normal.

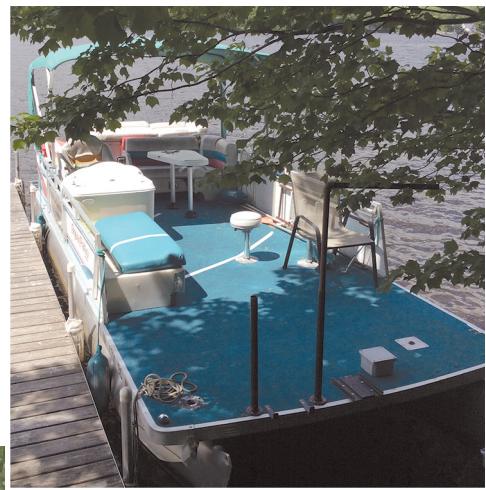
There were no beach closings due to e-coli last year, but I did see a small cyanobacteria bloom on my beach at the head of the lake on Shaker Boulevard on June 6, 2020. See picture below.

Notice the band of very green cyanobacteria along the shore. It disappeared about 30 minutes later.



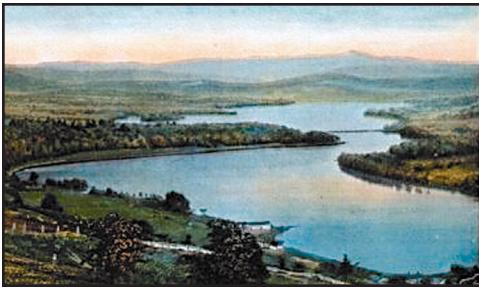
## Concerns About Water Quality

In general, if you have a concern about water quality or other issues affecting the lake, you may contact the MLA via email. We will reach out to the appropriate authority and/or provide information for you to contact that authority directly. We will then follow up and monitor progress of any action in progress. When information is available, we will share that and make notifications as authorities request. This may happen swiftly in cases of immediate concern, such as a cyanobacteria bloom, or take more time if the issue requires study and testing. The MLA itself has no regulatory or enforcement role, but will assist and educate when possible.



*And during Covid 19, out came the tape, the masks, the care.*





## Mascoma Lake Association

P. O. Box 9, Enfield, NH 03748

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



## Celebrating 20 Years of the NH Lake Host Program

NH LAKES is pleased to offer the Lake Host Program, an aquatic invasive species education and prevention program for the 20th year!

Founded in 1992, NH LAKES is a nationwide, member-supported 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with the mission to keep New Hampshire's lakes clean and healthy, now and in the future. NH LAKES works with partners to promote clean water policies and responsible use, and inspires the public to care for lakes. The Lake Host Program is a collaborative effort between NH LAKES, the NH Department of Environmental Services, and local partners for the prevention of aquatic invasive species spread in New Hampshire's waterbodies.

Lake Hosts work at boat ramps throughout the state conducting boat and trailer inspections with boaters' permission and encourage boaters to practice the "Clean, Drain, and Dry" method for preventing the spread of aquatic invasive plants and animals. Inspectors are not enforcers of local or state ordinances, rules, or laws. Each summer, approximately 400 volunteers and 300



employees are trained to work as Lake Host Inspectors.

On Mascoma Lake, we staff both boat ramps on Friday afternoon and all-day Saturday and Sunday with paid Lake Hosts. Come and meet our Lake Hosts at the ramps in their iconic Lake Host uniform—a royal blue t-shirt and a big smile!

Pictured at the bottom left are the intrepid Lake Hosts for 2020.

We rely on volunteers to staff our ramps during the week. We are always looking for volunteers and appreciate any time you are able to contribute.

For more information, or to donate to our Lake Host program, please visit the NH Lakes website at:  
<https://nhlakes.org/> Clean, Drain, and Dry!  
<https://nhlakes.org/clean-drain-dry/>

Please contact me if you are interested in becoming a volunteer Lake Host this coming summer.

We need your help to keep our lake healthy! Thank you.

by Tricia Barr  
Mascoma Lake Host Coordinator  
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