



A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE LAKES ASSOCIATION

NH LAKES' 2012

Advocacy Program Agenda!

NH LAKES is gearing up for another busy and potentially unpredictable legislative session. We have been meeting with agency officials, policy advocates from other environmental nonprofit organizations, and legislative representatives, discussing what issues will likely arise during the 2012 session and what strategies may become necessary to ensure that our lakes continue to be protected for us today and for future generations. In addition, we asked you, our members and our friends, to tell us what lake protection and management issues are important to you and your lake. Based on these discussions and your input, NH LAKES' advocacy program agenda for the coming year will address many issues.

Shoreland Protection

During the 2011 session, the Legislature amended the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act (RSA 482-A). The major changes included changing the name of the Act to the 'Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act' and revising the minimum standards relative to impervious surface limitations and vegetated buffers. The amendments also included establishing a new permitting process within the Act that allows shoreland property owners to file a permit by notification for projects within the 250-foot shoreland zone "that have no impact on water quality," and meet the specified notice, size, and purpose requirements. (For the most up-to-date summary of the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act Standards, visit www.nhlakes.org/SWQPA_standards.pdf).

We know that some communities and environmental groups feel that the amended Act has been substantially weakened, but NH LAKES, like the NH Department of Environmental Services and many other conservation groups, felt that compromise was necessary to prevent the loss of the entire Shoreland Program. We also know that House Bill 470, which seeks to repeal the entire Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act, has been retained from the 2011 session. While we do not expect this bill to pass during the 2012 legislative session, we need to keep our eye on it. And, we would like to hear from community groups that are planning on revising their local planning regulations and zoning ordinances to reestablish some of the provisions of the Act in their municipalities.

In addition, we are pleased to report that June Fichter, new NH LAKES Board Member and Executive Director of the Lake Sunapee Protective Association, is a member of the Shoreland Advisory Committee. The primary focus of this committee is to address residential shorefront property owner input and perspective relating to shoreland

Advocacy Program, continued on page 3



Members dedicated to protecting lakes

Volume XXI, No. 3, Fall, 2011

NH LAKES Welcomes New President



The NH LAKES Board of Directors is pleased to announce the hiring of its new President, Tom O'Brien, a seasoned water resource and nonprofit professional who brings a wealth of experience to the position.

Tom is a native New Englander who spent many of his formative years recreating in New Hampshire and he is returning to New Hampshire with a deep sense of respect for the beauty and importance of our lakes and other waters. He currently manages the statewide Network of Watershed Councils in Oregon, and his previous work experience includes managing lakes and ponds in Massachusetts' state forests and parks and managing reservoirs and watersheds

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From the Chairman...

LAKESIDE

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The New Hampshire Lake Association's Board of Directors met on board the M/S Mount Washington for its September board meeting. It was the third year that we have held our fall meeting on the Mount, and we were all again clearly reminded of the great beauty of the lake and surrounding mountains. This meeting was noteworthy for several reasons. First and foremost, the meeting was another example of the importance of our active and engaged Board of Directors. A great deal of business was done, including setting our advocacy program agenda for the coming year and reaffirming that one of our main roles as directors is to ensure that NH LAKES remains on strong financial footing. I am grateful for the engagement of my colleagues on the Board, who represent the deep engagement of many individuals and associations across the state that help carry forward NH LAKES' mission. During the meeting, we were all reminded of the superb efforts the staff put forth all summer long. The Lake Host Program, celebrating its 10th anniversary, continued to be extremely effective at educating boaters about how to keep exotic plants out of our waters, and more shoreland restoration projects than ever before were undertaken. In

addition, our Lakes Congress and LakeFest events were very successful. Together with the Board of Directors, I extend our gratitude to the staff for its terrific work—it is especially important to note that this work took place without having a president on board.

With that said, I am pleased to tell you that we were joined on our Winnepesaukee outing on the Mount by our incoming new President, Tom O'Brien. This is our first public announcement of NH LAKES having hired Tom as our next President, and we are extremely excited about his coming on board. While Tom cannot free himself from his current professional duties as Executive Director of the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils until late November, he joined us for a week during late September. This was a perfect opportunity for him to learn about New Hampshire and lake issues with our staff, board members, and committees, and other key individuals across the State. We are thankful to Tom for having joined us for this week; it is already evident that he will bring great talent, expertise, experience, and enthusiasm to the role of President of NH LAKES. When Tom arrives to begin work on November 28, I hope you'll join me, the Board and the Staff in welcoming him to New Hampshire!

Sincerely,

Dana Bisbee, Chair

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this issue of Lakeside.**

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development regulated under RSA 428-A. June will keep us informed about property owner input relative to the recent changes to the Act.

Septic Systems

Also during the 2011 legislative session, NH LAKES proposed a bill that would have established a legislative commission to study septic systems in New Hampshire, particularly relative to the availability and use of new septic system technologies. While the NH House of Representatives expressed interest in the intent of this study committee, they decided that the formation of new study committee was unnecessary and voted the bill 'inexpedient to legislate.' The House recommended that the NH Department of Environmental Services establish a subcommittee within the existing Lakes Management Advisory Committee (LMAC) to address the study of septic systems. (The LMAC is a committee set up by the Legislature which includes representatives from state agencies, municipalities, the conservation community, the fishing community, academia, and the marine, tourism, and real estate business sectors, which has the responsibility of advising the NH Department of Environmental Services in carrying out the purposes of the Lakes Management and Protection Program.) We are pleased to report that a NH LAKES board member is currently being appointed to the LMAC and it is through

this representation that we will pursue the establishment of a LMAC septic system study subcommittee.

State Budget and Revenue Sources

The State of New Hampshire may go through another round of budget cuts in 2012. This is concerning since many state agencies and programs, including lake and river monitoring and management programs within the NH Department of Environmental Services and the Marine Patrol Bureau of the Department of Safety, experienced significant budget cuts during the 2011 session. During the 2012 legislative session, we will stay active in the Legislature working to prevent lake and river monitoring and protection programs and the marine patrol from being further weakened. We will also help ensure that existing funding sources for exotic species prevention and control are not reduced.

Other Issues of Concern

In addition to having an active presence in the legislature during the 2012 session relative to acting on bills that were retained from the 2011 session and tracking and commenting on new bills that are introduced, NH LAKES will be researching several policy-related issues and may introduce legislation and/or amendments to existing bills as opportunities arise. Currently, the NH LAKES Policy and Science

and Research committees are considering researching issues relative to the effectiveness of the lead-sinker ban at protecting loon health, more environmentally-sensitive ways of managing stormwater runoff relative to the increasing frequency and severity of flooding events, and also new ways of discouraging the transportation of exotic aquatic plants.

Contact us with your issues and concerns!

We are pleased that Tom O'Brien will be joining the staff of NH LAKES at the end of November. Tom will serve as NH LAKES' President and Policy Advocate. He comes to us with an accomplished advocacy background and a love of preserving and enjoying New England's mountains and waters. Tom can be contacted via email at tobrien@nhlakes.org.

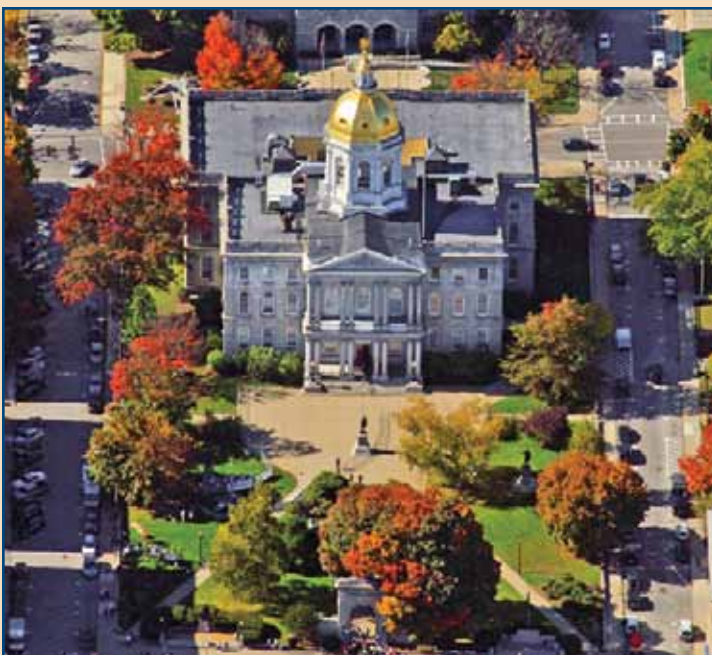
New President, continued from page 1

associated with the Boston and New York City water supplies.

Dana Bisbee, NH LAKES Board Chair, says that it is an affirmation of NH LAKES' accomplishments that the Board was able to attract someone of Tom's experience and stature. "We are very excited about this opportunity for NH LAKES. We believe that Tom will be a great asset to our mission and to serving our membership, and a perfect complement to our existing talented and committed staff."

Tom describes himself as a "pragmatic conservationist" with a firm belief in communicating as much as possible in order to find common ground. "We need to strike the right balance between protecting and conserving our natural resources—the lakes and other water resources of New Hampshire—without placing an undue burden on government or on the people who rely on or simply enjoy our lake resources. I look forward very much to meeting the membership of NH LAKES and to serving them to the best of my ability."

Tom will join the staff of NH LAKES on November 28. Please feel free to contact him at tobrien@nhlakes.org or 226-0299 to say hello!



NH State House during autumn.

Photo courtesy of Bill Hemmel, www.LakesRegionAerials.com.

Students Vegetate and Infiltrate to Protect Lakes

As another New Hampshire summer has come to an inevitable close and students have returned to school, we are reflecting on what can only be called a spectacular summer for the NH LAKES Lake Conservation Corps (LCC) Program! From July through mid-August, students from six New Hampshire high schools built 13 lake-friendly landscaping projects along shorelines from as far south as Concord to as far north as Clarksville! These projects were designed to reduce the amount of polluted water that runs off of the landscape and into lakes during rainstorms. The projects have proven to be a great success—most being able to handle even larger runoff volumes than they were designed for brought by tropical storms Irene and Lee in late-August and early-September. With our busiest LCC program ever, along with implementing one of our biggest Lake Host exotic aquatic plant prevention programs ever, the already too short summer season passed much too quickly!



At Lake Waukewan, the LCC crew installed six projects to protect the Town of Meredith's water supply.

What is the Lake Conservation Corps Program?

The NH LAKES Lake Conservation Corps Program is a natural resource stewardship learning program designed to actively involve high school students and their teachers in hands-on shoreland and watershed restoration projects during the summer. Projects are designed using best management practices (BMPs) to divert water runoff (formally referred to as 'stormwater runoff') to areas

where the water can be infiltrated (i.e.; absorbed) into the ground. Once infiltrated into the ground, the runoff water is used by plants for nourishment or natural processes that occur in the soil filter out the pollutants and the water replenishes the groundwater supply.

The motto of the program, 'Vegetate and infiltrate to protect your lake!' conveys a simple approach to managing stormwater runoff that some property owners aren't aware of. By reducing the amount of runoff water that washes into a lake, the amount of phosphorus and sediment that enters the lake is reduced, resulting in a healthier waterbody.

(Phosphorus is the nutrient that, when present in excess amounts, fuels unwanted plant and algal growth. Sediment typically contains phosphorus, smothers habitat for aquatic organisms, and makes lake bottoms feel 'mucky.')

In addition to improving the health of New Hampshire's waterbodies (and beautifying the landscape at the same time!), NH LAKES hopes that the students and teachers who participate in the LCC program will develop a positive relationship with nature and a life-long interest in the responsible stewardship of natural resources.

Since the program began in 2007, NH LAKES LCC crews have constructed lake-friendly landscaping practices on 23 sites, reducing the amount of pollution flowing off the landscape and into 12 lakes and rivers throughout the state.

Here's a summary of the projects constructed during summer 2011...

Horseshoe Pond, Concord: NH LAKES partnered with the Concord YES Team to reduce the amount of polluted runoff that washes off the Pierce Manse property (residence of past U.S. President Franklin Pierce and current NH LAKES headquarters) and into Horseshoe Pond. The Concord YES Team, which is a program of The Concord Boys & Girls Club that gives youth from the Concord area the opportunity to give back to the community while learning about and impacting environmental issues, helped NH LAKES build a **rain garden**

(see key, page 5) and a **dripline trench** (see key, page 5) on one of the hottest days of the summer. This project was funded by the Home Depot Foundation and supported by the Pierce Manse Brigade. NH LAKES looks forward to partnering with the Concord YES Team next summer on additional projects.



The Concord YES Team worked at the Pierce Manse, home to NH LAKES.

Clough Pond, Loudon: NH LAKES received a two-year grant from the State of New Hampshire Conservation Committee Conservation "Moose Plate" Grant Program to complete six lake-friendly landscaping projects along the shoreline of Clough Pond (a waterbody designated by the NH Department of Environmental Services as being 'impaired' for having too little oxygen in the bottom waters and elevated algal concentrations). Students from Merrimack Valley High School volunteered to complete three of six projects and were supervised by a teacher hired by NH LAKES. Two properties with roadway runoff problems were retrofitted with a combination of **water bars** (see key, page 5), **infiltration trenches** (see key, page 5), and **rain gardens**. And, one property with a very steep asphalt driveway was retrofitted with an extensive **infiltration trench** and a **rain garden**. In addition, an asphalt pathway that allowed runoff water to flow directly from the driveway into the pond was removed and replaced with crushed stone, and a **rain barrel** (see key, page 5) was installed to collect runoff water from the gutter system on the house. During summer 2012, three additional projects will be

Students, continued on page 5

constructed along the shoreline of Clough Pond, including an extensive runoff management and beautification project at the town beach with support from the Town of Loudon Department of Public Works. NH LAKES thanks Fillmore Industries, the Town of Loudon, and the Clough Pond Association for their support.



Before (top) the LCC crew visited this property at Clough Pond, runoff flowed directly off of the driveway and into the pond. After the crew visited (bottom), several BMPs had been installed to reduce the runoff.



Lake Opechee, Laconia: The Laconia Middle School has a new state-of-the-art building along the shoreline of Lake Opechee. Unfortunately, behind the new building, a large amount of water runoff flows off of the roof and the landscape and into Lake Opechee. To help alleviate this problem, six students and a teacher constructed an **infiltration trench** nearly 50 feet long and almost two feet deep. In addition, a **vegetated buffer** (see key, page 5) was planted and an earthen **water bar** was created on the downhill side of the trench. The project has been working perfectly! NH LAKES thanks the Pardoe Foundation, Caswell

Foundation, and Lavoie Foundation for providing funding for the project as part of the NH LAKES Summer Youth Employment Program for Lake Protection. And, we thank Belknap Landscape Company, Inc. and Merrymeeting Daylilies for their in-kind donations and the Laconia Middle School and the Laconia Planning Board for their support.



The LCC crew in Laconia endured hot temperatures, difficult digging, and dusty conditions (top photo) while constructing an extensive project (bottom photo) at the Laconia Middle School to help improve the health of Lake Opechee.



Lake Waukewan, Meredith: With a grant from the NH Department of Environmental Services Local Source Water Protection Program, six students from Inter-Lakes High School and their teacher were able to complete six large runoff improvement projects around Lake Waukewan (the waterbody which serves as the drinking water supply for approximately 45% of the residents in Meredith). The projects included installing **rubber razors** (see key, page 5) and **water bars** to divert runoff away from the lake, and **infiltration trenches**,

Descriptive Key for Stormwater Runoff BMPs

Through the Lake Conservation Corps Program, NH LAKES reduces the amount of water that runs off of the landscape and into nearby waterbodies during rainstorms by installing best management practices on the landscape (BMPs) as described below.

Dripline Trench: A trench dug in the ground to absorb roof runoff that is typically at least 18" wide and 8" deep, sloped away from a foundation, lined with non-woven geotextile fabric, and filled with ½"-1½" crushed stone.

Infiltration Steps: Steps built with timbers and filled with crushed stone to slow down and absorb runoff water on moderate slopes.

Infiltration Trench: A trench dug in the ground to absorb runoff from paved driveways, rooftops, and other areas, that is at least 18" wide and 8" deep and is filled with ½"-1½" crushed stone.

Rain Barrel: A system that collects and stores rainwater from roof tops, often composed of a 55-gallon drum, a vinyl hose, PVC couplings, and a screen grate to keep debris and insects out. A rain barrel can be attached to gutter down spouts or placed strategically under a roof line to catch free-falling water. Collected water can be used for domestic uses, including watering gardens and washing cars.

Rain Garden: Attractive and functional landscaped areas that collect runoff water from roofs, driveways, and other hard surfaces, and allow it to soak into the ground.

Rubber Razor: Used to divert water off of paths, gravel driveways, and camp roads into stable vegetated areas. Constructed out of new or used conveyor belts sandwiched between rot-resistant timbers so that approximately 3" of the belt sticks out of the ground after the assembly is placed in a trench, backfilled with gravel, and angled 30 degrees to the edge of the surface that water is being diverted off of.

Vegetated Buffer: An area of natural or established vegetation along a shoreline where runoff water can soak into the soil, contribute to ground water recharge, and filter sediment.

Water Bar: A fallen or rot-resistant timber placed in a trench, backfilled with soil and or/stone, secured, and angled so that it intercepts water traveling down footpaths, trails, and other areas and diverts it into stable vegetated areas.

infiltration steps (see key, page 5), **rain gardens**, and **vegetated buffers** to absorb runoff. Together, the projects will prevent approximately 15 tons of sediment, 30 pounds of nitrogen (which, under certain conditions can contribute to excessive plant and algal growth), and most importantly, 15 pounds of phosphorus from polluting the lake each year! Four of the projects were constructed on private properties that serve multiple owners, one on a highly visible private property, and one at the Lake Waukewan Town Beach. “The crew deserves a huge applause from our Association. We couldn’t be happier with the results and how it looks,” lauded Robert Normandy, a property owner at Hidden Cove. NH LAKES thanks Belknap Landscape Company, Inc. and Realgreen Lawn Care, LLC of Meredith for their generous donations to the projects. NH LAKES also thanks the Waukewan Shore Owners Association, the Waukewan Association, the Winona Forest Association, the Town of Meredith, the Hidden Cove Association, and the Whiting and Atkinson families for their support.



The LCC crew at Lake Waukewan designed and installed this set of infiltration steps in response to a request from the property owner.

Canaan Street Lake, Canaan: Students from Mascoma and Lebanon high schools worked on a substantial runoff improvement project at the Town of Canaan boat ramp and town beach. A large amount of runoff water flows off of nearby roadways, causing sand from the beach and dirt from the parking lot to wash into Canaan Street Lake during nearly every significant rainstorm. On one side of the beach, the crew built a **rain garden** to allow runoff water to soak into the ground. On the other

side of the beach, they installed two **water bars** and an **infiltration trench** to direct runoff water away from the beach. Out of all the project sites this summer, this site was the most difficult as the soil was extremely hard to dig in and because the site receives such a large amount of runoff. While the project held up very well to storms that produced up to one inch of rain, it had difficulty holding up to larger storms. NH LAKES is looking forward to continuing to work with the Town of Canaan and the students next summer to implement additional stormwater runoff best management practices on the site. NH LAKES thanks the Wellborn Ecology Fund, the Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation, and the Mascoma Savings Bank Foundation for providing funding for the project as part of the NH LAKES Summer Youth Employment Program for Lake Protection. NH LAKES also thanks the Canaan Lake Association and the Town of Canaan for their support.



The LCC crew, comprised of students from Lebanon and Mascoma Valley High Schools (top photo) worked several weeks constructing a rain garden (bottom photo) to help protect Canaan Street Lake.



Clarksville Pond, Clarksville: Way up north, just a few miles south of Pittsburg, Clarksville Pond is home to Rudy’s Cabins and Campground, LLC, a seventy-year-old family business. The owners of property were thrilled to work with six students and a teacher from Colebrook Academy to enhance the ability of a **vegetated buffer** along the pond to absorb runoff water by simply removing rotting lumber from the buffer area and planting native plants. NH LAKES thanks the Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation for providing funding for the project as part of the NH LAKES Summer Youth Employment Program for Lake Protection. NH LAKES also thanks the owners of Rudy’s Cabins and Campground for their support. The students explained their project to community members and visitors at the Colebrook Moose Festival at the end of August.



The Summer Youth Employment Program Crew in Colebrook talked about their LCC project at the Colebrook Moose Festival.

Do you have a runoff project for a LCC crew?

If you would like to learn more about these projects, or if you know of a runoff problem at your lake, contact Robie Parsons, NH LAKES Programs Coordinator, at rparsons@nhlakes.org or (603) 226-0299. We know that every lake has at least one runoff problem and we would like to help!

NH LAKES Welcomes New Directors



New Board members, June Fichter and Bill Frago, aboard the M/S Mount Washington.

It was, indeed, an exciting summer for NH LAKES. Adding to the excitement, at our annual meeting at the end of July, we were thrilled that two highly talented and respected individuals—June Fichter and Bill Frago—were voted on to the NH LAKES Board of Directors.

June has served as the Executive Director of the Lake Sunapee Protective Association since 2005. She holds bachelor's of science and master's degrees in engineering and a MBA from Northeastern University and has held engineering and management positions at Polaroid Corporation and Abbott Laboratories. Her career in private industry covered development and collaboration with overseas partners, particularly in Japan and Britain. She also holds several patents. She has served as

advisor to DTM (Design That Matters), a MIT non-profit design firm that focuses on product design for underserved communities worldwide. June has been active in the Sunapee Area Watershed Coalition and has taught courses for Colby Sawyer College's Adventures in Learning series. June is a native of New Hampshire, but spent her childhood in Newburyport, MA. She and her husband, Peter, have owned property in Newbury for more than 30 years, and are now permanent residents. Their two daughters and their families enjoy visiting Lake Sunapee.

Bill lives on Lake Winnepesaukee in Tuftonboro. He is a former Executive-in-Residence at the Whittemore School of Business at the University of New Hampshire. Before that, he was President and CEO of Pepsi-Cola General Bottlers, President and CEO of Carrier Corporation, and Vice-President and General of Worldwide Marketing and Product Management for General Electric Lighting. Bill and his wife, Betsy, have enjoyed being permanent residents of New Hampshire for the past ten years after spending more than thirty-four years as summer residents. They have two sons and four grandchildren who enjoy the natural beauty of the Lakes Region and its many recreational activities.

The NH LAKES Staff and Board of Directors are pleased with the skills, passion, and diversity of professional experiences that June and Bill bring to the organization.



Sawyer Point, Lake Winnepesaukee, during autumn.

Photo courtesy of Bill Hemmel, www.LakesRegionAerials.com.

Membership Matters

**New Members June 28 –
September 27, 2011**

Individuals

Thomas R. Amlicke
William and Jean Bachovchin
John Bergeron
Donald and Doris Boulard
Chuck and Maggie Braxton
Andrea Bruno
John and Barbara Byers
Bradford Cook
Robert and Carla Copeland
King and Suzanne Davis
Edward Harrington
Russell and Judith Higley
Amanda Hill
Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Hoke
Crystal Holmes
Chris Johnson and Julie Paveglio
Steve Kay
Paul and Anita Kelly
William and Rheta Keylor
Nancy Lincoln
Kenneth and Margaret Marschner
Representative Kathryn Miller
Keith and Karin Nelson
Francis and Nancy O'Connell
John and Gail O'Connell
Scott and Linda Powell
Richard Rinaldi
Alfons and Elizabeth Roberts
George Robertshaw
April Rogers
Joseph Rossino
Valerie C. Sanford
Bob Shilo
Mallory and Dolores Stephens
Kevin and Jean Sullivan
Marjorie A. Sullivan-Turley
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Richard and Winifred Trifari
Milton and Rhonda Weinstein
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Roland and Paula Young
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Help protect NH's lakes...

It is at this time of year we ask you to help protect New Hampshire's lakes by giving to our annual fund.

To make your gift, you can simply use the envelope included in this newsletter or in the annual fund mailing. Even easier, you can make your donation today through our secure website at www.nhlakes.org/form_donate.asp.

Your generous donation will help NH LAKES continue and expand its education programs and advocacy activities to better protect New Hampshire's approximately 1,000 lakes and ponds—and your quality of life along and on these waterbodies.



Enjoy New Hampshire's lakes this fall!

Photo source: www.cottageplaceonsquam.com.