

## **Laurel Lake Association Lake Host Program**

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### *2021 Annual Report-Executive Summary*

#### **Overview**

The Laurel Lake Association (LLA) partners with NH Lakes to provide a lake hosting and inspection program at the Laurel Lake boat ramp during summer season months. The Lake Host Program is a courtesy boat inspection program administered by NH LAKES and supported by the Laurel Lake Association to prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS), plants, and animals from regional bodies of water. Laurel Lake's water quality is rated as among the best in NH and is very fortunate to have kept variable milfoil and other invasives like Asian clams from its waters. The Lake Host Program is considered a first line of defense in keeping aquatic invasive species from Laurel Lake.

#### **Program Administration**

There are three primary components of the Lake Host Program: 1) the state-wide sponsor and administrative agency (NH Lakes); 2) the local lake partnering agency/group (Laurel Lake Association); and 3) local coordinators and inspectors. The local coordinator is responsible for applying for the annual NH Lakes program grant, recruiting volunteer and paid Lake Host Inspectors, overall local inspector administration and related documentation, program status reporting and public awareness, and direct liaison with NH Lakes program administration. Lake Host Inspectors are both volunteer and paid individuals who greet guests and inspect boats at the public ramp located on East Lake Road.

#### **2021 Lake Host Program at Laurel Lake – Results, Assessment, and Highlights**

Lake Host local coordinator Chip Yensan worked with LLA President Thomas White in submitting the 2021 application for Lake Host grant funding via NH Lakes. That grant application was submitted in March 2021 and awarded in April. The following are general highlights from key areas of the 2021 Lake Host program at Laurel Lake.

*Paid and Volunteer Inspector Recruitment:* Postings for both paid and volunteer Lake Host Inspector positions began in earnest in April. Position postings and outreach occurred through general word of mouth; Laurel Lake Association Board meeting and Annual Meeting; Laurel Lake Ledger; LLA website; Fitzwilliam Newsletter ads; Fitzwilliam community Facebook (multiple postings on 2 unique community sites); flyer posted at Fitzwilliam Town Library; local college/university student job posting sites; and Camp Fleur de Lis. Additionally, all candidates expressing interest directly to NH Lakes and who live in the Monadnock region were contacted by the local coordinator.

*Program Implementation – Volunteer Lake Host Inspectors:* Enough Lake Host volunteer inspectors were recruited to support a July 4 holiday weekend launch of the program at the Laurel Lake ramp. The 2021 Lake Host volunteer team for Laurel Lake consisted of: Phil Strahan, Denis Guenette, Tom White, Nancy Fey-Yensan, Ken DeBlieu, and Chip Yensan (local coordinator). Since a paid Lake Host Inspector was not hired until early August, Lake Host volunteers carried this program for the first half of the summer season. Due to 2021 NH COVID protocols for summer camps, Camp Fleur de Lis - usually very supportive of the Lake Host program by providing camp counselor volunteer inspectors – was unable to provide volunteer support at previous year levels. The 2021 volunteer program ended with 81 total inspections, 139 total hours (including Local Coordinator administrative volunteer hours), and fulfilled the 2021 NH Lakes program base match requirement for Laurel Lake.

*Program Implementation – Paid Lake Host Inspector:* Despite recruitment efforts as noted above, no paid Lake Host Inspector interest was generated through the end of July. In early August, interest in the paid position was expressed by local resident, avid fishman, and long-time friend of Laurel Lake, Robert “Bob” Handy. After approval by the Laurel Lake Association and completion of Lake Host training, Bob began working 16 – 20 hours a week in the paid Lake Host Inspector position on August 7, 2021. Bob’s very successful Lake Host inspection employment continued through Sunday October 3, 2021. Despite a late start and what was one of the rainiest summers on record, Bob ended the 2021 summer season with 137.5 cumulative hosting hours and conducted 149 total inspections.

*Program Implementation – Results & Data:* The 2021 Lake Host Program at Laurel Lake accomplished the following key performance objectives:

- Secure NH Lakes Lake Host Program grant funding and reinvigorate the Lake Host Program.
- Fully implement the Lake Host Program through the use of volunteer and paid inspectors.
- Improve overall public visibility of Lake Host Program at Laurel Lake.
- Meet or exceed NH Lakes program base match requirements.
- Meet or exceed season target of 100 completed inspections.
- Provide first line of defense against invasive species. A NH Lakes documented “save” on fanwort coming into Laurel Lake was made on a boat trailer in July. Lake Host volunteer and LLA President Tom White conducted this save. This was 1 of 15 “saves” made statewide, and only 1 of 5 “saves” made on an uninfested lake during the 2021 summer season.

Heading	Description	Data Point(s)	Notes
Program Overview			
	Dates of Operation	7/4 – 10/3/21	Paid Inspector began 8/7/21
Ramp Inspections			
	Total Inspection Hours	203.5	
	Inspect Hrs Conducted by Paid Inspector	137.5	
	Inspect Hrs Conducted by Volunteers	66.0	
	Total # Inspections Conducted	230.0	
	# Inspect Conducted by Paid Inspector	149.0	
	# Inspect Conducted by Volunteers	81.0	
	Total Arriving Boat Inspections	124.0	
	Total Departing Boat Inspections	106.0	
	Motor to Non- Motorized Boat Count	151.0/80.0	
	Motorized Registration Profile	126NH/20MA/1VT/2NY/2Other	
	Arriving Boat Cleaned/Drained/Dry Rates	99C/100D/100D (%)	1 save counted as -1 “cleaned” inspection
	# Confirmed Invasive Saves	1	1 of 15 statewide; 1 of 5 on uninfested lake
NH Lakes Match Rate			
	Total Final Match Amount	3627.05	100% match requirement exceeded

### Concluding Remarks

Appreciation is extended to the Laurel Lake Association and its leadership for continued support and advocacy for the very important Lake Host Program. LLA willingness to invest resources and energy in this program underscores its commitment to the quality of our lake environment and lake life. Also, sincere appreciation is extended to the 2021 Lake Host volunteers and paid inspector Bob Handy. I look forward to seeing you all back at the ramp in 2022.

Respectfully Submitted by:  
 Chip Yensan  
 October 2021