

2023 Lake Host Program at Laurel Lake Annual Report – Executive Summary

Executive Summary

Laurel Lake is a clear, spring-fed lake covering about 155 acres and located in the town of Fitzwilliam, New Hampshire. The lake is served by a public boat ramp located at its southern end. The Laurel Lake community is supported by the Laurel Lake Association (LLA) which was established to promote a closer relationship among lake users, to foster beneficial lake-related initiatives, and to support the overall environmental health of the lake. The Lake Host program is one such environmental wellness program for which LLA partners with NH LAKES for the purpose of conducting seasonal lake hosting and watercraft inspections at its boat ramp. This program is jointly funded by an annual NH LAKES grant and a matching LLA allocation and is administered by way of both paid and volunteer Lake Host inspectors. The Lake Host program is a first line of defense against the introduction of aquatic invasive species (AIS) into Laurel Lake and as a way of greeting lake visitors.

The 2023 Lake Host program at Laurel Lake met desired targets for the year. The program was funded by a \$2010 annual grant from NH LAKES and a funding contribution from the Laurel Lake Association. Program funding supported paid lake host coverage over the Memorial Day holiday weekend as well as approximately 18 coverage hours a week between June 16 and August 22. Vincent “Vinnie” Pierannunzi served as the 2023 paid Lake Host, replacing Bob Handy who passed away in late 2022. Vinnie’s grandparents have a cottage on the lake and he is very familiar with the lake. The 2023 program continued to enlist Lake Host volunteers at a seasonal ramp-hour level exceeding 120 hours. In addition to regaining involvement from all 2022 volunteers, 1 new volunteer was recruited for the 2023 program. Thank you to our Lake Host volunteers!

Paid Lake Host hours, in combination with volunteer hosting, contributed to 297 total ramp hours and 403 total inspections for the season. Total ramp hours and total inspection numbers were modestly lower than 2022 principally due to the number of “rain-out” volunteer and paid inspection shifts; there were several this summer as compared to almost none in 2022. One weed specimen, removed from a boat trailer in early July, was submitted to the Local Coordinator by V. Pierannunzi for evaluation. That sample was sent to NH LAKES and NH DES for official review and proved to be Eurasian Milfoil. It was logged as an official “save” for the state-wide Lake Host program, one of nine statewide for the 2023 season.

Respectfully Submitted by Chip Yensan, Lake Host Local Coordinator