

## **Lake Host Program, 2019** *(delivered Oct. 2, 2019)*

This summer was our 15<sup>th</sup> summer of providing Lake Hosting at the Shore Drive boat ramp on Harvey Lake.

This was the 18<sup>th</sup> year of the Lake Host program in New Hampshire. Last year, more than 730 paid and volunteer Lake Host inspectors staffed 97 boat ramps around the lake.

This year, we received a \$1,150 grant to provide Lake Hosting. The amount of the grant is based on the number of past summer's boat inspections at the ramp. This year, we spent only about \$550 of the grant due to staffing and weather. (Lake Hosts weren't available some weekend days.) The remaining \$600 is not carried over.

We hired two Lake Hosts this year, two young women who both live near Harvey Lake: Jaden Boulanger and Breanna DeMeritt. Jaden is the daughter of our water quality coordinator, Jennifer Boulanger (and Jeff) and is completing her senior portfolio at Coe Brown Academy on volunteer work with the Lake Host program and our VLAP water testing program. Breanna is a Coe Brown grad.

Money for Lake Host grants is part of a fee paid by boaters at the time they register their boats. Lake Hosts are employees of the N.H. Lakes Association, which handles payroll and insurances. The point person coordinates scheduling and administrative functions.

Our program this year was in operation through Labor Day weekend, having begun June 29.

The ramp was covered Saturdays and Sundays, mainly between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m.

The Lake Hosts usually inspect about 60 boats for the whole season. We were down a bit this year (mostly because our hours of ramp coverage were down this year), with approximately 50 boats inspected through Labor Day.

Of these boats, a slight majority were not motorized (mostly kayaks and canoes).

Each year we must provide at least a 100 percent match (\$1150) in the form of \$300 annual membership to the N.H. Lakes Association; volunteer hours of the point person, any volunteers, supplies/stamps, and mileage. We are on target to provide at least a 300 percent match this year.

This is due in large part to the generosity of Jennifer Boulanger, who volunteered as a Lake Host inspector Sunday mornings and has been a valuable addition to our program.

The Lake Host records the last lake visited before launching in Harvey Lake, and boaters reported in 2019 having visited five bodies of water that are infested with invasive species:

Northwood Lake (3 times)

Pawtuckaway

Belgrade Stream, Maine

Great Pond, Kingston (4 times)

Turkey Pond, Concord (2 times)

In the past seasons, boaters have reported last visiting Lake Winnepesaukee, Merrimack River, Squam Lake, Lake Ossipee, Crescent Lake, and the Connecticut River, all of which are infested. The majority of visits to our lake continue to be boaters who use their watercraft only on Harvey Lake.

Each year, usually in March, our organization along with others in the state apply to the N.H. Lakes Association for a grant to provide Lake Hosting at our waterbody. These grants range from a minimum of \$1,000 to \$3,650, with additional money for additional ramps on the same lake, and are based on the number of boat inspections performed the previous year at the lake. To qualify for the highest amount, a Lake Host program must have done more than 5,000 inspections the year before.

Harvey Lake records considerably less, between 50 and 90 each summer. Therefore, we qualify for the lowest amount, \$1,150 (under 500 inspections per year), which we use to pay the Lake Host an hourly wage of \$11. This usually provides a minimum amount of coverage to get us through the summer season. In past years, our group has included additional money, up to \$272 for the season, to extend the coverage past Labor Day.

This year, I did not ask for the additional money, beyond our usual annual dues of \$300 we pay to the N.H. Lakes Association.

Harvey Lake does not see a lot of boat traffic. In 2013, the Lake Hosts checked in a total of 54 boats, and in 2014, they checked in 53. This figure includes launches and retrievals. In 2015, that number was 52. In 2016, it was 84, and for this reason, I sought and received an extra \$275 to run the Lake Host program for the 2017 season into September. It turned out it was unneeded since we checked in a total of 61 boats for all of the 2017 season. I also analyzed the boater survey sheets and determined that the minimum amount of boat traffic we see right before and after Labor Day does not justify the costs. Also, boaters indicated they were well aware of the law requiring them to clean and drain their boats.

We participate because we are in close proximity to other lakes that do have milfoil infestations (Northwood Lake and Pawtuckaway Lake), and this becomes critical as more boaters go from lake to lake.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Charest  
Harvey Lake Coordinator