

OSSIPEE LAKE REPORT

BOAT RAMP OWNERS WILL GET MILFOIL PREVENTION HELP

Key Dates:

- **Saturday, April 9th:**
GMCG annual training of volunteer water quality monitors, 1-4 PM. Farm By the River, Effingham. Info @ 603-539-1859.
- **Saturday, May 14th:**
State Boating Safety classes, 9AM-4PM, Ossipee Town Hall. Registration required @ 888-254-2125. Other courses throughout the summer.
- **Wednesday, July 13th:**
“Aliens of the Lake World,” presentation on exotic species. Public invited. 7:30 PM, Calumet Conference Center, Freedom. Info @ 603-539-4773.

Owners of the lake’s boat ramps will receive help in preventing new milfoil infestations when Ossipee Lake Alliance launches its Exotic Species Prevention Program this month.

The new program, dubbed ESP and funded in part by the N.H. Department of Environmental Services, is the latest in a series of initiatives the Alliance has created to stay one step ahead of the destructive weed, which has infested parts of the lake from Danforth Pond to the Ossipee River at Effingham Falls.

The ESP program will start with a half-day workshop for the owners and managers of the lake’s boat ramps, who will hear from specialists who have developed successful milfoil prevention efforts around the region.

The ramp owners will also receive on-the-spot



Susan Marks and June D’Andrea are shown with David Welch of the Lakes Environmental Association at the Sixth Annual Maine Milfoil Summit in February at the University of Southern Maine, Lewiston. *Alliance Photo*

help developing their own prevention plans, which Alliance volunteers will help launch during the summer. As part of the program the Alliance will provide the ramp owners with customized printed

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Ossipee Lake, Broad Bay, Leavitt Bay, Berry Bay, and Danforth Pond.

David Smith, Executive Director
Susan Marks, Development Director
June D’Andrea, Program Coordinator

IF IT FLOATS AND IS ANCHORED, YOU’LL NEED A STATE PERMIT

If you have a raft anchored in the water off your shoreline, you’ll need a State permit for it starting this summer. The same rule applies to slides, swim lines, and anything else that floats and is anchored to the bottom of the lake.

According to the New Hampshire Department of Safety Services, the new rule is in response to the rapid proliferation of floatation devices

in State waters. That includes inflatable trampolines, which have become a source of concern in some areas because of their size and potential safety issues.

The purpose of the new permit process is to ensure that anything that is floating in a lake has an owner who is legally responsible for it. Each de-

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STATE PERMIT NOW REQUIRED FOR ANCHORED FLOATS

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vice must have a display that clearly identifies the owner.

While there is no charge for the permit, owners who fail to acquire one will be subject to a fine, according to a Safety Services spokesperson.

Among the information required in the application is a diagram showing the raft's proximity to the shore, docks, moorings and property lines.

Marine Patrol officers will be responsible for ensuring compliance with the rule, including investigating complaints.

Permit applications may be downloaded from the Department of Safety Services' website. Access the State's website first at www.nh.gov, then follow the link to Safety Services and click on "Forms." Additional information is available from the agency by phone at 603-293-0091.



A new State rule requires that owners of inflatable trampolines like this one apply for a permit. Swim lines, rafts and slides fall under the same regulation, which begins this year.

Ossipee Lake Natural Area for a new beach, contingent on the town first obtaining a lease on the State-owned property for "no more than" \$100 annually.

Left hanging is whether the town or the State will have to pay for the required environmental studies.

Meanwhile, Freedom voters approved a warrant article directing the Selectmen to enforce the prohibition against residency at Totem Pole Park, or else revoke the town's approval of winter camping at the 459-unit condominium campground.

The issue stems from last year's controversial Planning Board decision to extend the campground's operating season to 11 months provided that the 1987 prohibition against lot owners claiming residency remained in effect.

In August, five campground lot owners applied to vote in Freedom, then successfully appealed to the State after they were turned down by the town.

Freedom residents also authorized the town to spend \$100,000 toward the purchase of the Trout Pond property as a town forest, while Freedom and Ossipee both voted to replenish their milfoil contingency funds with \$5,000.



TO OUR READERS

- **Ossipee Lake Report** is available in color on the web at: www.ossipeelake.org.
- **Ossipee Lake News** delivers free up to the minute information about the lake by e-mail, as events warrant. Contact: subscribe@ossipeelake.org.
- Report mail address changes to: mail@ossipeelake.org, or send to P.O. Box 173, Freedom, NH 03836.



The Alliance is a member of the New Hampshire Lakes Association.

SKEHAN, BABB ARE VOTERS' CHOICES

In the March town elections, Joseph Skehan, Jr. won the hotly-contested four-way race for the Ossipee Selectman's position being vacated by Joseph Chromy.

In the final tally, Skehan received 262 votes against 133 for Robert Rivera and 121 for Jean Marie Simpson. Kevin Houle received 13 votes.

In the Freedom election, Les Babb, who was running unopposed for a second term as Selectman, was elected.

Among the warrant article votes, Ossipee residents authorized its Selectmen to spend \$20,000 for "construction to the land" at

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materials and help organize milfoil awareness events.

Owners Provided the Idea

The idea for the program came from the ramp owners themselves, according to the program's director, Susan Marks.

"Several of them asked what they could do to help keep milfoil out of the lake, and we realized that we needed to find out more about programs that have worked elsewhere."

Exotic variable milfoil is brought into the lake by boats and there are more than 30 boat ramps on Ossipee Lake, from marinas to condominiums to campgrounds. All but two of them are privately owned.

During the past two years, the Alliance has managed a number of milfoil awareness and control initiatives on the lake, including forming a volunteer Weed Watchers program and supervising milfoil removal in Danforth Pond and Leavitt Bay. Efforts to prevent milfoil from entering the lake have been few, however.

For the past three years the lake's primary prevention effort has been the Lake Host program at the Pine River public boat ramp. It's sponsored by the New Hampshire Lakes Association and managed locally by Green Mountain Conservation Group.

Each summer the program deploys paid high school and college students to inspect boats and trailers for milfoil and distribute pamphlets to boaters. It's an effort that has worked well here and has a very successful track record around the State.

A New Model

Despite the Lake Host program's success, Marks says its reliance on annual State funding and formal boat inspections makes it difficult to use as a model for the rest of the lake.

"Our focus is to partner with the ramp own-



An isolated snowmobile track cuts through the fresh snow on Berry Bay in this late March scene. Winter's snow and ice will be a distant memory in just a matter of weeks. *Alliance Photo*

ers and work with each of them to develop a their own unique solution. They are in the best position to know how to create awareness and boater cooperation at their ramp, both of which are needed to make any program successful."

The Boater's Checklist

Marks believes the ESP program's goal is achievable because boaters already have a mental checklist they use on the ramp, including making sure the gas tank is filled and there are enough life preservers.

"If the very last thing each boater thought of was checking for weeds before backing into the water, we would have a hugely successful prevention program on Ossipee Lake and a model that other lakes could adopt."

WEED WATCHERS WATCHING WEEDS WANTED

Controlling milfoil in the lake starts on your own shore, and it's as simple as learning what to look for. Whether as an individual or part of a group, being a weed watcher means making an important contribution.

Find out more by contacting June D'Andrea at 603-539-1643, or contact her by e-mail at jmdandrea@ossipeelake.org.

"Boaters already have a mental checklist that includes checking the gas and life preservers. What if checking for milfoil was always the last thing on that list?"

Susan Marks

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Preserve. Protect. Educate.

It's New Hampshire's best north country lake for fishing, boating, and swimming. Home of the state's finest remaining examples of unique habitats. The location of one of your most important real estate investments. It's Ossipee Lake, and there's only one organization dedicated to preserving and protecting it: Ossipee Lake Alliance. Invest in the future of your lake by joining us today.

We qualify for matching donations - please ask your employer.

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