



# OSS�PEE LAKE REPORT

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## KEY DATES:

- Saturday, July 8: "Animals With Bad Reputations," Tales of Ossipee Lake presentation. Calumet Conference Center, Freedom, 7:30PM. Info @ 603-539-4773.
- Saturday, August 5: "North Woods Summer," Tales of Ossipee Lake presentation. Calumet Conference Center, Freedom, 7:30PM. Info @ 603-539-4773.

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BAY, BERRY BAY, AND DANFORTH POND

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## OSS�PEE HOSTING LAKE HOSTS THIS SUMMER



Conservation Commission members Jean Hansen and Mark Ciarfella, in Lake Host shirts, with the Alliance's Howard Bouve, marina owner Wayne Killam and Selectman Harry Merrow.

OSS�PEE — Boaters entering Ossipee Lake using Ossipee's town ramp will be greeted by a Lake Host this summer, thanks to a New Hampshire Lakes Association grant to the Ossipee Conservation Commission.

Conservation Commission members Mark Ciarfella and Jean Hansen worked closely with Ossipee Lake Alliance to obtain the grant for the popular state-funded program, which increases boater awareness of milfoil and other destructive weeds by offering on-site boater education and boat and trailer inspections.

Ciarfella, who is overseeing the ramp program, says four people have been hired to work on weekends and holidays through Labor Day, while weekday boaters will be reached through a voluntary sign-in process

at the information kiosk the town erected last month at the Pequawket Trail ramp site.

### Lake-Wide Effort

With its Lake Host announcement, the Town of Ossipee joins more than 20 other ramp owners in the Alliance's multi-year initiative to prevent milfoil from entering or leaving the lake at any of its 30 public and private ramps.

Alliance program director Susan Marks commended the Conservation Commission's plan and said it will be coordinated with a program implemented last year by Lakefront Landing Marina and Campground, which owns an adjacent ramp on Pequawket Trail on the channel between Broad Bay and the big lake.

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## GIRLS CAMP PAST IS RECALLED AS WEETAMOE CONDOS ENTER THE MARKET

OSS�PEE — What will half a million dollars buy you on the big lake? Among the current listings in that price range are more than a dozen condominiumized cottages in a gated community offering a wealth of memories to match the usual array of amenities.

The memories come from the fact that the cottages of Weetamoe Shores Condominiums, as the property is called, are the original cabins of Camp Weetamoe, a summer

camp for girls that was a fixture on the lake for close to half a century.

The cottages, which range in price from \$374,000 to \$649,900, have been winterized and updated with foundations and decks, and accessorized with overhead fans and gas flame stoves, according to Bartlett developer Larry Spellman, who is counting on the prime lake location to generate strong buyer interest in an uncertain real estate market.

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## FORMER GIRLS CAMP CABINS, NOW LAKESIDE CONDOMINIUM-COTTAGES



One of the former cabins at Camp Weetamoe, now available for sale as a condominium unit. Updated with modern amenities, it's part of a new gated community. Alliance Photo

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On the cool, damp day we visited the site, a heavy drizzle fell as clouds hung low over the lake. Inside the Open House unit, however, it was warm and inviting, with the scent of pine filling the air.

Size is a reminder of the cottages' past, with dimensions best described as cozy. The Open House unit, which was originally built in 1940, has a 19x13' living room, a 9x6' kitchen and two 9x8' bedrooms. A sleeping loft, wooden deck and screen porch complete the picture for an asking price of \$549,900.

As appealing as the refurbished interiors are, it's the setting outside that's the main attraction.

Standing on the flat, sandy beach and gazing at mountain ranges arrayed in all directions, it's easy to see the appeal the site had to generations of young campers.

### Cambridge Girl Scout Origins

Camp Weetamoe began in 1934 as the Cambridge Girl Scout Camp, according to local historian Barry Hill. It was an exclusive enclave for girls age 10-18 who lived in and around Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Each Wednesday morning during the summer, a new group of scouts would assemble at Boston's North Station, duffle bags and sports equipment in tow, and travel by train to Center Ossipee to be met by counselors and staff.

Camp activities ranged from boating to hiking to dramatics, along with "sleeping in a tent, well-floored and snug against the rain," according to a 1954 promotional brochure.

The days of exclusivity for Girl Scouts ended

with the sale of the camp in 1962 to investors who changed the name to Camp Weetamoe. Their target was Baby Boom girls entering their prime camping years and eager to embrace visions of "becoming a sturdy oarsman in trips across the lake, wading in mountain streams and lunching by covered bridges."

Hill says the property was sold again in 1972, this time to a group led by a Boston College psychologist who focused on programs for troubled children. The camp declined, however, and in 1982 it was sold to developers.

### Private Ownership

For the next two decades, successive owners rented the cabins to vacationers and mulled ideas for developing the 24-acre property. When it went on the market again late last year, Spellman snapped it up.

While State and local regulations limit the scope of potential development at the site, Spellman says his plan from the start was to retain the flavor of the camp setting.

"We refurbished the cottages, put in common water, inspected the septic system and improved the roads. Pretty much everything else is just as it has always been."

Looking around, it's easy to agree. Mature pines and thick woods provide privacy and a scenic backdrop to the cottages, most of which are well-separated from one another.

On the lake, the long private beach curves off toward the distance just as it always has, no improvements needed.

Information on the Weetamoe Shores Condominiums is available at 508-984-9627 and at [www.sandyshorelines.com](http://www.sandyshorelines.com).

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The Alliance is a member of the New Hampshire Lakes Association ([www.nhlakes.org](http://www.nhlakes.org)).

## TOWN OF OSSIPEE IS NEWEST HOST TO STATE LAKE HOST PROGRAM

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"These two ramps are among the most popular places to launch a boat on the lake," Marks said.

"Having the town and the Marina work together to reach boaters at this busy location is a major step toward getting every ramp owner actively involved in milfoil prevention."

Ramp owners who participated in the program last year created site-specific plans to reach the boaters who use their ramps; and thousands of copies of the Alliance's milfoil prevention pamphlet were distributed to boaters and lake property owners.

The pamphlet asks boaters to inspect their boats before entering the lake, and to exercise caution in infested areas to prevent props from chopping up the weeds.

Ossipee Lake is one of 38 New Hampshire lakes infested with fast-growing variable milfoil, which can be controlled but cannot be eradicated. The number of efforts to keep milfoil out of the lake has increased each year since Green Mountain Conservation Group launched the area's first Lake Host program in 2002 at the state-owned Pine River public boat ramp on Route 25. Green Mountain is overseeing the Pine River effort again this summer.

### Local Funding Required

In 2003, Ossipee Lake Alliance led a successful effort for Freedom and Ossipee to establish town funds to supplement State funding for milfoil prevention and control. While the State pays for initial treatments of infestations, it relies on town funding and donations from the public to pay for long-term treatment.

Last summer, Ossipee and Freedom tapped their funds to hire professional divers to remove milfoil from Danforth Pond and Leavitt Bay. Individuals, lake property owner associations and several area businesses helped the towns pay for the effort.

Around the State, lake communities are taking a more aggressive approach to milfoil because of the damage it can cause to recreation and real estate values.

Two years ago, a combination of hand-pulling by divers and chemical treatments with 2,4-D removed all of the milfoil from Lower Suncook Lake.

Last year, Madison officials approved a boat wash station at the town's public ramp on Silver Lake to keep the lake milfoil-free. Boaters are required to use the boat wash or face steep fines.



Susan Marks installs a milfoil warning sign as part of the Alliance's Exotic Species Prevention program. *Alliance Photo*

## NEW SUMMER TALES SET

**FREEDOM** - They're fun for the whole family and they're free. Ossipee Lake Alliance's Tales of Ossipee Lake presentations are "must see" summer events that are held outdoors on the lake under the big tent at Calumet Conference Center, which co-hosts the events.

### Bad Apples

Think your boss is a skunk or your kids eat like pigs? Ever said you're feeling as prickly as a porcupine?

Pity the outcasts of the animal world whose smelly, slimy and just plain odd natures are used to describe the worst in human behavior.

Are their reputations deserved? That's the question to be answered, with live examples, by a specialist from Squam Lakes Natural Science Center at "Animals With Bad Reputations," Saturday evening, July 8 at 7:30 PM.

### North Woods Summer

From the birds of Ossipee Lake to the alpine flowers of Mount Washington, naturalist-photographer Chris Lewey has spent years documenting the change of seasons in New Hampshire.

His fascinating slideshow presentation on the arrival of summer in the north country will be held on Saturday, August 5 at 8 PM as the final event in Freedom's 108th Old Home Week celebration.

Calumet Conference Center is on Ossipee Lake Road in Freedom. Directions are online at [www.calumet.org](http://www.calumet.org), or call 603-539-4773.

"This kind of joint public and private effort is a major step forward in milfoil prevention on the lake."



## SIMPLE THINGS TO DO TO REDUCE RUNOFF ON YOUR LAKE PROPERTY

By Andrea LaMoreaux

*Reprinted by courtesy of NHDES*

**CONCORD** — Did you know that approximately half of the surface water quality problems nationwide are associated with nonpoint source pollution?

Polluted runoff from the land is called nonpoint source (NPS) pollution. It occurs when rain or snowmelt flows overland as runoff, or through the ground as groundwater, picks up pollutants and eventually discharges to a body of water.

Growth and development can have direct effects on the quality of water resources. The more forestland, meadowland and wetland areas that are converted to impervious surfaces, such as rooftops, driveways, roadways and parking lots, the more stormwater runoff flows off the landscape and into surface waters and groundwaters.

If stormwater runoff is not treated to remove pollutants, such as nutrients, pesticides, bacteria and petroleum products, the quality of receiving waters will be negatively affected.

### Lake Tahoe Example

A prime example of the negative consequences of stormwater runoff can be seen in Lake Tahoe, California/Nevada.

Lake Tahoe has always been known for its crystal blue water and amazing clarity. However, its clarity has been decreasing by as much as a foot per year.

The best Secchi Disk depth reading measured in the lake during the past 10 years is 78 feet, which is much less than a 1968 reading of approximately 102 feet.

Since Lake Tahoe is free of point source discharges (discharges from pipes) from factories and wastewater treatment plants, it has been determined that nonpoint source stormwater runoff is one of the largest contributors to the alarming loss of lake transparency.

NPS pollution is widespread and we all contribute to it in many ways, including by driving a car, applying fertilizer to a lawn or converting land for a new home or business.

Ultimately, the goal we should all be striving for as responsible watershed stewards is the prevention of nonpoint source runoff within our watersheds.

Although this may sound like a daunting task, the good news is that limiting the amount of stormwater runoff and the negative effects that it has on our lakes and ponds, and the environment as a whole, is something that each of us can participate in.

Review the list below to learn how you can minimize nonpoint source polluted runoff to your lake, starting in your very own yard.

### Rain Barrels and Rain Gardens

Build or purchase a rain barrel. A rain barrel is a container that collects precipitation that flows off rooftops from a downspout. The water that is caught can be used on lawns, gardens and indoor plants.

By collecting rainwater, not only will you reduce the amount of nonpoint source stormwater runoff from your property, but you may also save money and water. To build your own rain barrel, check out the Internet at [www.lid-stormwater.net/raincist/raincist\\_specs.htm](http://www.lid-stormwater.net/raincist/raincist_specs.htm).

Install a rain garden. These are bowl-shaped gardens designed to catch rainwater from impervious surfaces and help it to infiltrate the soil, thus reducing stormwater runoff and recharging groundwater. You can find directions on how to start your own rain garden at [www.raingardennetwork.com](http://www.raingardennetwork.com).

### Impervious Surfaces

Limit the amount of impervious surfaces on your property. Re-vegetate a bare slope or pave your driveway with pervious pavement rather than traditional asphalt. Pervious pavement allows water to soak through it and into the ground. Infiltration trenches and vegetated swales near your driveway are also useful for increased stormwater absorption. More information on pervious pavement can be found at [www.stormwatercenter.net](http://www.stormwatercenter.net).

### Perched Beaches

Construct a perched beach. If you are a waterfront property owner and either have or would like to have a sandy beach, then a perched beach would be your best option to prevent stormwater runoff and erosion.

Perched beaches are located entirely out of water and have little or no slope. You can learn how to construct a perched beach on the DES website at [www.des.nh.gov/wetlands/guidebook/beach.htm](http://www.des.nh.gov/wetlands/guidebook/beach.htm), or by contacting the DES Wetlands Bureau at (603) 271-2147.

### Your Help Is Needed

While DES is working hard to reduce nonpoint source pollution throughout New Hampshire, we need your help. We must all realize that each of us has a responsibility to contain, treat and infiltrate stormwater from our property, and it is easy to do. Please commit to implementing one of these techniques to reduce nonpoint source pollution from your property, and show your neighbors and local business owners.

“Collecting rainwater in a barrel, planting a bare slope and paving a driveway with pervious materials will help reduce nonpoint source pollution.”



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## OSSIPEE LAKE REPORT - SUMMER 2006



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**Preserve. Protect. Educate.**

