



# The Monitor

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NEWFOUND LAKE REGION ASSOCIATION

## Lake Level Management a Balancing Act

The current policy, as explained by Steve Doyon of the NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Dam Bureau at a March 29 workshop hosted by the NLRA, is a best attempt to balance competing interests of the many users of Newfound Lake and the Newfound River. These interests include beach owners, boaters, the native fishery, aquatic plants, water quality, homeowners, hydroelectric power generation and anticipation of extreme weather events (flooding and drought). The current policy was established in the early 1980s, following a period of revisions that began in 1974 when NHDES took ownership of the West Shore Rd. dam that controls lake levels, and obtained the water rights from Public Service of NH. Possible revisions to the current policy were the focus of the presentation.

The graph shows how lake levels are being managed over ever-smaller ranges since the NHDES began operating the control dam. Note the current (1982) approach, has a smaller range than the 1974 and 1977 management plans.

The nearly fifty people who attended the March 29th meeting also heard from

Amy Smagula (NHDES Biologist), Bob Craycraft (UNH Hydrologist) and Don Miller (NH Fish and Game), who spoke about the impact of lake levels on aquatic plants, water quality and the native fishery, respectively. All of the speakers are not only experts in their fields, but have long and deep connections with Newfound and other New Hampshire lakes – these are top-notch professionals who take their responsibilities seriously and do great public service!

To better understand how various interests compete, consider the following goals of each of group of users:

- Beach owners – Prefer lower levels over the summer to expose swimming beaches.

- Boaters – Prefer higher and steady water levels for navigation and access (launching).

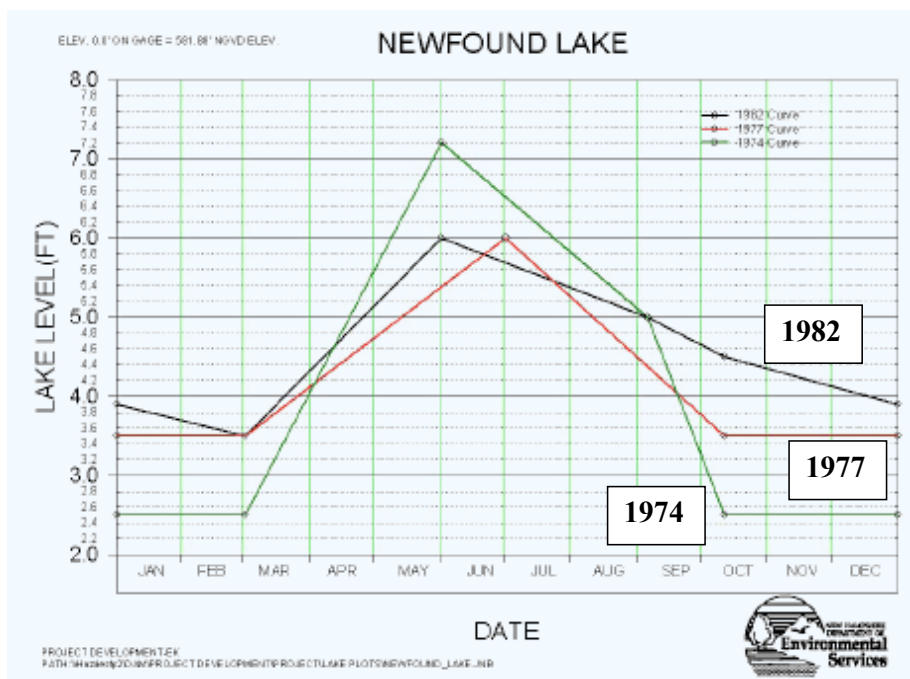
- Fishery – Native species that spawn in late fall over the winter require high and steady water levels for protection from freezing and loss of habitat.

- Aquatic Plants – Extremes in lake levels foster growth of opportunistic (“invasive”) species.

- Water quality – Extreme draw downs accelerate delta formation and delivery of nutrients from tributaries into the lake.

- Homeowners - Prefer low water (at some time of the year) to access shoreline structures for repair.

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PROJECT DEVELOPMENTS  
 PATH \\SHARRING\PROJECT DEVELOPMENTS\PROJECT LAKE PLOTS\NEWFOUND\_LAKE.XLS



## From the Executive Director

Dear Members,

I am pleased to have this opportunity to share some of my inaugural year as your Executive Director. Meeting our members, getting to know local businesses, and working with government boards, the school district and other non-profits have given me a great sense of the richness of the Newfound community. All who know Newfound Lake nurture tremendous passion for this area!

What most excites me about my job is working to create tangible results with long-lasting benefits. It is clear from my many conversations that people familiar with the area see the effects of change – the waters are not as clear, houses are appearing on the hillsides, and more boats

are on the lake. The NLRA's mission to preserve and protect our environment while balancing the needs for development and growth is a perfect fit with the regional need to plan for a future we are proud of. Our many educational workshops (see page 4) and various partnerships evolving through the Watershed Master Plan program are meeting the need and supporting our mission.

As with all organizations, we require both financial support and engaged volunteers to thrive. The 2006 Annual Fund campaign was a major success, in large part due to the generosity of The Charles Foundation and several other key donors, as well as substantial increases over previous year's gifts by a large number of sup-

porters. This drive is one of two critical sources of operating income (Membership being the other) required to "keep the lights on". Our Endowment, thanks to a recent \$25,000 anonymous donation, stands at roughly \$226,000. We are allowed to draw against this amount for operational expenses, and I am pleased to say that we have not done so, preferring to allow the power of compound interest to work its magic under the guidance of our talented Investment Committee.

To supplement our member-based support, we actively pursue various grants. This March we submitted an application for funding through the NH Charitable Foundation to upgrade our office tech-

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## President's Message

After nearly ten years of involvement with the NLRA, I am pleased to say my level of enthusiasm for the mission of our organization continues to grow. We are moving from strength to strength, achieving new goals that are laying the foundations for long-term success. Accomplishments such as building communications and working relationships with town officials, engaging the local school district by exposing students to real-world data, doubling ramp coverage to educate boaters and inspect for milfoil, and sponsoring numerous public workshops and events

about interesting and important topics are leading to a higher level of awareness and respect for the NLRA among Newfound region communities.

The Trustees continue to be pleased with the energy, dedication and skill that Martha and Boyd bring to their positions. While they push us to keep up with their pace of ideas and activities, our monthly meetings are rich and rewarding and the time flies past us. We are pleased to have expanded Martha's hours to more closely reflect her efforts, and to announce that Boyd, having finished his studies at UNH and fulfilled his terms of service at two

nonprofit Boards, will begin as a full-time employee of the NLRA in June.

The Association is moving through exciting times. Many forces that support environmental planning and protection are converging. The Watershed Master Plan program that the NLRA will coordinate is the catalyst that will position NLRA to make a lasting, positive contribution to our region's way of life.

We need the support of our members to make the most of these opportunities. This support includes not only the financial wherewithal for day to day operations

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*The Monitor* is a publication of the Newfound Lake Region Association.  
NLRA Officers and Executive Committee Members: Victor Field, *President*; Peter Carey, *Treasurer*; Helga Stamp, *Secretary*; Trustees: Jan Collins, Bill Fay, Ron Olson, Greg Wagner  
Staff: Boyd Smith, *Executive Director*; Martha Twombly, *Program Director*

**NEWFOUND LAKE REGION ASSOCIATION**

800 Lake St. Bristol, NH 03222 P: 603-744-8689 [info@newfoundlake.org](mailto:info@newfoundlake.org)

# Naturally Newfound Fair – Celebrating the Newfound Way of Life!

Contributed by Marcia Morris, NLRA member

It was a perfect day for the Naturally Newfound Fair, held on May 26 at The Inn on Newfound! One of the most popular events of the year, the fair helps raise environmental consciousness and educates residents about the Newfound watershed and the importance of measures that can be taken to protect the water quality of Newfound Lake and the surrounding landscape.

Exhibits with the NH Department of Environmental Services, and the NLRA's own Lake Host reminded participants of the importance of undertaking boat inspections to prevent the spread of invasive species to the lake. The NH Lakes Association was on hand to speak to community members about environmental impacts relating to residential development in close proximity to the lake. Other

exhibitors included Audubon, the Plymouth Area Renewable Energy Initiative, D Acres Farm and Educational Center, the NH Organic Farmers Association, and The Squam Lakes Science Center. NH Fish and Game brought their "Let's Go Fishing" demonstration to teach students about the lake fisheries.

Local artists and craftspeople set up displays in the barn with quilts, jewelry, photography, fly-tying, and even home-spun wool products. And for the first time ever, the NLRA sponsored a pontoon boat parade, accompanied by bagpiper Elliot Smith on the lead boat.

Everyone joined in the fun, with activities and face painting for the kids, and lively background music from the Baker Valley Band.



Representatives of the NH Lakes Association demonstrate how a watershed affects lakes and streams with "the Enviroscape." Photo by Marcia Morris

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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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nology systems, including hardware to improve efficiency and data security, software for improved database management and operation, and continued improvement of our Web site. The NH Department of Environmental Services grant to prepare a Watershed Master Plan is on its way to the Governor and Executive Council for signature. I look forward to sharing positive news on both grants at our annual meeting!

I am excited to take the Executive Director role to a full-time position this June so that I will have more time to meet with everyone eager to share ideas and energy to advance our mission to preserve and protect our resources for the long term.

*Boyd Smith, Executive Director*

## PRESIDENT

*Continued from p. 2*

and to build our endowment fund, but also the time and talents of people looking to exercise their skills on committees or as Trustees to guide the NLRA towards a dynamic and vital future.

If you are considering ways to make a meaningful contribution in a stimulating and rewarding environment, please contact me, other Trustee or staff to learn about what programs and activities most interest you.

*With best regards,  
Victor Field, President*

## LAKE LEVEL MANAGEMENT

*Continued from p. 1*

- Power generation – prefers steady and moderate flows in the Newfound River to optimize output.

- Everyone – wants to NOT be flooded by heavy rains (that raise the lake level at the rate of roughly 14 inches for every inch of rainfall, faster than the dam can let it out).

As a result of the positive response to this topic and the importance and complexity of the issue, the NLRA plans to sponsor a similar presentation on Thursday evening July 26. Please talk to your friends and neighbors, watch the local media and monitor our web site ([www.newfoundlake.org](http://www.newfoundlake.org)) for upcoming event information.

# Programs

## *NLRA Workshops a Great Success!*

In support of our town boards and residents, the NLRA embarked on an active workshop schedule in late 2006 to bring many excellent resource professionals into the community to present information about land-use planning challenges and techniques, important regulations that protect our lakes and streams, and programs that help us become good stewards of our watershed. Several are summarized below (be sure to check our Website for future events and workshops!)

## *NH Fish & Game Dept. Wildlife Action Plan*

The NH Fish & Game Wildlife Action Plan includes mapping tools and recommendations for wildlife habitat protection. Participants learned that the watershed surrounding the Newfound Lake is one of the highest quality in the state for flora and fauna. Each town was presented with a CD containing GIS maps and data about their habitats for “on-the-ground” fine-tuning through future natural resource inventories of each town.



Emily Brunkhurst presents the Wildlife Action Plan (Bridgewater Town Hall)

## *Land Conservation Preserves Land Values*

Land conservation is a growing initiative in the state of NH, and a critical approach to protect water quality. A tax incentive program that expires in 2007 encourages land owners to put land under permanent protection, particularly those lands that contain significant wildlife and plant habitat, geologic or aesthetic interest, historic importance, agricultural or forestry production, and wetlands and streams. Expert speakers on this important and complex topic included Will Abbot (Society for the Protection of NH Forests), Don Berry (Lakes Region Conservation Trust), Roger Larochelle (Squam Lakes Conservation Society), and Katie Callahan (NHF&G data specialist). The resounding message for a proactive approach to land protection included several important steps: towns should identify significant and valuable habitats; look for physical connections to other protected parcels; try to protect wildlife corridors and access to water bodies; and work to raise public awareness about the value of conserving land for wildlife and plant habitat, aesthetic qualities, aquifer and groundwater protection, and community character.

## *Conservation Subdivisions Retain Open Space*



Conservation Subdivision Planning in Action! (Alexandria Town Hall)

Cluster developments can protect significant habitats or steep slopes by reducing the developed area of the project, thus reducing sprawl. Carolyn Russell from the NH Office of Energy and Planning demonstrated the four-step process of this type of planning to about 30 people at the Alexandria Town Hall. These four steps include: a) identify primary conservation areas (streams, riparian areas and wetlands, wildlife corridors, steep slopes, and aquifers); b) identify potential areas for development with road access; c) locate potential house sites; and d) group roads, trails and infrastructure (e.g. wells and septic) more closely to reduce land disturbance, preserving critical areas for protection and lighter use, such as recreation or parks.

# Programs

## *Thank our Lake Hosts – They are More Important Than Ever!*

Newfound Lake is STILL clear of invasive species – as far as we know! BUT we must be vigilant! As a result of our 6 confirmed “saves” in 2006 (our Lake Hosts removed invasive plants from incoming boats), and due to the fact that 60% of our 2400 boaters had a Low-to-Medium awareness of invasive species and the damage they can do to water bodies – the NLRA has received a \$10,000 grant from the NH Lakes Association to expand our program in 2007! This will allow us to have MORE Lake Hosts – many are local high school students who we will be able to pay with grant funds – and better coverage of the boat launches throughout the summer.

We are always looking for more volunteer Lake Hosts, and would like to have condominium association members trained to inspect boats, too. If you're an interested individual or association member, please call Martha at 744-8689.



NLRA Trustee and Lake Host Helga Stamp (second from left), is surrounded by many of this year's crew, from left: Chris and Carrie Koch (Hebron summer residents); Francesca Alvino, Christy Maloney, Kevin Arnold, and Brie Gickas (Newfound Regional High School).

## *The NLRA Floating Classroom – New!*

Captains Bob Felder, Victor Field and Bill Fay are preparing for a busy summer piloting the NLRA pontoon boat for lake ecology, water quality testing and marsh ecology programs for schools, camps, Audubon and THE PUBLIC. A schedule will be on the website soon ([www.newfoundlake.org](http://www.newfoundlake.org)), and groups may call to arrange special excursions. This program is supported by a grant from Public Service of New Hampshire.



The Floating Classroom on a Weed Watching Mission

## *Shoreland Protection Act*

The Shoreland Protection Act has undergone a thorough review by a broad-based range of state agencies and interest groups, which resulted in 17 recommendations for improvements in the Act. Arlene Allen from DES explained what can and cannot be done in the 250' buffer-to-shoreline jurisdictional area of the statute. The goal of the Act is to protect shore and stream frontage from erosion, and pollution from stormwater runoff, sedimentation, and fertilizers – all of which are very detrimental to water quality, and animal, invertebrate and fish habitats. On May 22d our ED spoke in favor of the latest legislative proposal, crafted by a study group that included builders, state and local regulators, protective associations and lawmakers.

## *Lake Conservation Corps PILOT Program*

The NH Lakes Association has selected the NLRA to start a new pilot program on Newfound Lake this summer. Similar to the Lake Host program, the NHLA will fund local student work crews to perform erosion-control or other environmental projects for towns in the watershed. The grant will cover the costs for a paid supervisor, and for natural resource professionals to train the students for each project. Several projects have been suggested, and we welcome more! These include: trail maintenance and bridge building on a town forest, an erosion control project at Wellington Beach, and plantings within the Shoreline Protection buffer. If your town has a potential project please call Martha at 744-8689.



## *New Logo a Collaborative Effort with a History*

Starting with the original logo drawn by the late Jean Thompson (a long-time NLRA supporter), we asked local artist Patti Schnieder to modernize the art. This resulted in the lovely lake scene framed by a birch tree – a very captivating image commonly found around Newfound Lake. The border lettering is “Adobe Lithos” designed by Carol Twombly, type designer and daughter of Phil and Betsy Twombly of Hebron. The final touches in color (see [www.newfoundlake.org](http://www.newfoundlake.org)) were added by Derry Riddle of Venture Print. Thanks to all!

## Community Collaboration on Breck-Plankey Spring

Over the past several months, our ED has been meeting with members of “Awakening the Senses,” a senior-level class co-taught by Chris Duggan and Jim LeBaron at the Newfound High School, to learn about the Breck-Plankey Spring. This famous landmark, located along Rte 3A (Lake St.) just north of Bristol, is frequented by residents and visitors as a source of “the best drinking water around.” As part of the central course requirements for hands-on learning and actual results, the students have created drawings and short articles explaining how the spring works as well as its history. Through the generosity of the Ken Watts family, as well as assistance from the Town of Bristol, a small woodland bulletin board has been constructed and installed near the spring to share this important information with those who come for water.



This 22-pound male was netted for study by NHF&G scientists Fall 2006 and re-returned to the Lake grow.



This feisty wood turtle was carefully held and photographed before being returned to patrol the Cockermouth River.



Sadly, the loon seen in this picture expired from suspected lead poisoning not long after being discovered.



Newfound Fishery – NHF&G Scientists with 17-pound Laker.

# Membership

It is my pleasure to thank everyone who contributed to our organization in 2006, and has already responded to our Membership renewal requests for 2007. Your continued and growing support allow the NLRA to patrol the boat ramps for milfoil, monitor the water quality of the lake and its tributaries, and provide education and outreach programs to stakeholders from towns to school children to the general public. What we do makes a difference – what you do makes it possible!

Every year several people ask “why does the NLRA ask for Membership and Annual Fund contributions” (not to mention Endowment gifts!). This is an important question.

Like most nonprofit organizations, the vast majority of our support (70% - 90%) comes from individual donors. An important source of this support comes from memberships, which provide direct benefits such as our Newsletters. However, membership income alone is not enough to meet operating expenses that include payroll, rent, utilities, programs, educational materials, insurance, boat expenses, etc. Thus we reach out to our members in the fall Annual Fund campaign to maintain operating budgets for the next six months, until membership income returns in the spring.

Ultimately, we hope to reverse this ratio so that earnings from our permanent Endowment accounts provide at least 70% of our total income. However, as only 5 percent/year is typically drawn from restricted funds, an endowment of several million dollars is needed to meet this goal. While we are structuring our fundraising efforts to make legacy donations an attractive option, this will take a period of years to accomplish. In the meantime, regular infusions of cash are needed for day-to-day operations and growth.

*This Newsletter includes a special recognition section acknowledging the generous contributions made in 2006 by our many supporters.*

We expect to raise our level of positive recognition through the Watershed Master Plan initiative and continued community engagement and outreach. As a result of our work with the Town of Bristol, the Town recently became an NLRA member with a \$1,000 donation! During the summer we are planning a series of social gatherings and events that will allow people to meet and talk about their ideas and dreams for the NLRA, with our Executive Director and guest speakers presenting current information and our strategic vision for the next sev-

eral years. A mid-August event is being planned to bring people together from around the watershed to meet, mingle and celebrate this wonderful area.

Thanks again to all of you for being involved in protecting Newfound Lake and its watershed. Through your efforts as citizens and NLRA supporters, you can help maintain the natural beauty and rich community that make this area one to savor and hand down to the next generation.

*Sincerely,*

*Jan Collins, Membership Chair*



## Membership Form

**Member support is vital to help us protect Newfound Lake.  
Please renew your membership or join NLRA today!**

Please mail this form and your check, payable to NLRA, to:  
NLRA, 800 Lake St. Bristol, NH 03222.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Summer Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check here if you are interested in receiving email communications (web-based newsletters, annual report, news updates).

### Membership Categories:

- Steward \$2000
- Newfounder \$1000
- Sustaining \$500
- Supporting \$250
- Maintaining \$100
- Family \$50
- Individual \$35

### Volunteer opportunities:

Please check all that apply.

- Lake Host/Invasive Species Protection
- Water Quality Monitoring/Education
- Watershed Mapping/Land Conservation
- Events/Publications/Outreach
- Membership Development
- Strategic Planning

# Calendar

June 27

Lake-Friendly Landscaping Workshop  
4-7 pm

July 7

Annual Meeting. Bridgewater Town Hall,  
10 am – 12 pm

July 26

Lake Level Management Presentation

July 28

Hebron Fair  
Bristol Summer Town Meeting

August 11

Mid-Summer Social

*Watch local media and [www.newfoundlake.org](http://www.newfoundlake.org)  
for times and locations of upcoming events.*



*Special Thanks to: Herb D'Arcy (fish finder), Karen Boyd (volunteer office administrator), Nancy Howard (media coordinator, membership mailing)*

## Business Profile

West Shore Marine  
Bristol, NH

The NLRA would like to express our gratitude to Greg Wagner, owner of West Shore Marine, located on West Shore Road in Bristol. Greg and his staff provide high-quality marine service and sales for hundreds of customers. We all benefit greatly from West Shore marine employees who monitor boats for invasive species, the financial support the company provides, and Greg's work as a Trustee.

Thanks Greg!



♻️ Printed on recycled paper.

Visit our website for new information and upcoming workshops:  
[www.newfoundlake.org](http://www.newfoundlake.org)

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