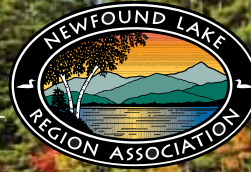


THE MONITOR



The Newsletter of
the Newfound Lake
Region Association

October 2021

NLRA's 50th Anniversary: *Celebrating the Past, Planning for the Future*

The Newfound Lake Region Association turns 50 this December. As we celebrate, we're looking both back at our history and forward as we plan for our future. In 1971, concerned citizens took action to protect Newfound Lake, officially incorporating the Newfound Lake Region Association with the State of New Hampshire. This initial endeavor represented residents around the lake with growing worries about Newfound's water quality, wildlife, lake levels, and land in the surrounding watershed.

A decade later, the building boom of the 1980s spurred a flurry of development around Newfound, with old family camps and children's summer camps quickly sold, divided, and redeveloped. Understanding that more roads, buildings, and human activity could impact the health of Newfound Lake, a new wave of Newfounders joined together in 1985 to re-form and invigorate the NLRA, putting the organization on the path to becoming an effective and respected conservation nonprofit, leading the way in watershed protection.

Since that time, NLRA has been wholly engaged in watershed conservation. With science-based watershed planning to

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A Half-Century of Conservation

- Newfound remains free of invasive aquatic plants.
- One quarter of land in the watershed is under permanent protection, the surest way to protect water quality.
- NLRA stormwater management projects protect Newfound's water quality by stopping 278 pounds of phosphorus and 283 tons of sediment from entering the lake every year.
- Town partnerships result in stormwater management projects and lake protection measures
- Restoration at Grey Rocks Conservation Area serves as an example of responsible shorefront development and a community resource for outdoor recreation and educational programming.
- Education programs for all ages, and with no cost barriers, foster a sense of stewardship for the lake and watershed.
- Every Acre Counts, the Newfound Lake Watershed Management Plan, one of the first watershed plans in NH for a healthy, high-quality water body, has guided management and monitoring activities since 2009.
- 35 years of water quality data have been gathered helping us understand the health of the lake and make informed decisions for improving lake health.
- Generations of Newfounders are engaged and informed about important issues that affect this treasured resource.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

When longtime member and Founders' Award recipient Kelly Dunn raised her hand at the end of the annual meeting in August and said she would like to start an endowment fund with a \$100,000 matched gift to the NLRA, I was blown away. That she also said she would like to start the fund in honor of my last year as President of the NLRA was deeply humbling, even mind-boggling. In subsequent conversations with Kelly, we have both realized and reaffirmed our hopes for this fund, that it will make a significant and

meaningful difference for NLRA, for the lake, and for the watershed.

Since Kelly's announcement, another NLRA family, inspired by Kelly's giving leadership, has stepped up with an additional \$100,000 for this fund, so with \$100,000 from NLRA members to match Kelly's gift, we can reach \$300,000 to kick off the Moore Endowment Fund for Clean

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Rob Moore will wrap up his decade-long tenure as NLRA President in 2022.



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



This is one of my favorite times of year—cooler temperatures, vibrant colors, a sense of quiet and calm. As I dig into autumn this year, I'm reflecting on this past summer. I've been with NLRA for two years now, and most of that time has been during the pandemic. So my introduction to one of the things that makes Newfound so amazing—the community—has been delayed. But this year, with our Leadership Gathering and Annual Meeting held in person, I've fi-

nally gotten to meet many of the people around the lake and watershed.

I am regularly inspired by the people that shape and fuel this community. Within NLRA, our dedicated staff work tirelessly to protect Newfound. I'm especially grateful for Karen Bemis and Andrew Veilleux, staff that have recently left NLRA, for their contributions to our organization and to the health of the lake and watershed. I'm grateful for our board leadership, for our new trustees, and for those who have contributed years of

Executive Director Rebecca Hanson started with NLRA in 2019. Photo: Gillian van Schaick

Continued on p. 10



The Newfound Lake Region Association's mission is to protect Newfound Lake and its watershed. The Association – through education, programs, and collaboration – promotes conservation and preservation of the region's natural, social, and economic resources.

Officers – *President:* Rob Moore; *Treasurer:* Jim Fitts; *Secretary:* Val Scarborough

Trustees – Jen Berry, Kathy Bird, Karen Boyd, Joe Boyer, Bill Brady, Parker Griffin, Andrea LaMoreaux, Bob Martens, Steve McMahon, Ed McNierney, Rob Pinsonneault, Carol Tremonti, Martha Twombly, Greg Wagner, Ken Weidman

Staff – *Executive Director:* Rebecca Hanson; *Membership Manager:* Audrey West; *Relationship Strategy Coordinator:* Mario Capozzoli

Cover Banner Image: Carole Binder; *Newsletter Design & Layout:* Carolyn Isaak

Newfound Lake Region Association

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Trail Work in the Watershed

by Karen Candia, Watershed Steward/AmeriCorps member

The NLRA partners with organizations throughout the watershed to achieve conservation goals. As one of this year's watershed stewards, I was able to aid in these partnerships first-hand. In early June, as newly initiated AmeriCorps members, we collaborated with the Alexandria Conservation Commission (ACC). The mission of the ACC is "the promotion of public awareness and the protection of natural resources," and they rely on volunteers to achieve this mission. Our work focused on developing and maintaining the trails for the Alexandria Town Forest, a 55-acre piece of property on Hutchins Hill Road.

There were several goals the commission wanted to accomplish by the end of our five days of trailwork. These goals included: creating an entirely new trail along the boundary of the property, re-blazing the boundary markers along the edge of the property, and cleaning up existing trails (specifically debris and shrubbery along the Stonewall Trail). While trails require constant maintenance and frequent re-blazing, we successfully accomplished these goals in time for the commission's guided walk, which was open to the public in order to demonstrate all that the Town Forest has to offer and inspire community involvement.

Initially, there were three trails on the Town Forest property: Hutchins Hill, Stonewall, and Pitman trails. The new Boundary Trail is now the longest trail in the Town Forest, beginning at the Stonewall trailhead and leading out onto the Pitman Trail. Our process consisted of determining the layout of the trail, clearing a path, and blazing it. It was my first time seeing how a new trail is created; between trying to follow the natural layout of the



In early June, NLRA Watershed Stewards partnered with the Alexandria Conservation Commission to help with trail work in the Alexandria Town Forest, a 55-acre piece of property managed by the ACC for recreation and wildlife.

land and having to lop excess branches and shrubs, it was incredibly rewarding to look behind us and see how a trail was beginning to take shape.

We also re-marked the property boundaries, as there was lots of confusion regarding where the property ended and the neighboring land began due to faded boundary markings, and added signage to aid hikers. Eliminating the debris that had gathered over the stone wall that gives the Stonewall Trail its name also helped the trail become easier to navigate and more appealing to hikers. Our efforts demonstrated how trail work is a continuous commitment in order to keep the trails usable for recreation and public enjoyment.

During our service, ACC Chair Jenny Tuthill expressed the difficulties of maintaining the Town Forest, as many of the Commission members are physically limited and cannot participate in trail work. She also pointed out that people often think

"trail work" implies simple, manual labor, but it's actually multifaceted; trail work not only involves physical endurance, but also the ability to read compasses and maps and work with a variety of tools. Hand-made road signs directing the public to the Town Forest have been stolen numerous times, forcing the Commission to purchase a commercially-made road sign that has more severe penalties if it is tampered with.

Day by day I saw our hard work paying off as we made more and more progress on the trails. In the span of those five days, I learned the importance of trail work and its consistency as well as aspects of conservation that I had not taken into consideration before. Looking back, I'm glad that one of my first experiences at the NLRA was helping out the Alexandria Conservation Commission, and I am forever grateful that I was able to meet Jenny Tuthill and make an impact on the Alexandria Town Forest.



Work with the Alexandria Conservation Commission consisted of re-blazing the existing trails as well as developing a new "boundary" trail that goes along the edge of the Town Forest property. We determined the layout, cleared a path, and blazed the new trail.

Programs Connecting People and Place

Conservation begins with connection—a relationship with the natural world lights the desire to protect it. It is followed by education—the understanding of how best to care for our natural resources. NLRA programs and events work to build relationships between the community and the watershed while also passing along the knowledge necessary for good stewardship. Here are some of this year's program highlights:

Newfound EcoTours

NLRA's two-hour tour of Newfound Lake by pontoon boat is a great way to explore and learn more about the history and ecology of Newfound. 2021 saw the expansion of our EcoTour program and the hiring of EcoTour Coordinator Scott Kresge. EcoTours were available on week-ends for the first time and brought 400+ people of all ages closer to Newfound.



2021 saw the expansion of our EcoTour program, which ran five days a week and brought 400+ passengers closer to Newfound.



Grey Rocks Story Time

On the first Friday of the summer months, children gathered at Grey Rocks Conservation Area for a live story time! Nestled in the grass under the shade of birch trees, the Minot-Sleeper Library and the Hebron Library led songs and shared stories about nature before sending families out to explore nature first-hand with an NLRA guide.



The Minot-Sleeper Library and the Hebron Library took turns hosting a live story time at Grey Rocks, followed by an NLRA-guided activity.

Grey Rocks StoryWalk®

A StoryWalk is a book displayed page by page along a path, combining the pleasure of a good story with the sights and sounds of a walk in nature. This year's StoryWalk featured *The Secret Pool* by Kimberly Ridley. From late August through early October, families learned about the mysterious world of vernal pools while walking the Floodplain Loop Trail at Grey Rocks Conservation Area.



Our second annual StoryWalk added a fun element to walking the Floodplain Loop Trail, combining an educational story about Vernal Pools with a walk in the woods.

AROUND THE LAKE

Learning from the Experts

Our lake experts can be found presenting at Slim Baker's Fireside Chats and NH Audubon's Red Barn Series, answering your questions at community fairs and events, and leading guided hikes and paddles throughout the year. NLRA also hosts popular annual events with experts in related fields, like the Guided Paddle and Mushroom Foray events with renowned ecologist Rick Van de Poll.



NLRA's experts in conservation engage the public from the water, the podium, or around a campfire (s'mores optional).

Learn more and register for upcoming events at newfoundlake.org

Guided Exploration Around Newfound

NLRA's watershed stewards, AmeriCorps service members through a regional AmeriCorps program, lead free, twice-monthly guided programs May-October. Participants may learn about local flora and fauna, ecosystems and the environment, or conservation methods while hiking or paddling around Newfound.



NLRA Watershed Stewards lead twice-monthly programming that deepen participants' understanding of their surroundings.



Nature Station

Nature Station was developed as a way to keep families safely engaged during the pandemic. Nature Station activity bags include a craft or activity to encourage investigation of the natural world, from making suncatchers and mobiles out of natural

materials to growing seeds and participating in scavenger hunts. With a grant from New Hampshire Environmental Educators, NLRA expanded our Nature Station programming to provide activity bags for all of Tappan-Thompson Community Center's

summer campers and after-school program participants, and doubled the number of live Nature Station events at Grey Rocks.



Nature Station gets kids closer to nature with a fun craft or activity that teaches them about the natural world.

AROUND THE LAKE

Summer Camp

NLRA partnered with the Tapply-Thompson Community Center to give every summer camper the opportunity to engage with Newfound Lake and conservation. Campers boarded NLRA's pontoon boat to tour the lake and assist with water quality monitoring and visited Grey Rocks Conservation Area, learning about the water cycle and local ecosystems as they hiked, painted, created, and had fun!



In partnership with the Tapply-Thompson Community Center, local summer campers explored Grey Rocks and toured Newfound Lake, learning about conservation, water quality, and our ecosystem.

Rob Moore Fund for Clear Water and Community Awareness

We held the NLRA Annual Meeting at Grey Rocks Conservation Area this August, our first time hosting this major event at our property in Hebron. With many of our passionate supporters in attendance, Rob Moore announced this would be his last year as president.

Rob is a life-long Newfounder whose dedication as NLRA's president over the past decade will continue to have a lasting impact on our mission to protect the Newfound Watershed. His deep commitment has launched the NLRA as a powerful state-wide leader in watershed protection.

Toward the end of the meeting, long-time NLRA advocate and champion Kelly Dunn surprised the crowd by proposing an impactful new endowment fund and challenge grant to honor NLRA President Rob Moore and his service to the organization and the watershed.

The Rob Moore Fund for Clean Water and Community Awareness will honor and build upon Rob's impact in the watershed. The fund will support NLRA initiatives to further protect Newfound's high-quality waters including water quality monitoring, building environmental resilience through stormwater management, enabling new NLRA initiatives, and inspiring Newfounders of all ages through community programming.

Kelly Dunn and family are generously matching up to \$100,000 of all donations to the Rob Moore Fund for Clean Water and Community Awareness. Inspired by Kelly's announcement at the Annual Meeting, an anonymous donor has offered an additional match for all gifts to this Fund, up to \$100,000, alongside Kelly. With every dollar you donate matched by two more dollars, the fund will be able to start with \$300,000 to invigorate and grow NLRA's mission-driven programs.

Visit NLRA's website to learn more or to make a contribution to the Rob Moore Fund for Clean Water and Community Awareness.



Rebecca Hanson (NLRA Executive Director), Martha Twombly (NLRA Trustee), Rob Moore (NLRA President), Kelly Dunn, and Cheryl Jonas gather at the Annual Meeting in August to celebrate Newfound and the creation of the Rob Moore Fund for Clean Water and Community Awareness.

AROUND THE LAKE

50 Years, Continued from page 1

guide our efforts, NLRA works to balance development with natural resource protection, prioritizing stormwater management, land conservation, educational programming, and local advocacy of lake-friendly living practices that improve environmental health.

As we begin our next half century, we stand on a strong foundation, built by individuals with the foresight to understand that Newfound Lake and its watershed are shaped by the actions of the community, and the future is shaped by the decisions we make today. We are incred-

ibly thankful for the work of the founders, volunteers, trustees, staff, donors, partners, and word-of-mouth advocates responsible for NLRA's success.

With the groundwork laid, NLRA is planning for the future. Our vision is to see water quality in the Newfound Watershed improve over the next decade, and we're implementing new initiatives to get us there. (View our current strategic plan on the back page.) From creating a water quality target to evaluate our efforts, expanding our role in land conservation, pushing to engage more of the commu-

nity and increase community support, and increasing our capacity across the board, the new strategic plan launches NLRA into our next 50 years.

Newfound continues to face threats, both new and old, but the continued support of the community and the forward momentum of five decades of water quality protection, land conservation, and community engagement positions us to accomplish our current goals, and continue to ensure Newfound Lake and Watershed are healthy for generations to come.

NLRA Timeline

- | | |
|------|--|
| 1971 | Incorporation of NLRA |
| 1985 | Reinvigoration of earlier effort |
| 1986 | Regular water quality monitoring begins |
| 1987 | Weed Watcher program begins |
| 1991 | First staff member hired |
| 1998 | Weed Watcher program expands |
| 2004 | First land conservation action |
| 2004 | Lake Host program comes to Newfound |
| 2009 | Every Acre Counts: the Newfound Watershed Management Plan is adopted |
| 2009 | Newfound Land Conservation Partnership begins |
| 2011 | Grey Rocks Conservation Area given to NLRA |
| 2016 | Three Year Plan expands NLRA capacity |
| 2017 | Youth Conservation Corps stormwater management crew begins |
| 2018 | The Nature Conservancy honors NLRA with a Conservation Partner Award |
| 2019 | Lakes Region Conservation Corps AmeriCorps Program comes to Newfound |



Staff Farewell

As we said goodbye to summer, NLRA also bid farewell to two dedicated employees: Karen Bemis and Andrew Veilleux. It is with gratitude that we wish them all the best in their next endeavors!

Karen Bemis

Karen Bemis joined NLRA as the Membership Manager in 2016, tasked with overseeing the organization's day-to-day fundraising and communication processes. Always looking for new ways to engage with the community, Karen reshaped and grew business partnerships, highlighting NLRA Business Members through a popular email campaign and brochure. She was a stalwart steward of donor relationships, reaching out personally to thank donors, learn their stories, and deepen their connections to Newfound. Karen was promoted to NLRA's Development Director before her retirement, a role in which she created high-level fundraising strategies and grew NLRA's legacy giving program, ensuring the long-term protection of Newfound. Karen is now focusing on spending time with her family and is enjoying more time on the lake she is committed to conserve. She continues to be a strong supporter of NLRA and will always be an advocate for Newfound Lake and the community she loves.

Karen was a stalwart steward of donor relationships, reaching out personally to thank donors, learn their stories, and deepen their connections to Newfound.

As NLRA's Program Manager since 2014, Andrew oversaw and expanded NLRA's core conservation initiatives.

Andrew Veilleux

As NLRA's Program Manager since 2014, Andrew oversaw and expanded NLRA's core conservation initiatives. He coordinated with dozens of volunteers and partner organizations to monitor water quality and stop invasive species. He formed NLRA's Youth Conservation Corps, which employs area youth to implement storm-water management projects throughout the watershed, keeping thousands of pounds of sediment and nutrients from polluting waterways. He also brought the Lakes Region Conservation Corps program to NLRA, increasing NLRA's capacity for programs, events, and initiatives. Andrew's next ad-



Andrew Veilleux

venture is at the Tilton School, where he will continue to impact the world of science and the next generation of environmental stewards as a biology and environmental science teacher.



Karen and Paul Bemis

NLRA Welcomes New Trustees to the Board

NLRA trustees are some of NLRA's most dedicated volunteers, advocates, and leaders. We are pleased to welcome two new trustees to the board, each bringing unique talents and experiences to guide NLRA forward as a leader in watershed conservation.

Carole Tremonti

NLRA welcomed Carole Tremonti as a new trustee in May. Carole has been a lake girl her whole life. She spent every summer of her childhood running around barefoot with friends, swimming, sailing, and enjoying the peace and nature at her family lakehouse in upstate New York. Carole purchased her Newfound property in 2014 and quickly fell in love with the beauty and pristine quality of the water, and was drawn to protect it. Carole has relished all of the wonderful activities the Lakes Region has to offer, and has named Newfound Lake her "happy place."



Carole Tremonti



Jen Berry

A nurse by training, Carole has worked in academic medicine the majority of her career, and spent the last 13 years at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Recently, Carole left academic medicine to join the executive team of a healthcare startup and now Carole's passion and focus has narrowed to establish shared decision making and to connect the communication between clinicians and their patients.

Two new trustees bring unique talents and experiences to guide NLRA forward

Jennifer Berry

NLRA is pleased to welcome Jen Berry back to the board of trustees. Jen served as a trustee for several years ending in 2015.

Jen was raised in the Newfound area where she attended Newfound schools through eighth grade and was a camper for three summers at Camp Onaway, in Hebron. Jen spent more than 30 years at New Hampton School and has recently served as the Director of College Counseling at Western Reserve Academy in Ohio. She lives in New Hampton with her husband, Tom. Jen's twin brother Jeff owns Shackett's store on the western shore of Newfound Lake. Jen loves the lake and wants to work to protect and preserve it.

MESSAGES, Continued from page 2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Water and Community Awareness by August 2022.

With NLRA in its 50th year, I ask you to consider joining Kelly and me and the generous and inspired second set of donors to help grow this fund up to and beyond its goals in order to protect this place we all love. It will make a difference into perpetuity not only to grow our ability to keep Newfound Lake clean and healthy

but also—through education, outreach, and programming—to grow the number of those who steward it.

Sincerely,

Rob Moore
NLRA President
(until August 2022)

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

service to NLRA, including Rob Moore, who will step down next year as president of NLRA after a decade of leadership.

Thank you for all you do to shape this community and protect Newfound!

Rebecca Hanson
Executive Director

There are Many Ways to Support NLRA!

NLRA receives support in a variety of creative ways, including through planned gifts and bequests. You can maximize your impact on NLRA while also benefiting your own financial goals by using one of these vehicles for giving:

Gifts of Stock – Donors who gift appreciated stock, bonds, or mutual funds may not pay capital gains tax and also receive an immediate tax deduction.

Gifts of Retirement Assets – Donors can reduce their income tax bur-

den from retirement assets by naming NLRA as a beneficiary in your retirement plan.

Gift of Life Insurance – Donating a paid-up life insurance policy that's no longer needed or naming NLRA as the beneficiary in an existing one allows you to make a large gift at little cost.

Gift the balance of an account – Donors can plan a future gift in the simplest way possible by designating the balance of a bank or brokerage

account, retirement plan, annuity, or life insurance policy to go to NLRA.

Gift through Will or Trust – Make a gift that costs nothing during your lifetime but ensures the long-range protection of Newfound by gifting cash, property, or a share of your estate through a will or trust.

Notify NLRA of your intentions or learn more about these unique giving options by emailing Membership Manager Audrey West; Audrey@NewfoundLake.org



Give creatively to support NLRA while getting the most out of your financial assets.



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Looking Forward: NLRA's New Strategic Plan 2021-2024

Our Vision:

Water quality in the Newfound Watershed will improve over the next decade.

Strategic Goals 2021-2023:

Improve Environmental Health

by establishing water quality targets, expanding watershed health monitoring, and launching innovative protection efforts.

Expand Land Conservation

by establishing a land conservation target that ensures healthy water and prioritizing protection of land that keeps water clean.

Grow Watershed Stewardship

by building new and enhancing existing education programs that spread the knowledge of watershed science and environmental literacy.

Boost Capacity to Deliver Our Mission

by capitalizing on our assets and investing in our staff and volunteers.

Increase Community Support

by stewarding current supporters and engaging new supporters through communications and outreach.

To learn more please visit newfoundlake.org