

THE MONITOR



The Newsletter of
the Newfound Lake
Region Association

May 2021

The Key to Clean Water

Collaborating to Conserve Open Spaces and Water Quality

The Newfound Watershed is defined in part by its open spaces and unfragmented forests: the summit of Mount Cardigan and the forests that surround it; the open flats in Alexandria; the hills of Bridgewater; the dense forests in the upper reaches of the Cocker mouth River in Groton. These open spaces provide us with endless recreation opportunities, firewood and other forest products, maple syrup, and, of course, the peace and solace of the natural world. Linked together these open space areas allow for safe wildlife passage through different habitat types. Healthy, mature forests store greenhouse gasses such as carbon and filter stormwater to ensure our rivers, streams, and Newfound Lake are clean.

One of the best ways to preserve the quality of the water in Newfound Lake is to protect the lands surrounding it. Town forests, land owned by conservation groups, state land, and conservation easements all ensure this valuable open space will be protected in perpetuity. There are economic benefits too. A study from the Trust for Public Land found that every \$1 invested in land conservation returned \$11 in natural goods and services to the New

Continued on p. 15

Conservation Lands in the Newfound Watershed

The Newfound Watershed lies within the red line.
Conservation parcels are shown in green.



Over 14,000 acres, nearly 25% of the land in the Newfound Watershed, is conserved. These protected parcels help protect Newfound's water quality.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fifty years ago when the NLRA got started, I can remember seeing lake lovers like Peter Brown, John Gemmill, Mason Westfall, Louise Devost, Dick Beyer, and so many others working on water monitoring, trying to control runoff, and taking steps to raise awareness about protecting the lake. Inspired by their work, I came to understand we had a precious resource in Newfound's clear water, the wildlife in and around the lake, the hills and forests. How a storm can come out of nowhere and change everything fast still amazes me.

I took up sailing a Sunfish that I could rent for \$5 at Peter Brown's Boat Shop because I couldn't get enough of the lake. Sailing on that Sunfish is where I learned my love of sailing and felt one with the lake, and Pasquaney Bay became my happy place, swimming, fishing, canoeing, and regularly watching the breathtaking sunsets over Crosby and Tenney Mountains with my family.

Fifty years later, my childhood memories of Newfound and those pioneers

Continued on p. 14



Rob Moore (with wife Laura) has served as NLRA President since 2012.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



This December, NLRA celebrates 50 years since our incorporation in 1971. The early 1970s were important in the environmental movement. Major environmental milestones occurred around that time; the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, and the US Environmental Protection Agency all took root during the same period as NLRA.

It is an honor to lead the NLRA into our next half-century, during another

critical time for our environment. Climate change, and the host of issues it brings with it, harmful algal blooms, and development pressure all pose a threat to Newfound Lake and its surrounding watershed. To guide us in addressing these challenges, we are developing a strategic plan for NLRA, creating a vision for the future of NLRA through the next five, ten, and even 50 years.

I've enjoyed the strategic planning process. Through our engagement sessions we've discussed NLRA's important work in environmental health and education

Continued on p. 14

Executive Director Rebecca Hanson started with NLRA in 2019.

Photo: Gillian van Schaick



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:* Karen Boyd

Trustees – Kathy Bird, Joe Boyer, Bill Brady, Parker Griffin, Andrea LaMoreaux, Bob Martens, Steve McMahon, Ed McNierney, Rob Pinsonneault, Val Scarborough, Martha Twombly, Greg Wagner, Ken Weidman

Staff – *Executive Director:* Rebecca Hanson; *Program Manager:* Andrew Veilleux;

Development Director: Karen Bemis; *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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Watershed Planning – Linking Land Use to Water Quality

A watershed plan is a key tool to maintaining and even improving water quality in Newfound Lake. It outlines the goals for the watershed and the initiatives needed to reach those goals. Made possible with federal funding from the Clean Water Act and administered through the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, the NLRA has operated with a watershed plan since 2009, and in early 2021 received our fifth watershed plan grant. This funding over the past nearly fifteen years has had enormous and lasting positive impact on the Newfound Watershed.

The primary focus and outcome for all watershed plan implementation projects is to reach water quality goals. The greatest threat to water quality in Newfound is stormwater, and to that end we have implemented stormwater management projects — both large-scale projects with town and NHDOT partners such as road paving and culvert replacement, and small-scale projects with homeowners to reduce



The Cummings Beach swale in Bristol was funded from watershed planning grants and created in collaboration with the Town of Bristol. It serves as a demonstration site, setting an example of stormwater management along the lake shore.

stormwater runoff on private property. To date, this work has prevented an estimated 566,483 pounds of sediment and 278 pounds of phosphorus from entering the lake.

The watershed plans also benefits towns, with funds available to help each watershed town shape their land use regulations and master plans in ways that benefit water quality. Ordinances that regulate lot density and setbacks from surface water are two ways towns can protect their water.

By far the best way to protect water quality is to maintain healthy forests. Identifying land conservation priorities in the Newfound watershed was made possible by watershed plan implementation, helping the Newfound Land Conservation Partnership to increase the amount of land conserved in the watershed (now at nearly 25% of the watershed, over 14,000 acres!).

With watershed plan grant funding secured, watershed plan projects will begin this summer and continue through 2023.

- We will continue to work with watershed towns, assisting them with creating lake-friendly regulations and reducing stormwater on town roads and properties.

- We will invest in communicating our work and the watershed plan to the public, upgrading our website to be a user-friendly and up-to-date resource.

- Our Youth Conservation Corps crew will continue working with landowners and homeowner associations to implement small scale stormwater projects.

- Finally, we will tackle some of the biggest stormwater problems in the watershed, including a study to look at the massive stream blowout in the Cockermouth River subwatershed in Groton.

We are thrilled to continue our partnership with NH DES as we embark on this next round of watershed plan funding and will continue protecting the water quality of Newfound Lake through action. For more information on our latest projects, visit the NLRA website: newfoundlake.org.



NLRA's fifth watershed management plan funding will, in part, help address a massive streambank blowout in Atwell Brook in Groton. This site has a noticeable impact on water quality downstream in the Cockermouth River and Newfound Lake.

AROUND THE LAKE

Partnerships for a Bright, Green Future

Connecting youth to nature benefits us all. Not only does fostering a love for the natural world ensure the future of conservation, children show great gains from time spent in nature as well, from improved test scores to better physical and mental well-being.

NLRA partners with the Minot-Sleeper Library and the Slim Baker Foundation to collaborate on programs and opportunities that inspire local youth to explore and engage with our watershed. In 2020 we worked with these partners to create new programs, including Read Around Newfound, an initiative to host StoryWalks® through the watershed, a virtual Nature Storytime, and Newfound Nature Station, a free program with activities designed for kids of all ages.

Along with continuing these popular programs, there are exciting new opportunities in the works for the current year. On the first Friday of every month, June-October, at 11 am, the Minot-Sleeper Library, NLRA, and the Slim Baker Founda-



With local partners, NLRA offers youth programming to encourage young conservationists. We're adding new programs this year including storytime and exploration at Grey Rocks Conservation Area.

tion will provide a live storytime event at Grey Rocks Conservation Area, followed by guided exploration of Grey Rocks and a take-home activity.

NLRA's event highlights can be found on the back page of this publication, and a full list of upcoming events can be found at newfoundlake.org/events.



Newfound Has Excellent Water Quality

Newfound Lake and its tributaries continue to have excellent water quality. Learn more about 2020 water quality data, long term trends, and our plans for studying our water quality further on our website: newfoundlake.org/water-quality/

Photo: Ashley Kuplin

An Opportunity for Everyone: Volunteer with NLRA

The watershed is wide, and the work is plentiful! Get hands-on with local conservation as an NLRA volunteer. Along with established volunteer positions, we also need volunteers waiting in the wings for when special volunteer needs arise. All of our volunteer opportunities can be found at newfoundlake.org/volunteer, where you can also sign up for our monthly volunteer email newsletter to hear about the latest volunteer opportunities with NLRA and more ways to make a difference in the watershed.

Do you have a specialized skill or interest you could put towards NLRA's efforts? Tell us about it! Email info@newfoundlake.org.

Invasive Species Protection

Invasive aquatic species disrupt the natural ecosystem and lower our water quality. Volunteers guard Newfound from aquatic invasive species by offering complimentary boat checks at Newfound's boat launches as a Lake Host, or paddle, motor, or snorkel the shores of Newfound to help us keep a watchful eye out for colonies of invasive plants as a Weed Watcher.



Lake Hosts guard against invasive species by checking boats and trailers for fragments of plants or animals and educating boaters on proper clean, drain, and dry methods.

Education and Community Outreach

Inspire the next generation to love and care for Newfound by guiding exploration as a volunteer for youth programming, or work with us at community events to share the importance of stewarding our natural resources.

NLRA Volunteer Days

From planting pollinator-friendly gardens to maintaining hiking trails or restoring shoreline habitat, this monthly, all-ages volunteer event is a great way to dip your toes in the work of conserving the watershed. By the end of the event, you'll be able to step back and admire your impact! See upcoming volunteer days and sign up at newfoundlake.org/events.

Water Quality Monitoring

Volunteers collect water quality samples from Newfound Lake or its tributaries, providing the data we need to monitor for pollution and other water quality concerns. Lake water quality monitors collect water samples from Newfound Lake, and tributary water quality monitors collect samples from tributaries throughout the watershed.



Water quality volunteers help provide an understanding of water quality in Newfound Lake and its tributaries. We use data to assess long-term trends and to help inform land use decisions and stormwater management projects.

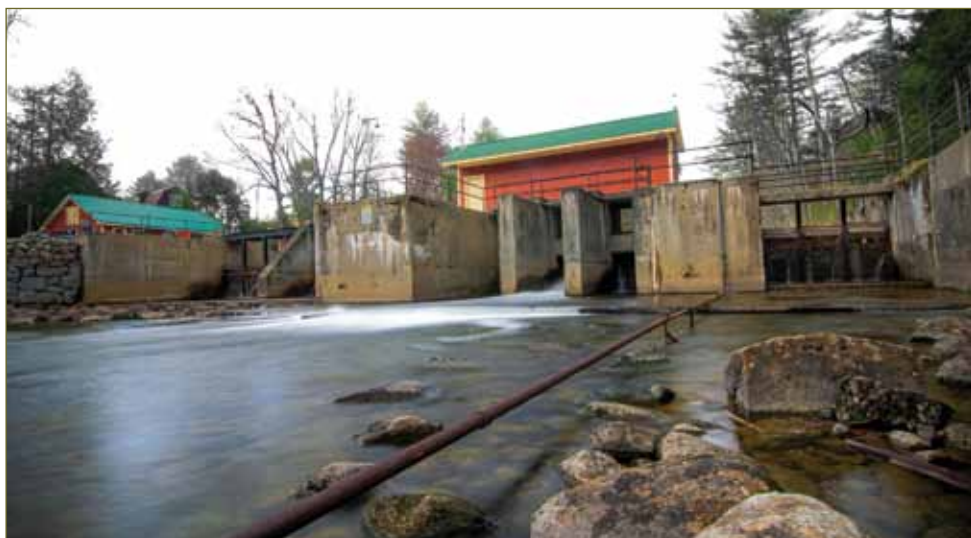
Learn more about NLRA volunteer opportunities on our website: newfoundlake.org/volunteer

AROUND THE LAKE

Lake Level Update

The level of Newfound Lake is managed and controlled by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Dam Bureau. In 2018 and 2019 the Dam Bureau held several public hearings to address Newfound Lake level management. As a result the levels are currently being managed by an adjusted interim management plan to balance the needs of lake users and the natural environment.

Drought conditions in 2020 made lake level management difficult for the Dam Bureau. Without the inflow from tributaries, and the requirement to maintain flow downstream in the Newfound River, lake levels remained below management objectives. Looking forward to summer 2021, we are already experiencing dry conditions. The Dam Bureau is taking this into consider-



ation, aiming to err on the side of higher lake levels, all while keeping an eye on intense storms that can quickly cause the lake to rise.

Balance is the best approach for the upcoming summer.

For more information on lake level, visit the NLRA website: newfoundlake.org/lake-level/.

The NH Department of Environmental Services Dam Bureau is keeping a close eye on lake levels this year.

Photo: Ashley Kuplin



NLRA EcoTours leave from Grey Rocks Conservation Area and treat passengers of all ages to wildlife sightings, water quality demonstrations, and popular sites on Newfound Lake. Even life-long Newfounders learn something new with our guides.

EcoTours

The NLRA's EcoTour program provides passengers with an opportunity to explore the lake while learning about what makes this watershed so special. Sharing NLRA's mission and promoting access to the lake is crucial to the organization's success. This year, with considerations for reducing Covid exposure, we plan to expand the schedule so tours will be available Thursday through Monday. Our passengers spot wildlife such as loon and bald eagles, learn interesting and important facts and history about the lake, and participate in water quality testing. Our tour guides share their vast knowledge of area history and ecology and are looking forward to getting back on the water after taking 2020 off. For more information or to register for a tour, visit our website at newfoundlake.org/ecotours/.

AROUND THE LAKE

NLRA Welcomes New Trustees to the Board

The NLRA enthusiastically welcomes two new trustees to the board. Martha Twombly and Bill Brady have a long history at Newfound Lake and bring a variety of skills and experience to the board. We look forward to working with them and the leadership they bring to the board.

Martha Twombly

Martha has been coming to her grandfather's log cabin "Owls Head" on Newfound since her birth. She spent every summer at the lake and in the White Mountains, and winters skiing at Tenney Mountain. Her early career began in archaeology at the Museum of Northern Arizona. Later, she earned her MS in Environmental Communications and Science at Antioch University New England. Martha is passionate about the Newfound watershed and wildlife and worked for

several years at the NLRA as the Program Manager. She is actively involved in land conservation initiatives, and retired from the Society for the Protection of NH Forests. She is a founding member of the Newfound Land Conservation Partnership, has served as Chair of the Hebron Conservation Commission since 2006, and serves on several local boards. Martha is an avid gardener, kayaker, walker, bicyclist, wildlife tracker, and skier and is outside every chance she can.

Bill Brady

Bill is an executive and entrepreneur in the sustainable energy and advanced materials industries. He serves as Founding CEO and Director for Kula Bio, a sustainable and organic nitrogen fertilizer company. Bill is co-founder and director of Monolith Materials, a sustainable car-



Bill Brady



Martha Twombly

bon black and hydrogen company, and he serves on the board of Hollingsworth & Vose and Teknor Apex. Bill and his wife, Nancy, have been homeowners on Newfound since 2001. It's a place where their four children and golden retrievers spend their summers and enjoy hiking in the fall and skiing in the winter.

Welcome 2021 Watershed Stewards!

In our first two years with AmeriCorps members from the Lakes Region Conservation Corps, we have seen a boost in capacity for our organization through work at Grey Rocks, water quality monitoring, and volunteer projects.

In May, we are thrilled to welcome two new Watershed Stewards/AmeriCorps members to NLRA. Out of an impressive pool of candidates, we are excited to be joined by Karen Candia and Tenzing Syelneon.

Karen Candia

Karen is a graduate of Rhodes College in Tennessee and studied Ecology and Biodiversity. She spent time in Greece studying sea turtles, at the Memphis Zoo

caring for amphibians, and in Costa Rica for study abroad. Karen has experience in marketing and journalism as well as volunteer engagement and recruitment.



Karen Candia

Tenzing Syelneon

Tenzing graduated as a biology major at Lawrence University in Wisconsin. He has participated in projects focusing on microplastics, water conservation, and marine mammal biology. At Lawrence University he served as the coordinator of

a Diversity and Intercultural Center and played on the NCAA Division III soccer team.

Through partnerships with watershed towns, camps, and organizations they will participate in all aspects of our work: land conservation, monitoring water quality, and representing NRLA at local events. To follow along with our Watershed Stewards' projects and experiences visit the Watershed Stewards page on our website (newfoundlake.org/watershed-stewards/).



Tenzing Syelneon

Annual Message from the Treasurer

by Jim Fitts, Treasurer

I'm pleased to report strong results for 2020 which leaves your organization in great financial shape. Despite the economic hardships caused by the pandemic, our supporters continued to recognize the important work NLRA does in protecting the Newfound Lake watershed. Total revenue of \$500,452 easily covered our expenses, reduced due to restricted operations, of \$382,393. This left us in a stronger cash position going into 2021 than normal, which makes us optimistic about expanding our work in the new year.

While operations contributed to our healthy financial condition, the market also had a net positive effect on our endowment. More important was the increase in the endowment's Program & Partnerships Fund made possible through the generous contributions of Steve and Cheryl Jonas, and many other supporters who contributed to help support NLRA's educational programming, while extending our partnerships with organizations that support our mission. Our total endowed funds climbed from \$550,755 at the beginning of the year to \$792,715 at year end.

This gives us a great foundation on which to build the future of NLRA. Thanks to all our supporters for making this happen.

The Clear Water Society

Clear Water Society members leave a legacy that lasts longer than a lifetime

The Clear Water Society is an esteemed group of NLRA benefactors who have chosen to take a long view in support of our mission to protect and conserve the Newfound Watershed by including an estate gift that will support the Newfound Lake Region Association in the future. We are grateful to our Clear Water Society members for their commitment and leadership.

Dick and Linda Beyer
Peter and Beth (Huntley) Cole*
Margaret Depopolo
Kelly Dunn
Keith and Angeline Harger
Rob and Laura Moore*
Chris Keppelman and Jim Mulroy
Leslie Sanderson
Andrew and Maura Veilleux

If you have any questions about including NLRA in your will or trust, or to let us know that you have already included the NLRA in your estate planning, please contact Karen Bemis, Development Director at (603) 744-8689 or karen@newfoundlake.org

**new members*



Clear Water Society members — those that have made a planned gift to NLRA — help protect Newfound today and in the future. Photo: Jane Brown Sparks

NLRA 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

In an unpredictable year, our donors made their priority clear. Here we recognize all donations received in 2020. We thank our supporters for their commitment to the Newfound watershed.

* Indicates Shore to Shore Society members, our longest-giving donors, who have included NLRA in their charitable giving for 15 years or more.

Note: We apologize for any errors or unintentional omissions. Please contact Audrey West to submit corrections: 603-744-8689, audrey@newfoundlake.org.

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Continued from previous page

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Boyd Smith & Annette Zamarchi
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Paul & Elizabeth Wilson
Marc & Solveig Wolstenholme
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Timothy & Rama Ziegenhals

\$1-\$100

Beth & Michael Aaronson
Dean Abruzzio & Family
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Dennis & Susan Bogdan
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James & Lucinda Brann
Mary Brescia
Lori & Dave Bresnahan
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James Broderick III
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Lynn Brooks
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Lori Circeo
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Mary Cody
Ilse Cogean
Peter & Elizabeth Cole
Judith & Danny Coll
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Richard Cooney*
Glenn Coppelman
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Richard & Martha Cunningham*
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Elizabeth Deane
Eleanor & Paul Debassio
Joanne Degiacomo
Donna & Rick Delancey*
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Carl Deluca
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Paul Doherty
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Nils Eddy
Emme Erdossy
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Brad Esthus
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Alan Farwell
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Stephen Finn
Denise Finn McDonough
James & Patricia Finnegan
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Ella Fitzgerald
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Peter & Jacqueline Flood
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Ted & Coleen French
Meredith Funston
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Kristen Gould
Erin Graichen
Donna & John Graves
Kevin & Judy Gray
Kevin & Amy Greeley
William & Jacqueline Habig
James & Julia Hall
William & Patricia Hamlett*
Erin Hanley & Thomas Barbieri

NLRA 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Continued from previous page

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Henry & Linda Vollmer
VSH Cottage LLC, the Hantz Family
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Donn & Diane Weinholtz
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James & Lin Westberg
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Douglas Wilcox
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Linda Wirth
Phyllis Woestemeyer
Susan & Matthew Yardley
Brendan Yout
Richard Zarbo
Shirley Ziebarth

Homeowner Associations

\$500-\$1,000

Sleepy Hollow
Stone Gate Acres Association

\$250-\$499

Camp Greenwood Estates
Clubhouse Maintenance Association*
Whittemore Improvement Association*
Whittemore Shores Condo Association

\$100-\$249

Bridgewater Hills Association
Camelot Acres Residents Association
Don Gerry Condos
Shackett's Landing*
Spruce Woodlands
Wagon Wheel Condo Association
Westview Estates Association
Windridge Condominium Association

Businesses

\$2,500 & Greater

Camp Pasquaney*
North East Genealogical Research
TD Bank
West Shore Marine, Greg & Gina
Wagner*

\$1,000-\$2,499

Allegro
Camp Onaway Trust*
Central Rivers Power
New Hampshire Center for Nonprofits
Les Mills DBA Newfound Ventures

\$500-\$999

The GE Foundation
Hewlett Packard Enterprise Foundation
Sandybeach of Newfound*
Timberloch Lodge*
Tom Edwards, Realtor

\$250-\$499

Altrusa International Foundation
Facebook
FM Global Foundation
Idle-A-While Antiques & Ice Cream
Liane Whittum

\$100-\$249

Amy-Jo Cottages
Basic Ingredients
Three Sisters Ecofarm
Blue Moon Motel
Camp Mowglis
Cardigan Mountain Massage, LLC
ExxonMobil
Hannaford Supermarkets
Hebron Area Womens Group
The Henry Whipple House
Kellie's Grooming, Lisa Gilpatric
The Mayhew Program
Melrose Symphony Orchestra
Patten Brook Pony Rides
Pennsylvania Horsebreeders Assoc. Inc.
Peter Brown & Sons Furniture*
Plymouth Ski & Sports, Daniel Masera
Roche Realty Group
Shackett's Supermarket*

NLRA 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Sound Point Capital
Verizon Foundation
Very Excellent American-Chinese
Restaurant & Bar

\$1–\$100

Golden Leaf Landscapes
IBM International Foundation
Michael Sharp Enterprises, LLC
Microsoft
Old Mill Properties, Lorna Platts
Paul F. Doyon School Staff
Riverview Artisans
Twiggy Wood Products

Towns

Alexandria
Bridgewater
Bristol
Groton
Hebron

In Honor & In Memory

Catherine Barrett
Kenneth D. Burke
Camp Onaway
Donald Cummings
Frank DeiPietro
Barbara & Bill DeMers
Thayer Fremont-Smith
David Gunther
William & Ann Houpt
Bettina Jenney
John Kilgallen
Nick Lawrence
Edward McCarthy
Kevin H. Mooney
Peter & Debbie O'Connor
Neil Peirce
Buzz Ringe
Helen Robinson
Mark & Lorrie Roughan
Jack Scarborough
Sterling Shangraw
Ann Shattuck Smith
Charles & Gloria Sheehan
John W. Spaeth III
Martha Twombly
Betsy Twombly
Phillip Twombly
Carolyn Waite

Correction:

NLRA recognizes Les Mills, DBA
Newfound Ventures, for a 2019
business contribution at the
\$2,500 & Greater level.

Volunteers Make Newfound Go Round

Volunteers are the core of conservation. Since NLRA's inception, our success in protecting the watershed has relied on volunteers, and 2020 was no different. With changes to our programs to ensure safety during the pandemic, our volunteers displayed amazing resilience as they continued to support our mission. During the 2020 season our volunteers:

- Gathered water samples from tributaries and Newfound Lake, adding to decades of water quality data that alert us to water quality trends and pollution problems.
- Maintained the trails and outdoor spaces we love.
- Kept Newfound Lake free of aquatic invasive species.
- Worked with property owners and partner organizations to conserve land within the watershed.
- Engaged the community through social media and events.
- Worked behind the scenes entering data, stuffing envelopes, thanking our members, and supporting our day-to-day operations.

2020 Volunteers

Cathy Bannon Redman
Paul Bemis
Kathy Bird
Karen Boyd
Joe Boyer
Bill Brady
Colleen Clausen
Paul DeBassio
Jim Fitts
Parker Griffin

George Grzyb
Steve Gunn
Heather Hack
Mary Hardiman
Andrea LaMoreaux
Bob Martens
Madeline McElaney
Finn McElaney
Steve McMahan
Ed McNierney

Rob Moore
Kevin Mullen
Alice Mullen
Rob Pinsonneault
Val Scarborough
David Shangraw
Jennifer Thomas
Martha Twombly
Greg Wagner
Ken Weidman



Volunteers are at the core of all of NLRA's mission work. From monitoring water quality to working to restore the ecological function at Grey Rocks Conservation Area, we are grateful for all the hard work of our volunteers.

AROUND THE LAKE

2021 Raffle

After a year hiatus, NLRA looks forward to our annual raffle for 2021. There are a number of great prizes this year donated by local businesses, including a paddleboard, original artwork, local get-aways, bike rentals, and gift certificates to many favorite local restaurants and shops. We are adding prizes as they are donated, so check our website for updated information.

Purchase your 2021 raffle tickets on our website (newfoundlake.org/raffle), with your donation through our spring appeal, and at the NLRA booth at the Hebron Fair on July 31, or at our annual meeting on August 7. Raffle drawing will take place on August 9.

The paddleboard is a coveted prize in NLRA's annual raffle. Purchase raffle tickets at newfoundlake.org.



Fully funded! The Endowment Fund for Programs and Partnerships

We are pleased to announce that we have met our fundraising goals for the new Endowment Fund for Programs and Partnerships in Honor of Boyd Smith. The challenge match — established by NLRA members Steve and Cheryl Jonas — in honor of NLRA's former Executive Director will now be put to work growing our programs and expanding our efforts to protect the Newfound Watershed.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE,

Cont'd from p. 2

protecting it resonate with me. I'm proud to be president of the NLRA, which has steadily evolved programs for water quality, education, and partnerships, working with the towns and introducing the lake and watershed to newcomers.

In the next fifty years and beyond, let's carry on the legacy of those who inspired me and so many others to keep NLRA strong in protecting the beautiful and pristine gem we all love — Newfound and its watershed.

Rob Moore,
NLRA President

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,

Cont'd from p. 2

and community engagement. We've talked about the value of Grey Rocks Conservation Area to our community and how it should look in the future. Our community survey provided great insight into how our work is perceived by our supporters and neighbors.

A plan is really just the beginning. I look forward to putting it to work protecting this special place.

Rebecca Hanson,
NLRA Executive Director

AROUND THE LAKE

LAND CONSERVATION – A COLLABORATION, Cont'd from p. 1

Hampshire economy. And conserved land can lead to tax savings since open space requires less town infrastructure — schools, roads, and life-services — so they are less of a tax burden for taxpayers than residential development.

In 2007, a group of individuals concerned with the pace of development in the watershed met to determine how to balance new development with land conservation. From these efforts the Newfound Land Conservation Partnership (NLCP) was established in 2009 and has now driven land conservation in the Newfound Watershed for over a decade. This group, comprised of local watershed residents, the Newfound Lake Region Association, Lakes Region Conservation Trust, Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, The Nature Conservancy (new to the partnership in 2017), and representatives from NH

Audubon, has helped conserve 5,000 acres of land since its inception. Over 14,000 acres, or 24% of land in the Newfound watershed, is now protected.

The NLCP works with landowners to discuss their goals and the many options for permanent protection for their property, whether for wildlife improvement, to keep land in the family, or to continue farming and forestry. This can mean a number of things, including donating or selling a conservation easement for the property or an outright sale or donation of the property. In 2011, the John Gemmill Fund was established to assist landowners in covering transaction costs, such as surveys, appraisals, and stewardship funds for land conservation projects.

In 2016 NLRA worked with state mapping experts and watershed representatives to identify areas most important for conservation. Representatives rated the water-

shed's wetlands, streams, wildlife habitat, and steep slopes, from most important to least important, resulting in a series of maps that identify conservation priorities. NLCP uses these maps to identify land that is important to conserve.

Notable NLCP projects include the conservation of the Kimball Hill property in 2018, which protected a vast stretch of the Cockermouth River subwatershed. The partnership is currently working with landowners in all five watershed towns and looking to protect property around the Alexandria aquifer, which provides drinking water to the town of Bristol and supplies a significant amount of water to the lake through the Fowler River.

Learn more about land conservation and the work of the Newfound Land Conservation Partnership by visiting the NLRA website: newfoundlake.org/landconservation/.

NLRA participates in the NLCP as the local watershed group.
We also hold conservation easements and own conservation property!

Grey Rocks Conservation Area

In 2011, we were given Grey Rocks Conservation Area which is protected by a conservation easement. We work closely with the easement holder — the Lakes Region Conservation Trust — to make sure all of our management and restoration activities fit within the legal requirements of the conservation easement. NLRA is working to restore the ecological function of Grey Rocks, while allowing for access and enjoyment of this beautiful area along the Cockermouth River.



Goose Pond and Sugarloaf Conservation Area

We also hold the conservation easement for the Goose Pond and Sugarloaf Conservation Area in Alexandria. As easement holders, we work with the landowner — the Lakes Region Conservation Trust — to make sure that their land management activities are in accordance with the legal stipulations in the easement. We monitor the property annually, including walking the property boundary, to ensure compliance with the easement.

Photo: Ashley Kuplin



THE MONITOR

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Newfound Lake Region Association

10 N. Main St. Unit 1

Bristol, New Hampshire 03222

Telephone: 603-744-8689

info@newfoundlake.org

newfoundlake.org

2021 SUMMER EVENTS



July 24, 1pm:	Annual Around the Lake Sailing Race, Grey Rocks, Hebron. Registration required.
July 27, 9am-12pm:	Guided paddle with Rick Van de Poll, Grey Rocks, Hebron. Registration required.
July 31, 9am-4pm:	Hebron Fair, Hebron Center
August 7, 9am:	NLRA Annual Meeting and Gathering, Grey Rocks, Hebron. Registration requested.
September 25, 1-3pm:	Mushroom Foray with Rick Van de Poll, Grey Rocks, Hebron. Registration required.

Ongoing events

Volunteer Days:	Fourth Thursdays, June through September, Grey Rocks, Hebron
Story Time:	First Fridays in June through October, Grey Rocks, Hebron. A partnership with the Minot-Sleeper Library and Slim Baker Foundation
Nature Station:	July 14 & 17, October 13 & 16, 10am-12pm, Grey Rocks, Hebron
Story Walk®:	August 28 through October 3, Grey Rocks, Hebron
Guided Explorations with Watershed Stewards:	First and third Thursdays, July through October

To learn more and register for events, please visit newfoundlake.org/events.