

OSSIPEE LAKE REPORT

STATE SEEKS APPROVALS FOR LEAVITT BAY MILFOIL PLAN

Moving quickly after receiving input from the public at an informational meeting held at Ossipee Town Hall in October, officials of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) have started laying the groundwork for treating Leavitt Bay's milfoil in the spring.

A request for bids to treat the invasive weeds with the aquatic herbicide "Reward" was issued in November to the two companies that are licensed to perform such work in New Hampshire.

At the October meeting, which the Alliance co-sponsored with Ossipee's Selectmen, Ken Warren, a state specialist in iden-



Ken Warren of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services explained the options for treating the Phillips Brook milfoil at a public meeting hosted by the Alliance and Ossipee's Selectmen. *Alliance Photo*

tifying and treating exotic species, outlined the state's recommended control plan and fielded questions from elected officials and property owners, including residents of Phil-

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

COURT PONDERES OSSIPEE LAKE MARINA EXPANSION

The long-running Ossipee Lake Marina case made its way to Superior Court on October 3rd when Judge James D. O'Neill heard briefs filed by the marina's owner and two groups of lake property owners, all of whom are unhappy with zoning decisions made by the town of Freedom regard-

ing the Marina's business expansion.

Attorneys say a ruling from the court is expected soon. A synopsis of the issues involved in the case appears in the winter, 2003, issue of this newsletter which is available on the "Newsroom" page of the Alliance website at www.ossipeelake.org.

E-MAIL NEWS SERVICE KEEPS LAKE COMMUNITY CONNECTED

When the Alliance was formed last year, one of the challenges it faced was communicating with a lake community that is predominantly seasonal.

While a quarterly newsletter sent to a permanent mailing address is suitable for lengthy articles on programs and issues, the long lead-time required to publish it makes it unsuitable for communicating more time-sensitive information.

The Internet and its most popular application, e-mail, offered a solution that resulted in the creation of *Ossipee Lake News*, a free e-mail headline information service that began last May and now has more than 400 subscribers in 11 states.

With the Internet's ability to distribute information instantaneously, *Ossipee Lake News* can reach a large part of the lake community whenever it's important to get news out quickly.

In October, for example, the Alliance and Ossipee's Board of Selectmen arranged a public meeting to discuss the options for treating the milfoil infestation in Leavitt Bay. *Ossipee Lake News* subscribers knew about the meeting well in advance of the printed announcement that appeared in the local newspapers, which sometimes can take a week or more to reach out-of-state subscribers.

For Leavitt Bay property owner Don Harnois, the advance e-mail notice provided the extra time needed to make arrangements to leave his home in Massachusetts early enough to attend: "I felt it was important to understand the issues and be able to ask questions about the available treatments, and I would not have wanted to miss the meeting."

Broad Bay subscriber Diane Pinkham says it's the simplicity of the news format that's important. "Unlike a newspaper I don't have to find a place to put it for later reading once I have perused it for priority details. It's always on my

computer and I can easily forward the information to neighbors or family members."

Ossipee Lake News also covers news of interest to the lake community that may not be reported in the local newspapers, such as updates on proposed lakes legislation. Conversely, the *News* also reprints important stories covered by reporters for the Independent and the Conway Daily Sun that seasonal residents would miss if they do not subscribe to the papers during the winter.

The *Ossipee Lake News* e-mail service is free and available to anyone who registers on the Alliance website, which is at www.ossipeelake.org.

2003 Lake Host Data Released

It may have been one of the rainiest summers in years, but 764 boats entered Ossipee Lake at the Pine River public boat ramp on weekends and holidays from June 14th through Labor Day.

That is one of the statistics gleaned from the data collected during the 2003 Lake Host program managed by the Alliance and Green Mountain Conservation Group, with funding provided through the New Hampshire Lakes Association.

Despite an extensive ongoing state information program, approximately one-third of the boaters using the ramp expressed only a "low" to "medium" level of awareness of the threats posed by invasive plants such as milfoil and hydrilla.

Nearly 80% of the surveyed boats were registered in New Hampshire, a majority from towns within a 50 mile radius of the ramp, while 10% were from Massachusetts and 5% were from Maine.



TO OUR READERS

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

MILFOIL TREATMENT IN THE WORKS

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lips Brook and Leavitt Bay, where the infestation is located.

Warren said that after several site visits in September he ruled out hand-harvesting or smothering the weeds with large mats as not feasible due to the size and density of the mass. He went on to detail aquatic herbicide control treatments that NHDES has used elsewhere in the state without impact to the environment. At the end of the presentation a show of hands registered support for chemical treatments from those in attendance, which included local officials and Leavitt Bay property owners.

In addition to the state's belief in the inherent safety of the herbicide, a further control exists in that a permit must be

obtained from the state's Department of Agriculture by the company that is selected to treat the weeds. Concurrently, Phillips Brook property owners will be contacted and asked to sign a release form authorizing the control treatment.

While the state's policy is to pay for initial milfoil control treatments, Warren said that NHDES does not have enough money in its budget to pay for all of the lakes that have applied this year. He said that the Leavitt Bay treatment will be covered, however.

The Alliance has been working with the Ossipee and Freedom Selectmen to establish contingency funds to cover future treatments on the lake if state funds are not available. Effingham and Wakefield are two area towns that have already established such funds.

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

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