



The Beacon

Winter Education Activities

LSPA environmental education was in high gear this winter thanks to Kathleen Stowell, LSPA Education Director, and Nancy Heckel, Environmental Educator. All told, **2,346** students and adults participated in LSPA education programs.

From November 2015 through May 2016, LSPA provided dozens of environmental education programs and events for preschoolers, home schoolers, and grades K – 6 in the Newport, Sunapee and Kearsarge school districts.

“Students in all grades and all school districts remain highly motivated and enthusiastic about the environmental topics we present,” says Stowell.

In December, preschoolers and first and second graders learned about how animals prepare for the winter and how they cope with the cold. In January, the ever-popular Trout in the Classroom was set up in four schools – Kearsarge Regional Middle School (Grade 6), Sunapee (Grades K and 4), Richards School (Grade K), and Bradford/Newbury Elementary (Grade 5). (See picture, page 2.)

Preschoolers from Headstart and Cinnamon Street in Newport, and ABC preschool in New London, enjoyed monthly programs on winter-themed environmental topics. After-school programs were held at Abbott Library in Sunapee, the Sutton Library, and the Newbury Library.

LSPA also launched “Out and About at LSPA and The Fells” with two program offerings – “When Winter Comes” and “Animals in Winter”.



On May 14, LSPA received the New Hampshire Fish & Game Watershed Award for LSPA’s “Trout in the Classroom” programs. Kathleen Stowell, (right in picture) LSPA Education Director, and Nancy Heckel, (left in picture) LSPA Environmental Educator, accepted the award while attending the Watershed Education Program Teacher Recognition Day at The Fells. The event offered professional development for teachers on water quality and watershed activities.

Summer of Science

Aquatic science takes center stage this summer as LSPA launches several science investigations.

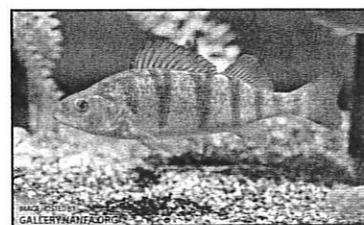
Gloeo Gathering

LSPA staff members plan to take daily plankton tows at the LSPA Buoy site and at another site near Herrick Cove, where a volunteer has been taking daily tows for many years. The focused activity is designed to surface specific data on the emergence of the cyanobacterium *Gloeoetrichia echinulata* (Gloeo). Owen Krol, a 2015 LSPA summer intern, is rejoining our team

this summer to help with this project.

Going Fishing

LSPA is planning to go fishing and will conduct tissue sampling on yellow perch and other loon feeder fish. The



objective is to understand some of the chemistry in the fish relative to the

Continued on page 3

Featured in this Issue

<i>Summer of Science</i>	1, 3	<i>Lake Hosts 2016</i>	5
<i>Winter Education Activities</i>	1	<i>Summer Programs</i>	5,6
<i>From the Helm</i>	2	<i>Bottom Lines</i>	6
<i>Did You Know</i>	3	<i>Jumping into the Water</i>	8
<i>Invasive Species Update</i>	4	<i>State of the Lake</i>	10
<i>Watershed Committee Update</i>	4	<i>Summer of Interns</i>	11

Spring/Summer 2016 Selected pages



Watershed Committee Update

LSPA Watershed Committee members met with the planning boards and select boards in the four watershed towns throughout winter and spring to discuss compliance challenges in each town. The good news is that all of the towns have addressed some aspect of the watershed land use compliance topic. Further, each town has plans for continued efforts aimed at meeting the challenges of watershed protection moving forward.

LSPA has been asked by the four towns to help with educating property owners, builders, contractors and town officials on watershed compliance. With that in mind, the LSPA Watershed Committee is doing the following:

- July 26 at the LSPA Learning Center: *Protecting Shorelands to Preserve Water Quality*, a presentation and discussion given Jay Aube, NHDES Shoreland Program, and LSPA's Robert Wood.
- Meeting with the Conservation Commissions in each town to determine the most effective educational topics for board members and residents, and providing follow up direction and support for the above.
- Scheduling a targeted multi-town meeting of town officials in September which includes a designated speaker, customized discussion topics, and a town-by-town update on the progress made regarding watershed compliance.
- Presenting an ongoing strategy for stormwater management education for property owners, builders and contractors via a pre-application meeting to review proposed building plans.

The end result? Educated residents, town officials, property owners, builders and contractors lead to not only compliance but also to a better understanding of how stormwater measures will protect our water resources for future generations.

Invasives Species Update

Lake Sunapee remains free of invasive plant or animal species thanks to Lake Hosts who perform courtesy inspections and outreach to visitors (See "Lake Hosts 2016," page 5), our dedicated volunteers participating in LSPA's Invasive Watch program, and the visiting boaters who diligently clean, drain and dry their watercraft and gear before launching into Lake Sunapee.

Last year, a fragment of invasive Eurasian milfoil was removed by a Lake Host from a boat trailer upon launching at the State Beach ramp. That said, most boats launching into Lake Sunapee today are free of any plant fragments or animal species which is due in large part to the **Clean, Drain and Dry** public awareness campaign in NH and nationwide.

Good News: Our Lake Hosts report that most boaters using Lake Sunapee are aware of invasive aquatic species and the negative impact they can have on a waterbody.

Bad News: It takes only one invasive plant fragment or animal species on one boat to start a new infestation. Unfortunately, new infestations continue to be found in NH and in the Northeast every year.

In 2015 the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) verified four new infestations of an invasive plant not commonly seen in NH called spiny or brittle naiad. The plant looks a lot like the native naiad species (also known as water nymph) which grows in Lake Sunapee. The spiny/brittle naiad was found in three small waterbodies in the southeastern part of NH and in Salmon Falls River. Like other invasive plants, spiny/brittle naiad tends to grow and spread quickly, crowding out native species and becoming a nuisance to boaters and recreationists.

Variable milfoil remains a concern. In 2015 new infestations were found in four waterbodies in central NH, including Pawtuckaway Pond in Pawtuckaway State Park. According to DES, there are now over **80 waterbodies** statewide infested with this invasive plant.

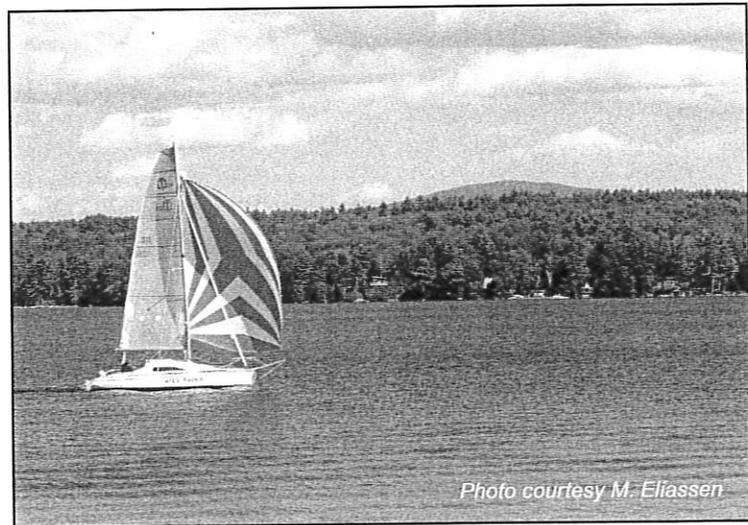


Photo courtesy M. Eliassen

Since the early 1900s, sailors have hoisted their sails and harnessed the wind to enjoy the beauty of a day spent on Lake Sunapee. Recent decades have witnessed a growing sailing community on the lake. Today, for sailors of all ages, nothing competes with a day of wind-in-the-sails until the sun sets on the shoreline of Lake Sunapee.