



LAKESIDE

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Lake-Friendly Living Goes Statewide!

A few years ago, we were told by our members and partners that NH LAKES needed to do more to keep our lakes clean and healthy. Our board and staff accepted that challenge and we raised money, hired more staff, and developed new programs. This past summer, NH LAKES did more—in fact, more than ever before! By launching our LakeSmart Living Program, we also inspired community groups and property owners throughout the state to do more!

The NH LAKES LakeSmart Program is an education and reward program that assists property owners in managing their activities and the landscape in ways that keep our lakes clean and healthy. The program is free, voluntary, and non-regulatory. It begins with an online survey asking property owners questions about their property and activities. Property owners can then request a confidential follow-up site visit with a LakeSmart evaluator. Property owners that don't wish to have a site visit can submit photos for evaluation.

Owners of properties that score high on the evaluation receive the LakeSmart Award—two LakeSmart yard signs and a dock sign. Property owners are asked to display their awards to pique the interest of their friends, neighbors, and others in the community. (LakeSmart signs are also

posted in community gathering places in LakeSmart communities to raise awareness.) If a property doesn't initially score high, the owner will receive recommendations for achieving LakeSmart status.

As of mid-September, 75 property owners at 21 lakes had taken the LakeSmart survey and 64 property visits had been conducted. Of these properties, 23 received the LakeSmart Award. In addition, two local associations—the Clough Pond Association and the Deering Lake

Improvement Association—were trained to deliver the program in their community!

We have received tremendous positive feedback on the launch of LakeSmart, and it's clear we have just scratched the surface of making lake-friendly living the norm in New Hampshire! Stay tuned—this winter we will be building a LakeSmart program for service providers. In the meantime, we invite you to visit nhlakes.org/lakesmart to take the property owner survey.



Jerry Cooper (right) of the Kolelemook Lake Protective Association and Andrea LaMoreaux (left) of NH LAKES were pleased to tell Nancy Bower (center) she was the first in the state to receive the NH LAKES LakeSmart Award!