

Lakes Region

BOATING

Lake Host courtesy boat inspection program celebrates its 20th year

CONCORD — NH LAKES has announced its Lake Host courtesy boat inspection program is turning 20 this year. For the 20th summer, the organization's nearly 800 Lake Hosts are teaching boaters at 100 of the busiest boat ramps throughout the state how to clean their boats to prevent the spread of invasive species.

Boating activities on New Hampshire's lakes last summer increased as more people found ways to enjoy outdoor recreation during the pandemic and that trend is continuing this summer. And, more people boating means more chances to spread aquatic invasive species from waterbody to waterbody. The primary way invasive species spread is on boats that have not been thoroughly cleaned,

drained, and dried between waterbodies.

Approximately 90 New Hampshire waterbodies contain infestations of invasive species that can clog boat motors and propellers, making boating unpleasant and difficult. Invasive species can make swimming dangerous and are difficult and expensive to manage. And, they are nearly impossible to get rid of once firmly established in a waterbody. Thanks to the efforts of Lake Hosts, the rate of spread of invasive plants — including milfoil — from lake to lake in New Hampshire has slowed over the past 19 years.

NH LAKES asks that all boaters take the following simple steps after taking their

See next page



Lake Hosts and boaters work together to prevent the spread of invasive species from waterbody to waterbody. (Courtesy photo)



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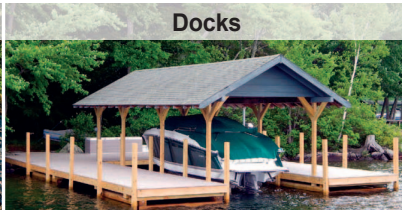
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from preceding page

boat out of the water to prevent the spread of invasive species:

CLEAN: Clean off all mud, plants, animals, and debris from your boat, trailer, and gear. Clean off anchors and anchor lines, water intake grates on jet-powered craft, kayak and canoe cockpits, storage compartments, and paddles, too! Dispose of all material away from the lake where it won't wash back into the water. Cleaning is the law in New Hampshire.

DRAIN: Drain the motor, bilge, live wells, ballast tanks, storage compartments, and gear. Blow out water in jet-powered craft and tip paddle craft and motors to let out water. Drain all equipment in an area where the water won't flow back into the lake. **OPEN/REMOVE** drain plugs and keep out/open while trailering. Draining is the law in New Hampshire.

DRY: If possible, wait at least five days before launching into the lake again. If you don't have five days, dry off everything that came in contact with the water — a towel will work.

"The thousands of individuals who have served as Lake Hosts over the years are truly heroes. If you have been part of our Lake Host Team — thank you — and please pat yourself on the back!" commented Andrea LaMoreaux, NH LAKES president. "If you know a Lake Host, or see a Lake Host this summer during your travels, please take a moment to thank them."

For more information, visit nhlakes.org, email info@nhlakes.org, or call 603-226-0299

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LAKE REGION BOATING

Did you know?

Statistics from the United States Coast Guard indicate that, in 2019, 86 percent of drowning victims in recreational boating accidents where cause of death was known were not wearing life jackets. The National Park Service reports that drowning is the top cause of visitor deaths in national parks and that nearly all of those deaths are preventable. One of the simplest ways to prevent drowning is to follow the advice of the NPS and wear a life jacket at all times when near or in the water. This includes when wading, swimming, fishing, boating, and engaging in watersports or other water-related activities. The NPS notes that there are three types of life jackets, but only two come in child and infant sizes. Inherently buoyant (primarily foam) life jackets and hybrid (foam and inflation) life jackets are available in child and infant sizes. The NPS recommends both types of life jackets for swimmers and non-swimmers. People who intend to engage in water sports should know that some hybrid life jackets are designed specifically for such activities. The third type of life jacket is inflatable life jackets, which are only available in adult sizes and should never be worn by poor or non-swimmers.

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Lakes Region

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LAKES REGION BOATING

Fay's Boat Yard to hold free boating classes in July

GILFORD — There will be four 'classes' available at Fay's Boat Yard for those who boat. Any boater (husband and/or wife) might consider coming to one or more of them! Young adults over the age of 16 are also welcome. Class size will be limited to 10 people per class and advanced sign-up is required. The times and dates and the subject of the classes are:

How to Read a Chart 101

In this class we will take a look at the various charts of Lake Winnepesaukee and through a Powerpoint presentation, give some differences between them. Also planned is a discussion on what the various buoys indicate, what sort of warning signs are on the lake (for boaters), and by the end of the class you should have some basic knowledge of charting on Lake Winnepesaukee.

Schedule

- Saturday, July 17 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

- Sunday, July 18 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon
- Sunday, Aug. 1 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- Monday, Aug. 2 from 10 a.m. to noon

Knot Tying

How do you secure your boat to a dock? Do you know how to tie a square knot, a clove hitch, a cleat knot, a bowline, a taught-line hitch, or two half-hitches?? By the end of this class, you will. And, you get to keep the line to practice with afterwards.

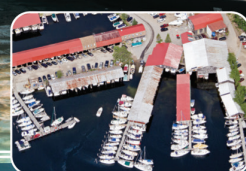
Schedule

- Saturday, July 17 from 10 a.m. to noon
- Monday, July 19 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- Sunday, August 1 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon
- Monday, August 2 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

See next page

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LAKES REGION BOATING

from preceding page

Ladies at the Helm

Sorry guys, this is for the ladies only! A brief classroom time, discussing boat operation and handling, and then, courtesy of Fay's Boat Yard, we'll go out on a pontoon boat for some practical work (weather permitting). After that, if you're interested in further instruction, arrangements can be made with a qualified instructor for individual lessons on your own boat.

Schedule

- Sunday, July 18 - from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- Monday, July 19 - from 10 a.m. to 12 noon
- Saturday, July 31 - from 10 a.m. to 12 Noon
- Saturday, July 31 - from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Docking 101

This "class" will be held only by appointment because it will be done on your own boat with a qual-

ified staff member or member of the United States Power Squadrons. There is a small fee for the instructor's time.

Schedule

- "Docking 101" will be held by individual appointment only.

To register for one of the above classes you can call or email linda@faysboatyard.com.

Fay's also has a USPS Certified Instructor who will hold a Boater's Certificate class if there are enough interested people (10 or more) to justify it. If you have a child (or a grandchild) who is 15 years of age or older and who does not have their Boater's Certificate, now is your chance to help them get theirs. This is a United States Power Squadron certified course and exceeds the requirements for the NH Boating Certificate. There is a fee (less than what the state of NH charges) and a discount available to two people sharing the same book. Contact Linda for more information at Linda@faysboatyard.com

Send letters to: news@laconiadailysun.com

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