

# Lakes Region BOATING



## How to navigate the new boating decal requirements for the 2025 season

If you've been out on the water recently, you may have noticed a new sticker appearing on the bows of New Hampshire boats. Beginning Jan. 1, all motorboats registered in the state are required to display not one, but two decals: the traditional boat registration sticker and a new state boating fee decal. This update, prompted by federal requirements, ensures that New Hampshire remains eligible for critical funding from the U.S. Coast Guard.

The change comes from House Bill 1304, which was signed into law in response to a Coast Guard audit that found New Hampshire's previous bundled fee system did not meet federal standards. In years past, the state collected a single fee as part of boat registration that supported a variety of boating-related programs. Under the

new system, these fees must be accounted for separately, and that's where the new decal comes in. While the increase to boaters is minimal, the new decal carries a \$3 fee to cover the cost of the new sticker.

Starting in 2025, boaters receive two decals when they register their vessel. The first is the familiar registration sticker. The second is a boating safety and access fee decal, which must also be displayed on the forward half of the hull, one on each side of the bow.

The new sticker makes it easier for the state to track compliance with how funds



By **BREE ROSSITER**  
Lake Winnepesaukee Alliance

are used, satisfying federal grant rules and maintaining access to essential resources for boating infrastructure and safety.

The fees collected through this program directly support a range of services that benefit everyone on the water. These include the New Hampshire Marine Patrol, which enforces boating laws and responds to emergencies; the Department of Environmental Services' aquatic invasive species prevention efforts; and infrastructure maintenance projects like public boat launches, docks, and navigation markers. The funds also support

boater education programs that promote safe and responsible recreation on New Hampshire's lakes and rivers.

Out-of-state boaters should also be aware of an existing law requiring the purchase of an Aquatic Invasive Species decal. Any motorized vessel not registered in New Hampshire must display a \$20 AIS decal before launching in New Hampshire waters. This annual fee helps fund prevention and monitoring efforts aimed at protecting lakes from harmful invasive species such as variable milfoil and spiny water flea.

Whether you live here year-round or are just visiting for the summer, it's important to stay informed and in compliance. While the second decal may seem like a small change, it plays a big

see **DECAL** page 21



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## LAKES REGION BOATING

### Lake Winnepesaukee Alliance to host open house

MEREDITH — The Lake Winnepesaukee Alliance, the leading nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting Lake Winnepesaukee and its watershed, will host an open house at its new office on Wednesday, June 25, from 3 to 6 p.m.

Located at 45 NH Route 25, Unit A2 (directly across from Hannaford Supermarket) in Meredith, the new space accommodates the growing staff and expanded programs to protect Lake Winnepesaukee from threats to its water quality.

Guests are encouraged to stop by to meet the team members and some members of the board of directors as well as learn about the critical work LWA is doing to protect New Hampshire's largest lake. The event will feature light fare and beverages in a casual setting that features the incredible work of local fine art landscape photographer, Jeremy Noyes.

"This move marks an important milestone for our organization," said President Patricia Tarpey. "We're excited to welcome the community into our new space, share our vision, and celebrate the people and partnerships that make our mission possible."

### 15th Annual Storywalk and monarch citizen science project kicks off in Holderness

HOLDERNESS — The 15th annual StoryWalk — a collaboration between Squam Lakes Natural Science Center, Holderness Recreation Department, and Holderness Free Library, with support from Meredith Village Savings Bank — is set to begin soon. The kickoff event will take place on Friday, June 27, at 10 a.m. at the Curry Place Gazebo, located behind the Holderness Post Office.

This year's featured story is "Mr. McGinty's Monarchs" by Linda Vander Heyden, inviting families to enjoy reading and nature while walking the Story-Walk path.

In conjunction with StoryWalk, the Science Center, supported by Squam Lakes Conservation Society, will launch a community citizen science project to monitor monarch butterfly larvae on milkweed. Starting Monday, June 30, interested participants are invited to join weekly monitoring sessions every Monday at 9:30 a.m. at the Pemi-Oxbow Preserve that straddles Holderness, Plymouth and Ashland.

By tracking the presence of monarch eggs and larvae, volunteers will contribute valuable data to the Monarch Larva Monitoring Project, a nationwide initiative to better understand monarch breeding, distribution, and population health. Community involvement is vital to these efforts, helping scientists and conservationists protect monarchs and their habitats for future generations.

Attendees should meet in the back left corner of the Plymouth State University Ice Arena parking lot at 9:30 a.m. on Monday mornings through the end of August. Contact Heidi Emmons for more information at heidi.emmons@nhnature.org.

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# LAKES REGION BOATING

Lakes Region

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# LAKES REGION BOATING



New Hampshire Boat Museum will host an artist reception featuring paintings by Lake Winnepesaukee-based artist and teacher Ann Xavier on Thursday, July 10, from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. (Courtesy photo)

## New Hampshire Boat Museum artist reception to feature artist Ann Xavier

MOULTONBOROUGH — New Hampshire Boat Museum will host an artist reception featuring paintings by Lake Winnepesaukee-based artist and teacher Ann Xavier on Thursday, July 10, from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Xavier describes herself as an “American impressionist inspired by beautiful scenery, soulful architecture, water, and light.” Her primary medium is oils, but she paints with acrylics and watercolors when it “fits the situation.”

“The colors I use are those in nature, and I like to emphasize extraordinary moments,” she said. “Seeing the boats at the museum has been an inspiration, too. I love old wooden boats, and many years ago I worked with some friends to restore a few.”

In addition to her fondness for boats, Xavier cited a love for the Lakes Region itself, as she started visiting the area with her family in 1988 before eventually moving there many years ago.

“My daughters have grown up around the Lake — we all have cherished memories,” she added.

Originally from Queens, New York, Xavier has an art degree from Rhode Island School of Design. She taught art classes in Rhode Island for 30 years, at the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen in Meredith and Sandwich, and Castle in the Clouds in Moultonborough.

She has been a member of the Boca Raton Museum of Art Artists Guild and is currently a member of the Lakes Center for the Arts. Her work has appeared in numerous exhibits, including Castle in the Clouds’ Christmas at the Castle celebration. She was also featured on the cover of the Town of Center Harbor’s Annual Report in 2021.

To learn more, visit [nhbm.org](http://nhbm.org).

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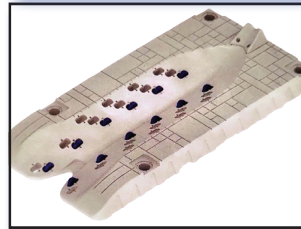


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## Geologist to explore formation of lakes and mountains in NH

MEREDITH — Lake Winnepesaukee waters attract tens of thousands each year to enjoy its refreshing waters, its scenic beauty and its abundance of year-round sporting activities. But how many are aware of the big lake's genesis — how it happened to appear at the foot of the Appalachian Mountains in the middle of the Granite State?



**THOMPSON**

Retired geologist Woodrow "Woody" Thompson will provide the answers at the next offering of the Meredith Historical Society's 2025 Speaker Series, slated for Tuesday, July 1.

Thompson's program is titled "Ice Age Glaciers: How They Shaped New Hampshire's Lakes Region and White Mountains." It will explore how glaciers that covered all of New Hampshire began melting some 12,000 years ago, eventually opening up a landscape dotted with lakes and mountains for habitation by aboriginal humans.

"Lake Winnepesaukee and the White Mountains have become the crown jewels of New Hampshire," said Historical Society President John Hopper. "It will be interesting to learn from Woody how our state's Lakes and Mountain Regions were carved out by Nature."

In addition to his knowledge of local geology, Thompson also has a deep historical connection to Meredith. He is a linear descendant of Benjamin and Rebecca (Pike) Pease, who settled on a farm along a local section of the Province Road in Meredith about 1779. Thompson grew up in Holderness and majored in geology at Dartmouth College. He earned his master's degree from the University of Vermont and Ph.D. from Ohio State University.

For more information, visit [meredithhistoricalsocietynh.org](http://meredithhistoricalsocietynh.org).

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## LAKES REGION BOATING

**DECAL** from page 16

role in sustaining the programs that make New Hampshire's waterways safer, cleaner, and more accessible to all.

For more information on the new boating decal requirements, visit [dmv.nh.gov](http://dmv.nh.gov).

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Bree Rossiter is the conservation program manager for the Lake Winnepesaukee Alliance. She leads the water quality

and cyanobacteria monitoring efforts, coordinates the LakeSmart program to promote lake-friendly practices among property owners, and supports community education and outreach initiatives. Bree can be reached at [brossiter@winnepesaukee.org](mailto:brossiter@winnepesaukee.org). The Lake Winnepesaukee Alliance is the only nonprofit dedicated to protecting the water quality and natural resources of Lake Winnepesaukee and its watershed. To learn more visit [winnepesaukee.org](http://winnepesaukee.org).

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