



## End of Season Reflection *Celebrating Mirror Lake!*

November 4, 2024

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*"Thank you for protecting this treasured and sacred place  
and our family memories along with it."*



As we say farewell to the sunny season, Mirror Lake stands as a testament to shared memories, peaceful waters, and the unmatched beauty of the many moods of **Mirror Lake**. How sweet it was to receive a donation and new MLPA membership from a Colorado family who recently reconnected at a reunion on Mirror Lake. Their email quote opens this reflection and reminds us how lucky we all are.

### Spirit of NH Award

Known for its high level of civic engagement and volunteerism, New Hampshire proudly recognized volunteers from Mirror Lake at the October 21, 2024, Spirit of NH ceremonies in Concord, NH. The **MLPA Aquatic Plant Monitor Program**, also known around the lake as Weed Watchers was awarded, "in acknowledgement of your exemplary contribution to volunteerism and to the betterment of life in New Hampshire." Our program, under the leadership of Norma Milne, was recognized for excellent program management; sustainability; commitment of time and resources; and the high level of engagement of the volunteers. Our pride and appreciation go not only to our current crew: **Claudia and Tom Bissett; Jeanne Freeze; Alan Hardiman; Kip Lachner; Norma Milne, Glenda Philbin; Tiina Urv, and Sharon Koning** but also to the many **volunteers from past years** who have faithfully examined the waters and shorelines for invasive species. Previously, Nancy and Dick Byrd, MLPA members received Spirit of NH award for decades of water sampling. Sadly, Nancy Byrd passed away in October 2024.



### "We Care" and Other Legacy Efforts

**Carl Hessler Jr.** broke ground last year when he used his **Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)** from his Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) to support the MLPA. Residents aged 73 and older who elect to contribute RMD/QCD funds to a non-profit organization, such as MLPA, can shelter their money from taxes while also helping build a legacy on Mirror Lake. This year, four MLPA members contributed QCDs and seven others used other monies such as from trust accounts or employee matching funds to make their membership contributions. We are grateful to **Maxfield Real Estate's "We Care" program** and the efforts of **Kristina and Susan Maus** who targeted MLPA as a recipient of their "We Care" funds celebrating 25 years of lakes community giving from that organization. All in all, 70 households and several organizations joined MLPA in 2024.



Remarkably, the total intake from memberships/donations was higher than ever. Thank you to all our generous members! This is exactly what keeps us strong and motivated.

## Everyone is Becoming Lake Smart: How a Veto Was Overridden in NH!

Being “lake smart” refers to adopting practices that help protect and preserve the quality of lakes and surrounding ecosystems. New Hampshire made mighty strides towards being “lake smart” when creating a team of experts to study lake issues, particularly cyanobacteria, and then create “*New Hampshire’s Cyanobacteria Plan: A Statewide Strategy*.”

Recent NH legislative efforts indicate certain state legislators are aware of “lake smart” strategies as they present bills to protect lakes. This year a legislative drama played out regarding the use of phosphorus in fertilizer, a known lake pollutant that designed to limit certain fertilizers to cyanobacteria blooms, was passed by the Senate, then vetoed by the Governor. But NH House and sent voted to **override** the required 2/3 majority vote. **HB 1293 will** phosphorus content in lawn fertilizer, that increase the risk of washing off the be posted in stores where fertilizer is sold to improper and excessive use of fertilizer can



enhances cyanobacteria. House Bill 1293, prevent water pollution and mitigate NH House of Representative and NH the bill’s advocates pressed on and the governor’s veto by exceeding the **now become law!** It limits the prohibits its application under conditions landscape, and requires that information help the public understand how the harm lake health. Our **new MLPA**

**Legislative liaison, Marilyn Edelho**ch, will continue the work of tracking bills throughout 2025 and keeping us posted if there is a need for more people to get involved. The Mirror Lake Protective Association website <https://www.mirrorlakenh.org/> provides information about **How to Find Your Representative, Current Bills to Track**, and how to correspond with representatives and provide testimony on bills that matter to our lake. The MLPA website section devoted to legislation may be found at <https://www.mirrorlakenh.org/nh-legislation-laws#legislation> Last year, MLPA provided testimony for 15 lake related bills. We lost some; we won some.

## Are You Lake Smart?

**Lake Smart is also a program for NH homeowners.** LakeSmart is a free, non-regulatory, and voluntary education and recognition program. The goal is to encourage property owners to maintain their homes and property in ways that protect lake water quality, wildlife habitat, and property values. As we move towards creating the **Mirror Lake Protective Association Watershed Management Plan II** members are encouraged to minimally take the **15-minute Lake Smart survey** found at <https://s.pointerpro.com/lakesmartstart2>

## We Got the Loan!

In the “nothing is ever easy” department we are thrilled to have had Tuftonboro voters pass the warrant article that allowed MLPA, through the Town of Tuftonboro, to apply for and receive a NH Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan for \$100,000. Thanks to **Steve Scapicchio** we are in the process of sending tasks out for bid. Fortunately, we have an excellent idea of the components we plan to include in the Mirror Lake Watershed Management Plan having consulted for two years with experts to guide Lake Smart development.



## Clair the Loon

What a delight to watch Clair the Loon grow and prosper on Mirror Lake this summer. Both parents spent requisite time on the nest, then took turns feeding Clair throughout the summer and early fall. Loons leave Mirror Lake for the ocean once the water starts to freeze as they need open waters for access to fish. The ocean offers more stable water conditions and ample food and is somehow deemed warmer than NH lakes. Typically, one parent will head to the ocean leaving the

chick and second parent to continue flying and fishing lessons. In recent years, climate change has confused some loons, leaving them frozen in the lakes. **But that has not yet happened on Mirror Lake.** As far as we can tell, Clair is appropriately brown, fishing, and ready for flight with the likely destination of **Portsmouth.** Nature has an interesting way of guiding young loons. Go Clair!

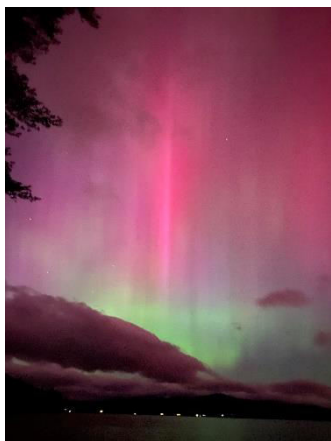
### Cyanobacteria

We all watched with trepidation as **Lake Wentworth and Lake Winnepesaukee** endured some of the most intense cyanobacteria blooms ever recorded on those beautiful lakes. Although there were reports on Mirror Lake, none of the concerns materialized and we remained cyanobacteria free...or we nearly did. When the testing crew led by Larry Gil and comprised of Tom Bissett and John Orall (Steve Cloutier and Alan Hardiman were unable to attend that day, while Sharon Koning samples the inlets) went out in late October they spotted what might have been a bloom. Although that possibility was reported to the state, it remains unconfirmed. At worst, it might have been a minor outbreak. So we remain ever vigilant. We know the impact of continued outbreaks of cyanobacteria on other lakes **dropped property values** anywhere from 10-40%. As a community, we intend to keep our properties unhampered by problems of this nature. Our lake is small enough, and has only 2-4 stream inlets, with one outlet to Lake Winnepesaukee. Consequently, we have the capacity to keep our lake clean. At this point, the Lake Smart practices of every property owner matter.



We experienced record setting weather during the winter of 2023-2024, with **the warmest winter on record;** historic heat waves in the summer; with above average precipitation some months. While currently things are “abnormally dry” rather than categorized as “severe drought” conditions. Our state was abnormally dry throughout the fall in 80% of NH towns including Wolfeboro and Tuftonboro, whereas Hampton and Portsmouth experienced drought conditions. Yet so many days were just perfect!

### The Magic on Mirror Lake Color Shows Galore!



What a rare treat on Mirror Lake this October when the Northern Lights, also known as aurora borealis, were visible due to increased solar activity. Solar storms set charged particles into space which collided with Earth’s magnetic field, traveled down magnetic field lines, then interacted with gases in the atmosphere producing the lights. Also known as magic!

Autumn leaves were seen twice on calm days as Mirror Lake provided brilliant reflections on many cloudless fall days. How enchanting to stare into the water and watch the reflections shimmer.



### MLPA Land Conservation



The work of the MLPA Land Conservation Committee, led by John Dawson and supported by Steve Scapicchio Chair, Tuftonboro Conservation Commission (TCC;) Larry Gil, TCC; Robin Muench; Gary Philbin; Kathy Sciarappa; Ann Torregrossa; and until this year Julie Tryder and Gene Kelley—thank you Julie and Gene for all your contributions.

The committee has monitored and discussed properties that have changed hands and identified wetlands and other possible sources of concern for Mirror Lake. Our work has taken on a conceptual element as virtually all of our properties are less than 100 acres. The larger acreages are of more interest to the regional land conservation groups. **It is our hope that individual property owners on Mirror Lake and in its watershed will consider placing part of their properties into land conservation** using any of the various paths available to

landowners. Some have already done so and we applaud their decisions to protect not only the land, but also the lake for future generations. In many ways, this is the most productive way to care for Mirror Lake.

### Our Guardians

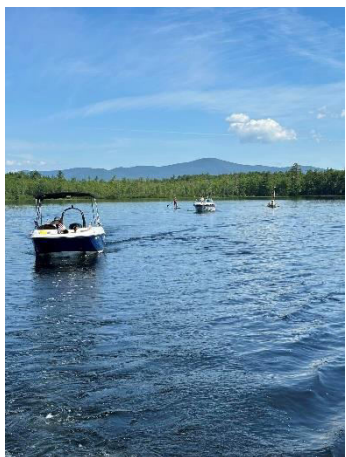
The Spirit of New Hampshire award duly acknowledged the crucial role the **Mirror Lake Aquatic Plant Monitoring team** plays on the lake as they scan for invasive plants, such as frightening milfoil, which we do not have, and stay alert to something we do experience on the lake, **purple loosestrife**. Originally from Europe and Asia the plant grows aggressively and can outcompete native vegetation disrupting local ecosystems. Purple loosestrife is even capable of impacting the natural flow of water. Once spotted by the MLPA team or property owners it is best to be in touch with the Aquatic Plant Monitoring members to learn about the proper removal of the plant. Improper removal can actually help the plant spread and grow faster.



**The Lake Hosts** this year, chaired by Larry Gil, included Phil Cassidy, Denise Ferriman, Alan Hardiman, Denis Katz and Christina Sciarappa. Thanks to this solid crew for greeting and checking boats and searching for unwanted invasive plants and creatures. We welcome the fishermen who love Mirror Lake and make every effort on their own to keep their boats clean and ballasts free of surplus guests.

### Fun, Fun, Fun

One more time the **July 4<sup>th</sup> parade** burst on the scene! This annual event, organized by Beth Argeros, featured a vibrant display of ten assorted crafts including motorboats, canoes, paddleboards, kayaks and a seaplane! Pups, people, and enthusiastic onlookers barked, tooted horns, blew whistles, clanged bells, shouted, and eagerly waved as the water vehicles made their way slowly around the lake celebrating our country and our lake community.



We were rained out of the **Mirror Lake Boat Social** later in the season but loved the Birthday Bash at Mirror Lake Estates! Thanks for the music and invitation. That was lots of fun.

**The Mirror Lake Mingle**, held at the Kingswood Golf Course restaurant, The Sand Trap, provided an opportunity for MLPA members and guests to enjoy appetizers and cold beverages while chatting with neighbors and old friends then getting to know new people.



### Yard Sale, Anyone?

Thanks to the Mirror Lake Community Church, MLPA was able to host the Annual Yard Sale at the end of the summer. The blustery day didn't discourage too many people and sellers and buyers had a good time bargaining and swapping treasures. **The 2024 season was a beautiful one!**

