



End of Season Reflection 2025 *When Mirror Lake Grows Quiet* November 2025 Kathleen Sciarappa President, MLPA

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<https://www.mirrorlakenh.org/>

Reflections on Mirror Lake

Illegal as of 2026: Yard Waste In Mirror Lake

Spring clean-up may be different for some residents around the lake. As of January 1st, it will become illegal to dump yard waste into any state body of water, on the ice of such water, or on the banks of the water. Anyone who “purposely or knowingly” violates this law will face a felony violation. House Bill 416 added yard waste to bottles, glass, crockery, cans, scrap metal, junk, paper, garbage, tires, old automobiles or car parts, and trees. None can be placed in or near Mirror Lake.

The bill imposes stiffer financial penalties on people who discharge hazardous or toxic wastes and have failed to pay the expenses associated with the cleanup. After 90 days of nonpayment of those expenses, the new law imposes a \$1,000 additional fine per day until the expenses are paid.

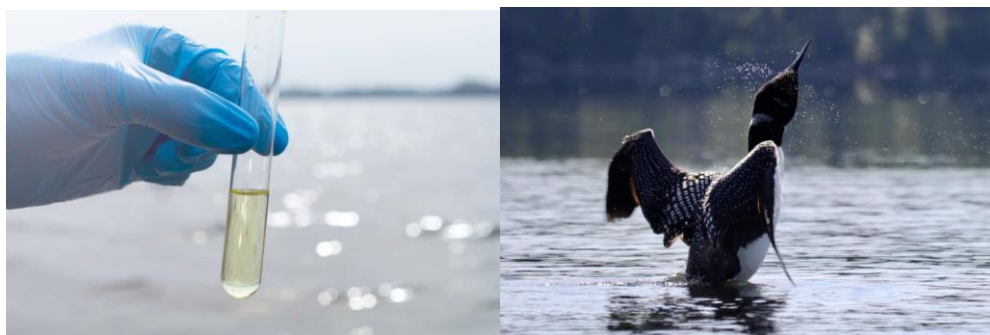
As we move through winter the water is more still; the frost is quietly removing colors; the leaves have mostly fallen; and the birds are finishing up their migratory patterns.

We wish our Mirror Lake loon family well and hope the young ones, **Liberty and Freedom**, find their way to the Atlantic and thrive throughout the winter where it’s incredibly cold in the winter, but the saltwater remains unfrozen allowing them to fish. Look for them when you happen to be in Portsmouth!



Watershed Management Planning Begins!

MLPA is pleased to announce that after a competitive bid process interviewing extraordinarily talented environmental engineers and scientists the selection team, comprised of **Larry Gil, Steve Scapicchio, and Kathy Sciarappa** with excellent support from **Bob Murray**, Chair of the Tuftonboro Selectmen, have awarded the contract to **Bob Harztel**, a **Certified Lake Manager (CLM)** and **Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC)** and **Principal Scientist at Comprehensive Environmental Inc (CEI.)** Bob Harztel worked with **Dusty Davies** and MLPA to develop the Geosyntec MLPA Watershed Management Plan. The MLPA Advisory Team, **Dusty Davies, Larry Gil, Suzanne Maus, Steve Scapicchio, Kathy Sciarappa and Val Zanchuk**, will support and guide the work, overseen by the Town of Tuftonboro.



Are We Being Invaded?



Incredible thanks to our Weed Watchers who carefully search the shorelines and lake in segments looking for invasive aquatic plants that bring harm to New Hampshire waters. **Tom Bissett; Alan Hardiman; Sharon Koning; Kip Lachner; Norma Milne, Chair; Glenda Philbin and Tiina Urv** are the heroes who have not only spotted purple loosestrife in several locations but also used proper removal techniques to help eradicate these rather pretty looking but dangerous purple flowered plants. Unwanted because they choke out native aquatic plants and are unhospitable to natural wildlife, these plants can quickly spread. It is important to have them removed by properly trained people as improper handling spreads their seeds. Weed Watchers monitor and respond to plants, but we also have Chinese Mystery snails in Mirror Lake, although there are no reports of any harm they bring. More prevalent last season, these pests may have peaked and are hopefully diminishing on their own.

Are Invasive Plants Really All That Bad?

Invasive plants have been ruinous to lakes across the United States and are a persistent and growing threat to the environment, economy, and human health. The problem is extensive, severe, and national in scale, posing significant economic and environmental damage. The stakes are high in New Hampshire, especially in the Lakes Region, where tourism is a major economic driver. The state of New Hampshire has an established Exotic Aquatic Weeds and Species Committee. Their 2025 annual report states:

“New Hampshire now has 98 infested waterbodies in the state, including 11 rivers. Aquatic Invasive Species includes plants (e.g., variable milfoil, fanwort, brittle naiad, etc.) and animals (e.g., Asian clam, Chinese mystery snail, spiny water flea, etc.). These 98 waterbodies have a total of 135 infestations, as some waterbodies have more than one type of infestation, and a few have as many as six different invasive aquatic species competing for space within the resource.”

In response, there were 31 aquatic special permits issued by the Division of Pesticide Control.



Although the focus is on plants, there are also invasive creatures that can cause infestations in NH waters including Chinese Mystery Snails, which have been found all over Mirror Lake. Although there is no known way to eradicate these critters it is also unclear what their impact is and which hazards they cause. They are known to crowd out other crustaceans in a lake, are unsightly, and their shells are sharp nuisances when washed onto the shoreline. But the biological changes they create are not well understood. MLPA has watched carefully for the latest threat in the state, **spiny water flea**, which now exist

in Newfound Lake, Lake Winnisquam and Lake Winnepesaukee. Spiny water fleas disrupt the food chain in lakes as they are predators on the same plankton that small fish need for survival. Spiny water fleas cut their food source. Further, their skeletons get lodged in the digestive tracks of fish which results in starvation for young fish. So far, **we have not found spiny water fleas in Mirror Lake.**

Domestic and Wild-We Love ‘Em All



Mirror Lake Host Program



Another season of excellent boat checking has gone by and we are tremendously thankful to our **Lake Hosts: Phil Cassidy, Denise Ferriman, Janet Larry Gil, Chair, Alan Hardiman and Janet Plourd.** In 2025, 93 boat launch ramps were hosted throughout the state. The Lake Host Program was established in New Hampshire in 2002 and since then over 1.7 million courtesy boat inspections have been conducted, and nearly 1,700 exotic aquatic species have been prevented from entering 62 waterbodies. We remain in constant need of Lake Host personnel, both paid and volunteer, as we are required to match volunteer hours in order to qualify for the grant supporting the program. Everyone who participates in the program receives training. MLPA pays additional money to extend the hours of hosting and to offer a more competitive salary. We thank our membership and special Lake Host donors for their support. These strategies have strengthened the

program yet there remain many hours where the public boat ramp is not “covered.”

Mirror Lake Reflections....Larry Gil

When I think of Mirror Lake I think of home.

I think of the awesome photographs that appear on
Facebook or our website;

I think of many people who live by or near the lake
and their application of stewardship in all its forms
dedicated to preserving the lake for generations to come.

I think of waking up to the call of the loons and learning that each call is made
for a particular purpose be it a warning, an attraction, or a signal.

I think of bald eagles soaring overhead.

I think of memories of being out on the lake
and seeing the range of wildlife it shelters, provides food for.

I think of home.



Belly Laughs and Good Times!

There's a lot of fun loving people enjoying Mirror Lake throughout the year!

Following the 13 (some say 14; some claim 17!) consecutive weekends of rain this spring we applauded The Mirror Lake Boat Parade organized by Beth Argeros just before the thunderstorms started for yet another soaking. Bravo to the ten boats, couple of kayakers, and solo seaplane plus

those cheering from the shorelines. We appreciated the jaunty salutes of brothers and cousins **Leonidas, Brayden and Riley!**

like the American Spirit!



There's nothing quite



Extending thanks to our Facebook photographers beautiful moments with us: **Beth Argeros; Adam Becker; Joyce Sherin Barry; Nancy Benoit; Jill Perry Chastain; Dusty Davies; Delilah Dirksen; Janet Dephoure, Eliza Duade; Allan Hardiman; Janis Hardiman; John A. Kingston Sr., Sharon Koning; Suzanne Maus; Norma Milne; John Orrall; Betsy Orsillo Rosati; Joan Scapicchio; Steve Scapicchio; Tiina Urv; Sharon Vezina; Mike Vogel; TR Wood.**

Please join the Facebook Group--Mirror Lake Protective Association Tuftonboro/Wolfeboro-- to enjoy and share shots of Mirror Lake and the surroundings.

MLPA Board President: Kathleen Sciarappa; **Vice President:** Val Zanchuk; **Treasurer:** Gary Philbin **Secretary:** Fran O'Donoghue

Directors: Dusty Davies; John Dawson; Larry Gil; Suzanne Maus; Steve Scapicchio; and Ann Torregrossa

Mirror Lake, with unusual water clarity, robust fishing, quiet, reflective waters and a stunning view of Mt. Shaw is such a gift. As the holidays approach, kindly accept my wishes to you for peace, renewal and reflection.

Warmest wishes,
Kathleen



"Who could be so

lucky?

Who comes to a lake for water and sees the reflection of moon?"

Rumi

