

Laurel Lake Association Lake Host Program

2024 Annual Report – Executive Summary

Laurel Lake is a clear, spring-fed lake covering about 179 acres and located in the town of Fitzwilliam, New Hampshire. The lake is served by a public boat ramp located at its southern end. The Laurel Lake community is supported by the Laurel Lake Association (LLA) which was established to promote a closer relationship among lake users, to foster beneficial lake-related initiatives, and to support the overall environmental health of the lake. The Lake Host program is one such environmental wellness program for which LLA partners with NH LAKES for the purpose of conducting seasonal lake hosting and watercraft inspections at its boat ramp. This program is jointly funded by an annual NH Lakes grant and a matching LLA allocation and is administered by way of both paid and volunteer Lake Host inspectors. The Lake Host program is a first line of defense against the introduction of aquatic invasive species (AIS) into Laurel Lake and as a way of greeting lake visitors.

The 2024 Lake Host program at Laurel Lake met desired targets for the year. The program was principally funded by a \$388 funding carryover and \$2010 annual grant from NH LAKES, a \$500 contribution from the Laurel Lake Association, and \$1100 in local business sponsorship and program-specific charitable giving. Program funding supported paid lake host coverage over the Memorial Day holiday weekend as well as approximately 18 hours per week of coverage between May 17 and August 22. Lily Pierannunzi served as the 2024 paid Lake Host. Lily's younger brother Vinnie served as the paid Lake Host in 2023, and her grandparents have a cottage on the lake. Lily is very familiar with the lake and had previously served as a "weed watcher" volunteer. Paid Lake Host hours, in combination with volunteer hosting, contributed to 327 total ramp hours and 348 total inspections for the season. 2024 total ramp hours were slightly higher and total inspection numbers were slightly lower than 2023. No suspect weed specimens were observed or removed from entering boats or trailers during paid and volunteer Lake Host inspection hours during this season. This suggests that there is considerable compliance to NH's "Clean. Drain. Dry." law by boating visitors to Laurel Lake. The LLA piloted a "local business sponsorship" effort for its Lake Host program this year. This partnership opportunity provided local businesses with front-and-center advertising exposure and high value community engagement. For the 2024 season, three business sponsorships were generously provided by KG Performance Solutions, Flavor Smart Beverage Group, and Tri-City Marine Sales. Also, much appreciation is given to our 2024 Lake Host volunteers: Phil Strahan, Denis Guenette, Tom White, Pat Deyo, Nancy Fey-Yensan, Terry Manley, Teri Chavira, and Dana Wasserbauer.