

Thank You to the residents and taxpayers of the town of Marlow.

On behalf of the Sand Pond Lake Host Program we thank you very much for again joining the effort to keep Sand Pond aquatic invasive species free.

The NH Dept of Environmental Services reports that virtually every new infestation of aquatic invasive species occurs at a boat launch site. This implicates boats as the primary vector in the spread of these detrimental species. Working with the NH Lakes Association the Sand Pond Association maintains a strong defence against the introduction of invasive plants and animals into Sand Pond by placing trained Lake Hosts at the public boat launch facility and participating in the Weed Watcher Program. It is our goal to inspect every boat at the public boat ramp, to educate every boater about the risks posed by invasive plants and animals, and to teach every boater how he or she can prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. The NH Lakes Association proudly asserts that no invasive species free water body in the state that has an active Lake Host Program and Weed Watcher Program, has become infested with invasive species.

By preventing an invasive species infestation at Sand Pond the Pond remains one of the cleanest, clearest in the state, the waters remain attractive to visiting fishermen and other recreational boaters, and the property valuations are maintained thus protecting the investments of the owners and continuing to provide significant tax revenue to the Town of Marlow. By investing a relatively small amount of money each year in the Lake Host Program of monitoring, boat inspections, and education we hope to avoid the need to spend the huge amounts of money required to control an infestation of invasive plants or animals.

Contributions from the taxpayers of Marlow over the years have been instrumental in maintaining the Sand Pond Lake Host Program, one of the strongest Lake Host programs in the state. The \$1500.00 that the Town of Marlow voted to contribute to the NH Lakes Association Lake Host Program at Sand Pond for 2014 is greatly appreciated. The increase over last years contribution will allow us to staff the public boat ramp with a trained paid lake host for an additional 46 hours!

Funding for the 2014 Lake Host Program at Sand Pond comes from a very few sources: A grant administered by the NH Lakes Assoc; a contribution from the town of Marlow; a contribution from the town of Lempster Conservation Commission; a fee and additional contributions paid by the members of the Sand Pond Association; and an annual raffle run by the Lake Host group at Sand Pond.

Our spending is similarly simple; the membership fee to NH Lakes Association; expenses incidental to operations (postage, copies, t-shirts); and payroll for part time paid lake hosts to staff the boat launch. The contribution from Marlow goes entirely to payroll.

Recognizing that there are limited opportunities for employment in town, we make an effort to hire people from the Sand Pond area to fill our paid positions. This year we employ a young college student from Marlow for his third year at Sand Pond and a young woman from Acworth for her first season. Together these local people will earn over \$5000.00 as paid Lake Hosts and perform an invaluable service in educating boaters and helping to keep Sand Pond invasive species free.

In addition to our paid part-time Lake Hosts, thirty or so volunteers from around the Pond contribute well over 500 hours of their time to the Lake Host Program at Sand Pond.

Thank you again for your generous assistance to the Sand Pond Lake Host Program.

Sincerely,

Hal Goodnow  
Sand Pond Association Lake Host Point Person