

Little Sunapee Protective Association Lake Host Program – 2020 and 2021 Year-to-Date

The Lake Host Program provided coverage at the Little Sunapee boat launch site seven days a week, from 7AM to 5PM, except in stormy weather, starting May 30, 2020 and ending September 13, 2020. In 2021, we planned to start Memorial Day weekend, but that was a cold and rainy wash-out, so our hosts took their stations starting June 3, 2021.

The Program ran well in 2020 and is doing so again in 2021.

Significantly, in August 2020 our program prevented an invasive species from being introduced into our lake, one of 23 “saves” made by lake hosts in New Hampshire in 2020. On August 23, 2020, veteran Lake Host Elaine Cox identified and removed plant material from an arriving kayak, identified by NH Lakes as “filamentous green algae, Eurasian milfoil.”

In May 2020, we hired four new lake hosts, one a school teacher and three college students. We added a lake host in August, as others returned to school. Our 2020 paid lake hosts were exceptionally reliable, and adapted to new procedures relating to the Covid pandemic. In 2021, three of our veterans returned, and we added a lake host who is working also as a host at Pleasant Lake.

Peter Gunn assisted by organizing and scheduling our volunteer lake hosts in 2020. They provided coverage on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 7AM to 11AM (except in stormy weather). We had eight volunteer lake hosts. The volunteers will be providing similar coverage in 2021.

For the 2020 season, our paid lake hosts worked 864 hours. This exceeded the 859.5 hours of paid lake hosting in 2019, both years being very much above our long-term average. Our volunteers worked hard as well, providing approximately 115 hours of coverage.

For 2020, our hosts performed a total of 1,431 inspections, compared to 1,396 for 2019. State-wide, lake hosts made 23 “saves,” including the one on Little Sunapee noted above and two on Lake Sunapee. The 2020 summer weather was quite good, and possibly higher traffic resulted during pandemic times. Locally, Pleasant Lake experienced a dramatic rise in the number of inspections; on that lake, the mix of boats is weighted more toward motorboats.

For 2020, all local lake host sponsor groups and local Lake Host coordinators received the “Spirit of New Hampshire” award from Volunteer NH, a state-wide organization that promotes the tradition of service in New Hampshire.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven C. Root
Lake Host Program Coordinator
June 27, 2021