



# Kanasatka Water Matters

News & Updates

APRIL 2026, Issue # 22



## Lake Kanasatka Watershed Association Community Survey

**LAST CALL... PLEASE ACT NOW!  
LKWA needs your input to help with future planning!**

As of this writing, 98 readers recently completed the LKWA Community Survey. The survey is still open, is 100% anonymous and takes only a few minutes to complete.

Your thoughtful and candid responses will help LKWA move forward with a better understanding of what our lake community feels is important, and what is needed to keep the Lake Kanasatka community vital and relevant in the years ahead.

Please let us know what you have to say by going to [Lake Kanasatka Watershed Association Community Survey](#)

Once the survey is closed, an AI Summary of all responses will be shared via Constant Contact. Thank you.

[SURVEY LINK](#)

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## Native Shrubs--the Workhorses of the Garden

by Judy Stoessel, LKWA Member

While native perennials and their benefits for pollinators and animals get a lot of attention, native shrubs are often overlooked in gardening and environmental discussions. They are the workhorses and unsung heroes in the garden.

Native shrubs provide structure, four-season interest, habitat, shelter, and food for wildlife. They come in all shapes and sizes, and many have pretty blossoms in the spring and vibrant foliage in the fall. Some are even adapted to wet conditions right at the shoreline. But there are additional attributes that make them the ideal partners for landscaping near a body of water we love and want to protect.

Native shrubs, because they are native to our region, are supremely adapted to the local climate so there's no worry about cold hardiness. Once established, they need very little to no care, and they do not need to be fertilized. This is important because we know we shouldn't use fertilizer anywhere near the lake, since it can result in more phosphorus getting into the water and fueling cyanobacteria blooms (plus it's illegal...)

Erosion is the enemy when we are trying to protect Kanasatka's water quality. It comes from two directions:

- Wave action from boat traffic and wind pushes water up **onto** the shore and eats away at the soil. The backwash can actually scrape the earth and pull it back into the lake. Native shrubs have deep and extensive root systems, so they can act as anchors, binding together soil and preventing it from being washed or blown away. A single mature shrub can stabilize up to 100 square feet of soil! **But if the waves are too high, or too incessant, even mature plants can be washed out.**
- Runoff and the erosion it causes, also comes **from** our properties out into the lake. The runoff carries with it a variety of elements from the soil that become problems in the lake. We need to think about how rain, particularly brief but torrential storms, as well as snow and melting snow moves through our properties. The challenge is even greater if there are many hard surfaces in our yards (roof, driveway, walkway, patio, shed) that can't absorb anything. Grass lawns and areas of hard-packed dirt should also be considered hard surfaces because water sheets across them rather than being absorbed.

There are several appropriate strategies to address the runoff coming from our yards.

First is to absorb as much water as possible so it sinks in where it falls. We need to focus on making our yards more spongy. Rain and melting snow are handled best when they can soak directly into the ground. A rich tapestry of native trees, shrubs, perennials, groundcovers, and mulch can all help, as can leaving the leaves where they fall so they build up a layer of natural humus. Devote as much of your yard to native plantings and natural materials as you can.

Second, for what runoff isn't directly absorbed, a variety of physical terrain manipulations can help—channeling runoff with water razors, drainage ditches, berms, swales, culverts etc. If you haven't already, call the Boots on the Ground team to help you figure out how to physically

channel and slow down the water flowing through your property. The ideal is to slow down and absorb all the water so it never reaches the lake at all.

<https://www.des.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt341/files/documents/2020-01/homeowner-guide-stormwater.pdf>

Third, after you've dealt with any engineering issues and the Boots on the Ground team, don't stop there. This is where the native shrubs come in. They can be the glue that holds everything together. Their roots form a resilient matrix that can help to soak up the water moving through your property. Convert low lying areas into rain gardens filled with native shrubs that like wet conditions. Convert areas under mature trees from bare ground or grass into "soft landings"--planting beds for native perennials and groundcovers that also benefit wildlife. Make sure you have a robust buffer area of native shrubs along the shore, at least 15 feet wide from the lake back toward your house (or even wider if you have a very steep property). It should stretch all along your shoreline, with only narrow pathways to your dock and the lake. Think of your buffer as the last line of defense. Let native shrubs be the workhorses of your yard!

<https://nhlakes.org/wp-content/uploads/Landscaping-at-the-Waters-Edge.pdf>

Next Steps: Spring is coming, and you're inspired to do more planting. So how do you get started?

Even if you have gardened all your life, working with native plants is a little different. They can be harder to find, particularly if you are trying for straight species instead of cultivars. I try to use the LKWA Facebook page to highlight plant sales that I know about, although there are admittedly very few in New Hampshire and quite a few in Massachusetts and Maine. Some can be mail ordered.

Native shrubs tend to be sold as small bare-root or young seedlings—not what you might be familiar with if you have bought shrubs at a local nursery or big box store. Their smaller stature also makes them more affordable. Nursery plants tend to be bulked up with artificial fertilizer and forced to bloom so they look pretty and tempt you into buying them. They often have trouble once they come out of a pot and go into the ground.



A general rule of thumb is to try to have at least 75% native plants on your property, but that still leaves 25% for your favorite and perhaps more familiar non-native ornamentals (lilacs, forsythia, roses). Beware of many of our local nurseries, which are selling native plants that are actually cultivars. It's ok to plant some cultivars, as long as you know that they are typically not as beneficial as straight natives for wildlife and pollinators. You should count any cultivars as part of your 25% ornamental category.

Working with native plants starts with lots of research. The LKWA website is a great place to start and a lot of the work of assembling solid resources has been done for you.

Check out <https://kanasatka.org/all-about-native-plants/> This site includes information on how you know a plant is native, lists of native plants, how and where to buy them, best planting and yard care practices, links to online tools that help to identify specific plants for particular conditions, and ideas for further learning.

The native plant list I have found to be most helpful

is: [https://extension.unh.edu/sites/default/files/migrated\\_unmanaged\\_files/Resource005899\\_Rep8265.pdf](https://extension.unh.edu/sites/default/files/migrated_unmanaged_files/Resource005899_Rep8265.pdf)

The native shrubs that LKWA gave away to members last summer were all straight species (no cultivars), and they were all small bare-root seedlings that I potted up in the spring before the giveaway. It usually takes about three years for a seedling to take off and really start to grow, but the wait is worth it. Thanks to the sponsorship of Stephens Landscaping in Moultonborough, and the growing skills of Found Well Farm in Pembroke NH, we will again be giving away native

shrubs this coming summer. More details will become available as we get closer to the Annual Meeting.

One little shrub doesn't solve all of our runoff challenges, but hopefully it introduces you to some of the lovely options so you can do more planting on your own.

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## SPRING IS HERE! What we need to do now...

After a cold and snowy winter, Spring is finally here! The link below will take you to an article written by the very knowledgeable NH Lakes staff, which provides all of the information you need to know to plant your property for a healthier Lake Kanasatka.

Native vegetation and shoreline buffers are key. This is the one article you will want to keep on hand as you begin planning and planting this spring.

- learn when to get started and what steps to take first
- browse lists of native plants for your shoreline and garden
- learn about alternatives to invasive species

The article also includes links to additional websites which will help you create a colorful, resilient and healthy landscape with benefits for wildlife and the lake, as well as for your own enjoyment! <https://nhlakes.org/plant-your-property-for-healthier-lakes/>

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## Lake Smart Yard Maintenance: A Guide to Protecting the Lake

by Max Hoene, LKWA and Moultonborough Conservation Commission Member

Maintaining a beautiful lakeside property doesn't have to mean waging war on Mother Nature. With a few "Lake Smart" tweaks, you can have a yard that looks great and keeps our lake water clear. These simple changes help reduce stormwater runoff, limit pollutants, and support a healthier, more resilient landscape. Plus, they can save time, money, and energy—what's not to love?

### The Power of the Buffer (and Raising the Blade)

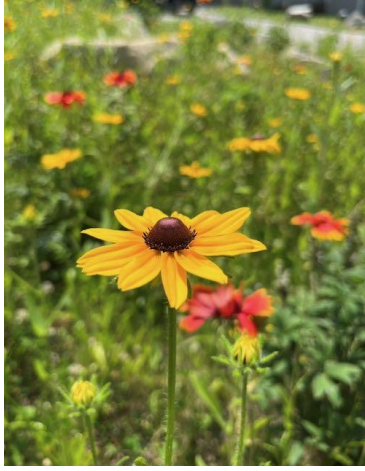
One of the easiest ways to be kind to the lake is to rethink how—and how often—you mow. Letting your grass grow a little taller gives your soil superpowers: it slows down stormwater, filters pollutants, and strengthens roots. The magic numbers? Keep grass around four inches tall and set your mower blades to three inches. Your lawn will thank you—and so will the lake.



If certain areas of your yard see little foot traffic, consider turning them into "low-mow" meadows or full-on "no-mow" zones. Mow them once in late fall to protect native bees, birds, and other wildlife who might be nesting there. These areas act as natural stormwater filters and help prevent shoreline erosion. Bonus: if you let native shrubs and trees move back in, you'll be giving local wildlife a much-needed home upgrade.

<https://nhlakes.org/lake-friendly-lawn-care/>

### Landscaping with Native Plants



For another Lake Smart upgrade, swap out parts of your lawn for native plant gardens. Native plants are the true locals—they thrive in our climate, need less water, and don't require fertilizers. They also offer beautiful blooms that keep pollinators buzzing all summer long.

If watering is necessary, avoid the wasteful overhead sprinkler routine. Use drip irrigation or soaker hoses instead, and always keep a minimum of 50 ft vegetated buffer between your watered areas and the lake to catch any runoff. Think of it as your yard's front-line defense team.

### **Managing Nutrients and Waste**

Remember: what goes on your lawn can end up in the lake. Phosphorus is a major culprit behind poor water quality, so skip the fertilizer whenever possible. Most lawns don't need it! If you do fertilize, choose a low-phosphorus, slow-release compost made from leaves or yard waste instead of chemical blends.

Be cautious with “biosolids” (fertilizer made from treated sewage sludge). In New Hampshire and beyond, these may contain microplastics and PFAS—“forever chemicals” that we definitely don't want vacationing in our lake.

Waste management matters too. Always pick up pet waste (it's not “just natural fertilizer,” no matter how convincingly Fido looks at you). Pet waste, leaves, and grass clippings all release nutrients and bacteria that harm fish and water quality. Raking or blowing them into the lake is not only bad form—it's illegal. Instead, leave grass clippings on your lawn as natural fertilizer or mulch your gardens with shredded leaves.

Schedule septic system inspections at least every three years and pump regularly. A healthy septic system means a healthier lake. <https://nhlakes.org/healthy-septic-systems-mean-healthier-lakes/>

### **Mindful Maintenance**

When it comes to pests, resist the urge to reach for chemical quick fixes. Pesticides and herbicides can devastate fish and other aquatic creatures. Try physical methods, like traps, or biological controls that use beneficial insects instead.

And if your car is due for a wash, skip the driveway. Wash it on the lawn where the soil can filter the soap—or even better, visit a commercial car wash that properly manages wastewater.

Finally, consider grabbing an umbrella and “taking a walk in the rain”. Inspecting your property during a rainstorm will help you realize a better understanding of any concerns you may be experiencing.

If you would like help or advice on how to address stormwater issues on your property consider calling on Lake Kanasatka's very own “Boots on the Ground”, who are ready and eager to help. Contact Kevin Kelly at [kevinkelly700@yahoo.com](mailto:kevinkelly700@yahoo.com).

By adopting these Lake Smart practices, we can all help ensure that our lake stays clean, clear, and lively—for swimming, fishing, wildlife watching, and everything we love about living lakeside.

### **Share the Love:**

Below is a handy checklist of lake-friendly yard tips. Share it with your neighbors, post it on your community board, or casually slip it into conversation the next time someone brags about their ultra-green lawn. The lake will thank you later.

**For simple steps to protect our lake- one yard at a time, see the *Lake Smart Yard Maintenance Checklist* at [Kanasatka.org](http://Kanasatka.org).**

## I Built a Rain Garden!

by Scott Parker, LKWA Board Member & Facebook Admin

Because Lake Kanasatka is basically a bowl, most of our properties slope toward the lake to some extent. If you call LKWA's Boots on the Ground team or NH Lakes LakeSmart assessors to take a look at your property, the first thing they'll look for is signs of stormwater runoff. If they find them, the priority will go to identifying natural impressions or vegetated areas as close to the runoff's origin as possible into which the flow can be diverted and absorbed or infiltrated before reaching the lake.



My lot's topography is typical, but I also have a small, wooded area at a slightly higher elevation between the origins of runoff and the lake. So runoff tends to accumulate at the edge of the woods and then follows the path of least resistance around that area to the lake. Last spring, ground water was also very high and bubbled up at the base of the hill behind us adding to the normal stormwater and snowmelt load. I had no natural features suitable for intercepting and infiltrating that water, so I had to build a stormwater control measure (SCM) for that

purpose. A rain garden was the best solution for me.

Rain gardens are great for intercepting or terminating stormwater flow, and although they can be challenging to install, they can be planted with a variety of native plants to create attractive and colorful landscape features. There are lots of resources available online (google "rain gardens NH") to help with ideas on placement, design, construction, and planting. New Hampshire's "Soak Up the Rain" program includes a comprehensive section on rain gardens.

Don't be discouraged by complex calculations included in some how-to resources. I simply stood out in the rain many times to watch the flow of runoff headed toward the lake and to get a feel for the best location for my rain garden and the amount of water I should design it to hold. I selected a location that would gather as much water as possible and would be somewhat out of the way of normal activities around the yard. With some Boots on the Ground help, we excavated an area about 5'x10', 18 inches deep, that would hold 300-400 gallons of runoff. The 18-inch depth was necessary because I wanted to backfill with good quality soil to support some planting. I lined the perimeter of the garden with riprap that I had left over from another project.



I backfilled about half of the garden with 12 inches of soil and the other half with about 6 inches and I separated the two sections with some river rock to prevent erosion of one section into the other. I built two sections because I expect that, in summertime, there will be much less runoff, which the deeper section will hold. This allows me to plant the deeper section with true water-loving plants while the shallower section will accommodate more versatile plants that don't need or want "wet

feet" year-round. Although my hope is that any sediment in the runoff will settle to the bottom of the rain garden, I created a path for potential overflow and armored that path with more river rock to minimize the transfer of any escaping sediment from the rain garden to the lake.

You can see, in the picture just above, some runoff that comes from my driveway/parking area would bypass the rain garden unless I extended it much further out from the wooded area. Enlarging the garden would have placed it in a high traffic area that serves as a walking path to the lake as well as a boat launching area. So, to catch as much runoff as possible, I added a rubber razor that will channel that additional flow into the rain garden while still allowing me to move the boat in and out of the lake.

A heavy late-season downpour came just before I finished the overflow path, and it was a good test for my project. Almost all the runoff from multiple directions flowed into the rain garden as planned but it did overflow a bit. This spring, I'll adjust the height of the outflow path a little so the garden holds more volume. I feel a sense of accomplishment from intercepting as much as was practical for my situation, and that's sometimes the best we can do – keep chipping away at it! If you think a rain garden might be a good solution for you, do some research and then let LKWA's Boots on the Ground know if we can help.



**OVER IN THE FOREST**

Our World. Our Home

**Over in the Forest**

A woodland baby animal counting book

BY MARIANNE BERKES ILLUSTRATED BY JILL DUBIN

This Spring's story is *Over in the Forest*, by Marianne Berkes with illustrations by Jill Dubin. Each page features woodland creatures and their young navigating fun habitats. Children can count the number of baby animals corresponding with the page and look for bonus camouflaged creatures. Try the fun challenges and questions posed along the way.

Scan for more info!

Visit the StoryWalk® at Whitten Woods between March 1 to April 30. After you're done enjoying the story, stop by the Ashland Town Library to check out *Over in the Forest* and enjoy a craft based on the book!

The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and developed in collaboration with the VT Bicycle & Pedestrian Coalition and the Kellogg Hubbard Library.

SQUAM LAKES ASSOCIATION  
INNISFREE BOOKSHOP  
Ashland Town Library  
SQUAM LAKES NATURAL SCIENCE CENTER

### Over in the Forest: a Story Walk in Whitten Woods Now - April 30

This Spring's story is *Over in the Forest* by Marianne Berkes with illustrations by Jill Dubin. Landing a spot on Bank Street's Best Book list in 2012, this story features young animals learning to navigate their new homes.

Visit the StoryWalk® at Whitten Woods between now and April 30th.

Story Walk® Partners- Holderness Free Library & Ashland Town Library

Sponsors- Squam Lakes Natural Science Center, Squam Lakes Association, Innisfree Book Shop and Ashland Town Library.

The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and developed in collaboration with the VT Bicycle & Pedestrian Coalition and the Kellogg Hubbard Library.



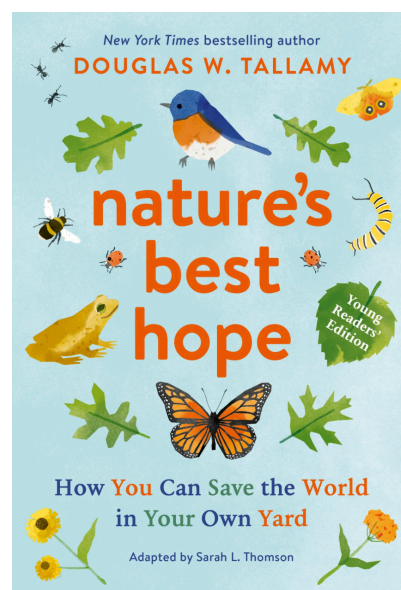
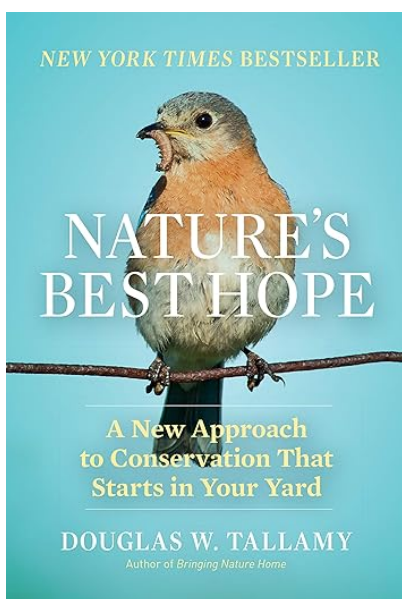


*Nature's Best Hope* by Douglas W. Tallamy is a "conservation book that argues for a grassroots approach to saving wildlife by transforming private yards into native plant habitats... It explains the critical role of native plants in supporting local food webs, especially insects, and provides practical guidelines for homeowners to help reverse biodiversity loss, even in suburban settings. The book emphasizes that individual actions, when aggregated, can create a significant conservation impact."

"To support conservation efforts, you need look no farther than your own backyard... *Nature's Best Hope* offers practical tips for creating habitat that protects and nurtures nature." —**National Geographic**

"An urgent and heartfelt call for a new approach to conservation- one that starts in every backyard" - **NYT**

Available in the original edition and also as a young readers edition.



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## It's Spring and the LKWA LakeSmart program is underway!

by Laurence Pizer

LKWA Board member and LakeSmart Ambassador

As Lake Kanasatka's ice recedes, our efforts to support the LakeSmart program redouble. We have contacted all former applicants whose requests for recognition were not initially successful, and we have received an encouraging response. We expect to be scheduling our initial site visits to reward those who have addressed problems and are ready for a recheck. If our records were imperfect, and you were not contacted, please email me. For those of you ready to enter the program (and that should be the rest of the lake residents), also contact me so I can connect you with the application process. If you are interested, please email Larry Pizer at [lapizer@gmail.com](mailto:lapizer@gmail.com).

NH Lakes, which administers the LakeSmart program, sponsored an Ambassador's Zoom meeting to connect Ambassadors to each other to learn best practices. I hope that I am improved in assisting you in reaching the status of LakeSmart.

The LakeSmart program does two things. It encourages landowners to protect the Lake by guiding them to avoid problems that could lead to degradation of water quality while giving helpful hints to teach how to enjoy our wonderful location. It rewards those who meet the standards with LakeSmart status and signs.

There is no cost to apply. Even if a property has additional steps necessary to achieve LakeSmart status, there is no penalty. Email me or call me if you need more information.

Larry Pizer  
[lapizer@gmail.com](mailto:lapizer@gmail.com)  
508-813-4526



## What Are Native Plants?

“Native plants are those that occur within their natural range, ecosystem, and habitat without human introduction. This natural range is where the plant has grown and adapted to the conditions of the habitat (climate, soil conditions, light) and co-evolved with other organisms over evolutionary time. Every native plant has a specific native range; some are broad extending across a large area, while others are restricted to areas within a single state.

Native plants are important because they support healthy ecosystems. The co-evolution of plants and organisms means that organisms within a given habitat are dependent on the native plants present. These plants are an important source of food and create necessary habitats for many native animals. A loss of native plants results in loss of diversity in both plants and animals, making ecosystems more susceptible to climate change, disease, and other threats.”  
(courtesy of NH Forest and Lands)

### Read More about Native Plants here

<https://kanasatka.org/all-about-native-plants/>  
<https://www.nhdfi.dncr.nh.gov/natural-heritage/native-plants>  
[https://www.fs.usda.gov/wildflowers/Native\\_Plant\\_Materials/Native\\_Gardening/](https://www.fs.usda.gov/wildflowers/Native_Plant_Materials/Native_Gardening/)  
<https://www.nativeplanttrust.org/for-your-garden/buy-native-plants-new/>  
<https://nhaudubon.org/build-it-and-they-will-come-go-native/>

## Why Native Plants Matter

“Restoring native plant habitat is vital to preserving biodiversity. By creating a native plant garden, each patch of habitat becomes part of a collective effort to nurture and sustain the living landscape for birds and other animals.” (courtesy of Audubon)

### Benefits of Native Plants:

Low Maintenance and Conservation: Established native plants generally require little maintenance. In general, they require considerably less fertilizer and pesticides than non-native/cultivated plants. Their deep root systems require less water and help improve soil health, prevent erosion, and decrease water runoff.

Beauty and Aesthetic Value: Native plants offer beautiful showy flowers, produce abundant colorful fruits and seeds, and seasonal changes in colors from the pale, thin greens of early



spring, to the vibrant yellows and reds of autumn.

Healthy Places for People: Lawns require large quantities of water and often fertilizer to maintain. By choosing native plants for your landscaping, you are not only helping wildlife, but you are creating a healthier place for yourself, your family, and your community.

Environmental Benefits: Native plants help protect water quality and provide significant carbon sequestration, aiding in the fight against climate change. In addition to the reduced noise and carbon pollution from lawn mower exhaust, many native plants, especially long-living trees like oaks and maples, are effective at storing the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide.

Find the full article from Audubon here-

<https://www.audubon.org/content/why-native-plants-matter>

National Wildlife Federation-

<https://www.nwf.org/Native-Plant-Habitats/Plant-Native/Why-Native>

Native Plant Trust- <https://www.nativeplanttrust.org/why-native-plants-matter/>

### Additional Reasons Native Plants Are Important:

- **Support Wildlife and Biodiversity:** Native plants provide necessary nectar, pollen, and seeds for native insects, birds, and animals. Many insects are specialists and can only feed on specific native plants; for example, monarch butterfly caterpillars rely exclusively on native milkweed.
- **Adaptation to Local Environment:** Because they have evolved in a region for thousands of years, they are better adapted to local soil and climate conditions, making them more resistant to pests and diseases.
- **Cultural and Aesthetic Value:** Native plants reflect the unique, natural heritage of a region, adding to the beauty of the landscape. (Courtesy of National Wildlife Federation)



Find great posters at- [nationalnativeplantmonth.org](https://nationalnativeplantmonth.org).

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## Native Plant Giveaway 2026

Thanks to the generous financial support of Stephens Landscaping, LKWA is again offering a native plant to new and renewed members for fiscal year 2026-2027. This year's choices have been sourced from Found Well Farm, a nursery in Pembroke, NH, which emphasizes using native plants to attract pollinators and provide food and cover for wildlife.

Native plants provide many benefits over other plants.

- Their deep root systems help prevent erosion, improve soil structure, and increase water infiltration, which reduces runoff.
- By absorbing more water, native plants can significantly reduce stormwater runoff and the risk of flooding.
- Native plants are a critical food and shelter source for local wildlife, including pollinators, birds, and mammals.

- Being adapted to the local climate, native plants are typically drought-tolerant and require less watering.

**Plant quantities are limited and will be available at the LKWA Annual Meeting on a first come first served basis.**

This year's plants will arrive to us potted in 1-2 quart containers, ready for planting.

Selections are:

- Clethra alnifolia, (Sun/part shade)
- Viburnum acerifolium (shade)
- Rubus odoratus (sun/ part sun)



## **COMING SOON - LKWA Community Resource Packet**

Lake Kanasatka Watershed Association (LKWA), is excited to share a new Community Resource packet, compiled and designed by LKWA. The packet includes articles on a wide range of topics for all of us who live on or near the lake, and is *made possible by a generous donation in memory of Roy Green, the father of lake residents Jill Anderson and Trish Townsend.*

The packet will be mailed to all lakefront and lake access properties around Lake Kanasatka in the coming weeks. Please watch your mailbox for this useful resource.



LKWA still has a selection of high quality, snuggly soft, cotton/poly blend T-shirts supplied by Matt Rosenfield's Lake Life Brand from right here on Lake Kanasatka!

All T-shirts feature a prominent, updated LKWA logo with a small Lake Life Brand circle logo in sizes SM-XL. Color choices are Navy or Turquoise. Price is \$25.00 for all styles, sizes and colors. If required, shipping is \$7.00.

T-shirt styles are as follows:

1. Unisex short sleeve (printed front center, LLB circle at back of neck)
2. Women's V-neck short sleeve (printed front center, LLB circle at back of neck)
3. Women's racerback tank (printed back center, LLB circle at front left chest)

**Get ready for the warmer weather by purchasing your LKWA T-shirt now!**

**Contact Doug Whitley at [doug@whitleys.org](mailto:doug@whitleys.org) to place an order and arrange for pick up or shipping.**



## IT'S TIME!

### Get your Septic System Inspected before Summer Begins

LKWA is offering to reimburse Lake Kanasatka homeowners 50% of the cost of a residential septic system inspection (up to a maximum reimbursement of \$200), provided certain requirements are met. This program is offered so that homeowners can understand the system's condition, determine whether it may be affecting the lake's water quality, and to assist residents in planning for needed repairs or replacement. Please find the details on this program on the LKWA website here:

<https://kanasatka.org/septic-system-inspection-assistance-program/>

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### An Important Reminder...

If you were one of our many readers who did not receive the February 10, 2026 LKWA *Water Matters* newsletter, please check your email "spam" or "junk" folder.

To ensure that this issue does not continue to happen, follow the steps provided by Constant Contact, the safe and secure platform we use to send out the LKWA newsletters and other important information. Use the link below, to update your email program and/or security program easily and quickly.

[https://knowledgebase.constantcontact.com/articles/en\\_US/KnowledgeBase/5873-Safelist-email-addresses-in-an-email-client-or-security-program](https://knowledgebase.constantcontact.com/articles/en_US/KnowledgeBase/5873-Safelist-email-addresses-in-an-email-client-or-security-program)

Can't find a past issue of the newsletter in your email folder? All past newsletters may be found on the LKWA website at <https://kanasatka.org/newsletters-2/>

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### NH Department of Environmental Services Fact Sheets NEW in 2026

New Fact Sheets for 2026 are now available from NH Department of Environmental Services (NH DES). Fact sheets provide information on updated regulations and permitting requirements that property owners need to consider when altering their property. Several topics will be of particular interest to readers who live along the lakeshore.

**Shoreland Accessory Structures** includes Information relating to "accessory structures", (such as beaches, patios, sheds, etc.) within the protected shoreland. Additional information can be found here- <https://www.des.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt341/files/documents/2020-01/sp-6.pdf>

**Erosion Control for Construction Within the Protected Shoreland** provides excellent information on preventing and controlling erosion on your property with information on why erosion control is important, the NH laws that govern erosion control issues, as well as smart and effective ways to manage erosion with native plantings and other simple measures. See more information here-

<https://www.des.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt341/files/documents/2020-01/sp-1.pdf>

**Lawn Care Within the Protected Shoreland** discusses how caring for your lawn impacts the ecosystem in and around the lakes and the streams. Learn the facts relating to restrictions on lawn care and fertilizer use as described in the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act (SWQPA). This fact sheet also includes tips on how to maintain a low impact, healthy lawn with fewer maintenance requirements.

<https://www.des.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt341/files/documents/2020-01/sp-2.pdf>

**Cyanobacteria in New Hampshire Waters** An updated review of cyanobacteria- what it is, how to recognize it and when and how to report a bloom. For more information go to-

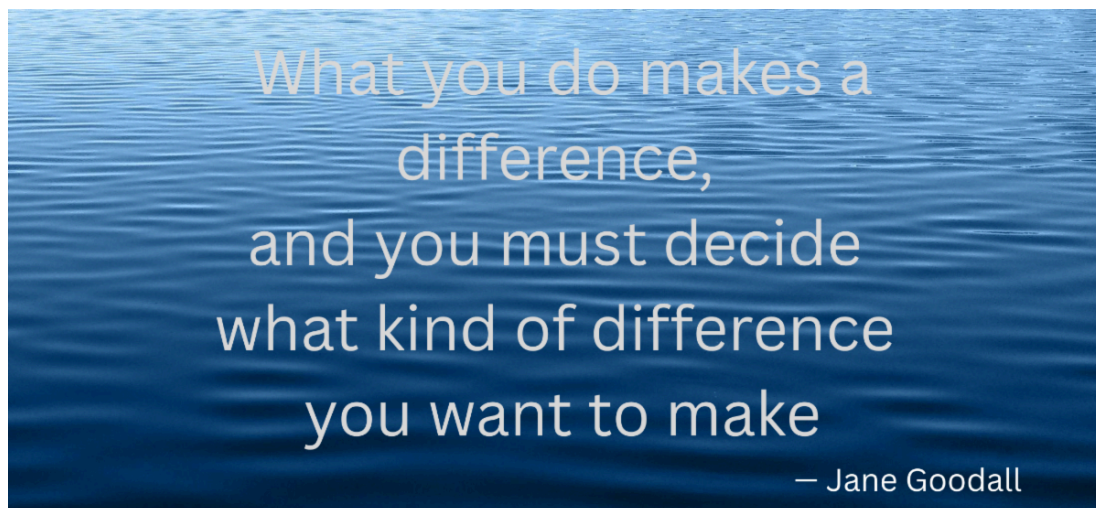
<https://www.des.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt341/files/documents/2020-01/wmb-10.pdf>

**Lake Eutrophication** is an important concept to understand. Eutrophication of lakes is the process by which excessive nutrient enrichment—primarily phosphorus and nitrogen—triggers rapid algae growth, blooms, and increased biological productivity, often leading to oxygen depletion, fish kills, and ecosystem degradation. While it is part of the natural aging process for lakes, it is often accelerated by human activities like land clearing, poor landscaping and faulty septic systems which allows for runoff from fertilizer, sewage and other waste. See the following link for more information on this topic.

<https://www.des.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt341/files/documents/2020-01/bb-3.pdf>

The full library of NH DES Fact Sheets may be found here-

<https://www.des.nh.gov/resource-center/publications>



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### Nominating Committee Update!

Thank you to the four individuals who have stepped forward as potential board members for the 2026-2028 fiscal years. Next steps will include interviewing each of the four potential candidates. If you are interested in a board position, it is not too late!

Please contact Bruce Hart at [bbhart54@gmail.com](mailto:bbhart54@gmail.com) with a brief statement of your interest and your qualifications by May 1st.

As of this writing, there are several open positions on the board. The new two year term will begin July 2026, following a vote by the LKWA membership at the Annual Meeting. In addition to a board position, LKWA has a wide variety of volunteer positions.

Please join us in the work ahead to keep Lake Kanasatka clean and healthy. If you completed the recent Community survey and included your name, we have your contact information, otherwise, please let us know of your interest by contacting [lkwamail@gmail.com](mailto:lkwamail@gmail.com). Thank you.

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### Recent LKWA Board Activity

1. LKWA Community Resource packet mailing- the Board voted unanimously to use the \$1000 donation from the Anderson's for this purpose in honor of Roy Green, father of lake residents Jill Anderson and Trish Townsend.
2. The Nominating Committee, which is made up of two directors and a member at large, is underway. The committee is seeking at least one, and possibly up to three candidates for LKWA Board Directors for fiscal years 2026-2028. The total number of Board Directors will remain at nine.
3. Follow up on Water Quality Questions- LKWA specific data summary will be completed in April. We will have an in-depth discussion after we have a chance to review this summary.
4. General boating and wake boat information will be included in the LKWA Community Resource packet to be sent out in April.
5. Wake Boat owners will be invited to a future stand up meeting to discuss potentially harmful wake boat impacts on the lake. A "Boating for Lake Health" presentation is under consideration for the annual meeting.
6. A boating graphic produced by Little Lake Sunapee Protective Association, was discussed as to how and when the information could be used. No action was taken.
7. The Annual Meeting and the Annual Picnic will be two separate events in 2026. The Annual Meeting is scheduled for July 11 at Moultonborough Academy, with the picnic TBD. A Q&A panel session will be a part of the annual meeting in 2026.
8. Board members are looking into qualified presenters to address lake healthy boating using experts from Lake Sunapee, UNH, NH DES and/or New Hampshire Lakes
9. Our Community Survey is currently underway with 98 responses as of this writing. Responses include a wide range of answers to all questions. An AI summary will be published once the survey is closed in late April.
10. Review of Goals and Objective for the year - The board established five primary goals at a planning meeting in August 2025 as follows-
  - Clean up the lake/water quality (highest priority)
  - Engage more shorefront property owners
  - Improve communication (internal and external)
  - Increase Lake Smart participation
  - Determine balance between property owner action vs. LKWA responsibilities
11. A mid-year review has begun. Examples of goal progress-
  - LKWA Community Resource packet mailed out to all shorefront and lake access properties addresses goals 1-5.
  - gathering water quality samples through the ice in the winter months.
  - adding a 4th site with water quality monitors already assigned.
  - contacting homeowners whose properties have not yet received LakeSmart final approval with an offer to assist them through the process.
  - Expanded coverage of the monthly LKWA newsletter to provide regular external communication.
  - Launched a Community survey that has received 98 candid and diverse responses to date.
12. To assist in tracking goal progress more objectively, the Board will use the Watershed Based Management Plan (WBMP) format to create a progress checklist for the 5 goals. Board members will review the WBMP (pages 50-54) in advance of creating an annual

tracking document to identify goals that are complete and also goals that have yet to be completed.

13. The Board voted to participate in NH Gives, an online giving campaign for New Hampshire non-profits, again this year. NH Gives is a 24 hour fund raising event June 9-10.

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**LKWA email contacts:**

**General LKWA and Board:**

[LKWAmail@gmail.com](mailto:LKWAmail@gmail.com)

**LKWA Communications email:**

[LKWACommunications@gmail.com](mailto:LKWACommunications@gmail.com)

[Link to Watershed Management Plan](#)

*This newsletter is brought to you by the LKWA Communications Committee:*

*Carol Hart, Scott Wallace, Larry Pizer,  
Bruce Hart, Julia Marchand, and Chris Wallace*

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Lake Kanasatka Watershed  
Association | [www.kanasatka.org](http://www.kanasatka.org)



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