



The Sampler

July 23, 2013

The Sampler is a monthly e-newsletter produced by the Volunteer Lake Assessment Program.

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Web Highlights

This month's featured lake website is [White Oak Pond Watershed Association](#), Holderness NH

EPA Launches Harmful Algal Bloom Video and Public Service Announcement Series
[EPA's YouTube Channel](#)

[High CO2 Spurs Wetlands to Absorb More Carbon](#)

[Be Careful What You Wish for When Managing Aquatic Weeds](#)

Upcoming Events

[Lake Friendly Landscaping Workshop](#)

Friday, July 26, 2013
Eastman Lake, Grantham, NH
Free, but pre-registration required

[GMCG Introduces Watershed Management Plan](#)

July 24, 2013 6:00 p.m.
Freedom Town Hall
Freedom, NH

[Taking Action for Wildlife](#)

Dragonfly Appreciation Event
Wednesday, July 31, 2013
3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Hiller Conservation Easement

What's With the Weather?

Day four of the heat wave and I finally swapped the extra set of field clothes which consisted of jeans, a t-shirt and sweatshirt from my field bag and replaced them with shorts and a tank top. June was so cool and wet that after a day in the field it felt great to change into warm, comfy clothes. Now I'm wet with sweat instead of rain and changing into a cool, dry set of clothes feels equally good. But, the warmer clothes have not gone far, nor should they. I have resigned not to listen to the weather forecast and follow my own instinct, which I admit has been off a couple of times, but I'm probably as accurate as the meteorologists.

I've been sampling lakes, ponds and coastal waters for almost fifteen years. I don't recall the unpredictable weather extremes in the earlier part of my career, maybe they occurred and I just don't remember them, but I tend to think that's not the case. Coastal water temperatures are in the seventies in some places, unbelievable. When I was sampling coastal waters, the average water temperatures were high fifties and low sixties, even during a rare heat wave. Summer lake sampling was status quo most days, guaranteed 70 - 80 degree weather, some sun, the occasional rainy day. Now the occasional rainy day has turned into weeks and 70-80 degree weather considered a relief from the increasingly common heat wave. Now don't get me wrong, I'm not complaining, but preparing for and dealing with extremes is tedious.

If I think so, what must our lakes and rivers be thinking? Fluctuating water temperatures and levels, plumes of pollutants, their impacts rippling throughout systems. They are starving for regularity but unwillingly on a roller coaster. There is no preparation, they just have to "go with the flow". Be kind to your lakes and rivers, they didn't buy a ticket for this ride. Keep an eye on them. Observe and record how they respond to these events. Get to know them better and you'll be better at predicting how they react. Share your observations and continue monitoring. You may have already noticed new patterns emerging. Whatever your motivation, the data and observations you collect are critical in understanding the future of our lakes and rivers.

June VLAP Summary

VLAP sampling got off to a rather slow start in June, but quickly picked up and experienced a very busy end of the month. The VLAP coordinator, PSU Satellite Lab Manager, and two interns completed a total of 32 biologist visits. Additionally, volunteers sampled 74 lakes on their own. Volunteers utilized the Jody Connor Limnology Center or the VLAP satellite labs in New London and Plymouth to borrow equipment and analyze samples.

According to the National Weather Service, June was a very wet

57 Valley Road
East Andover, NH

Limno Lingo

Jellyfish (freshwater):

Freshwater jellyfish (*Craspedacusta sowerbii*) are present in a handful of New Hampshire lakes and have been reported in many other states in the U.S. The polyps, found mostly in the mucky pond bottom, are 2 millimeters or less and can often go unnoticed to the naked eye. The adult jellyfish, or medusa, is about the size of a quarter, and is translucent but also may appear white or green. The jellyfish are typically visible in lakes and ponds in July through September when water temperatures are warmer. Not to fret, they are not harmful to humans; only to small fish and invertebrates.

month with Concord experiencing 6.78" of rainfall making it the 10th wettest June on record. Most VLAP lakes reported high water levels which lasted throughout the month and into July. Along with the high lake levels, tributary flows were generally moderate to high. The above average precipitation and stormwater runoff resulted in decreased clarity in most lakes. Algal growth continued to remain low throughout June, but with the return of hot and sunny conditions be on the lookout for algal and cyanobacteria blooms as the stormwater likely supplied nutrients that encourage plant and algal growth.

Beavers and Management Strategies

A common theme in lake and pond management is dealing with those pesky beavers that like to dam up just about any flowing water to create suitable living conditions. The only problem being that they may cause flooding of roads and timber stands, and often take down trees close to shore that could provide valuable buffering and bank stabilization. A recent [article](#) in the Monadnock Ledger offers up a humorous account of the struggles the Harris Center in Hancock, NH has recently encountered. The [NH Fish and Game Department](#) offers some general information on beavers but not much in the management of beavers. However, the UNH Cooperative Extension's document "[Beavers and Their Control](#)" is a useful resource for those looking to manage their beaver populations.

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