

Having trouble reading this email? [View it in your browser.](#)



September 19, 2012

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

[Subscribe](#) to *The Sampler*

### **Web Highlights**

This month's featured lake website is Blaisdell Lake in Sutton, NH  
<http://www.blpoa.org/>

### **Upcoming Events**

**National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, Saturday, September 29, 2012**

[Collection Sites](#)

**EPA's Watershed Academy Webcasts will be back in September!**

[Register](#)

### **Grants**

**[2013 Watershed Assistance Grants!](#)**

For implementation of watershed-based plans to restore nonpoint source

## **Meet the New Limnology Center Director!**

Greetings Volunteers. My name is Dave Neils and it's humbling and exciting to begin my new position as the Director of the Jody Connor Limnology Center. Humbling because of the Center's new namesake, with whom I was privileged to work with and learn from for many years. His dedication to our state's lakes was second to none and will never be forgotten.



It is also exciting. As I near the beginning of my 12th year of employment at DES, being selected as the director of the Jody Connor Limnology Center provides me with the unique opportunity to continue studying aquatic ecology as well as interacting with the New Hampshire lakes community. Having just experienced my first "official" VLAP visit, I know DES is amazingly fortunate to have such a wonderful and strong cadre of volunteers monitoring our lakes and ponds.

In assuming my new position, I leave behind my job as biological monitoring program manager at DES which I held for 10 years. In this position, I worked to develop tools to describe and evaluate the condition of the aquatic communities that live in our surface waters. In addition, I've worked diligently to implement statewide surface water quality monitoring efforts including national and statewide sampling programs.

Prior to coming to DES, I honed my limnological skills and knowledge working at the Cornell Biological Field Station on Oneida Lake and the Rensselaer Darrin Freshwater Institute on Lake George in New York. Together these lakes span the spectrum of lake productivity from eutrophic (Oneida Lake) to oligotrophic (Lake George) conditions. They also share some similarities in that they both suffer from the impacts of invasive species. Oneida Lake was introduced to zebra mussels and Lake George's management of Eurasian water milfoil was a constant topic of study. These

impaired waters or to protect high quality waters.

Deadline November 21, 2012

---

## Limno Lingo

**Acid Neutralizing Capacity (ANC):** The measurement of the buffering capacity of a lake, or how well a lake can resist changes in pH. Lakes need to be able to neutralize acidic inputs in order for aquatic life to survive. In the limnology lab, the ANC is determined by measuring the initial pH of the sample, and then adding increments of acid, measuring how well the sample resists change in pH. The greater buffering capacity, the more capable the lake will be to resist pH changes. Due to the prevalence of granite bedrock beneath our lakes, New Hampshire waters have historically had relatively low ANC values indicating that they are vulnerable to the effects of acid rain.

experiences allowed me to gain an appreciation of the complexity of the ecological interactions that occur in lakes and the passion that people like yourselves have for their well-being.

In the near future, I look forward to adjusting to my new duties and am thankful to have great staff support. I also look forward to working with you and encourage you to contact me at (603) 271-8865 or [david.neils@des.nh.gov](mailto:david.neils@des.nh.gov) with questions you have or to introduce yourself.

## Filamentous Green Algae: Unsightly yet Harmless

We have received a large number of complaints about algal growth in 2012. Luckily the majority of growth is of filamentous green algae and not cyanobacteria. Although unsightly and slimy to the touch, filamentous green algae are completely harmless and do not pose a health threat while recreating. These algae like warm, sunny, nutrient rich conditions and are likely more abundant this year because of the early growing season, abundant heat and warm water temperatures.

## Variable Milfoil Infestations in NH Lakes is Growing

Two new infestations of variable milfoil (an invasive aquatic plant) were identified in ponds in New Hampshire this summer. Unfortunately neither was an early detection, and several acres in each waterbody were already infested by the time the milfoil was reported. DES recommends monitoring your waterbody once a month from May through September through the Weed Watcher Program so that any new infestations are found early, before they spread. Early detection makes for easier control and potential eradication of the infestation. You can send digital pictures of plants in for identification to Amy Smagula at [Amy.Smagula@des.nh.gov](mailto:Amy.Smagula@des.nh.gov), or mail them to NHDES, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301. For more information about the Weed Watcher Program please contact Amy Smagula at [amy.smagula@des.nh.gov](mailto:amy.smagula@des.nh.gov).

NH Department of Environmental Services  
29 Hazen Drive  
PO Box 95

Concord, New Hampshire 03302

This email was sent to: [james.martin@des.nh.gov](mailto:james.martin@des.nh.gov)  
[Unsubscribe](#)

powered by  
MailerMailer