



The Sampler

May 3, 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 [Island Pond in Stoddard, NH](#)

[Trends in Stream Nitrogen Concentrations from Forested Reference Catchments Across the USA](#)

Upcoming Events

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, Saturday, April 27, 2013
[Collection Sites](#)

[Annual VLAP Workshop](#)
Saturday, June 1, 2013
NH DES
29 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH

[NEC NALMS Conference](#)
June 7 - 8, 2013
Saint Joseph's College
Standish, ME

[Lakes Congress](#)
Friday, June 21, 2013
Wares Campus Center
Colby Sawyer College,
New London, NH

Grants

[NH Charitable Foundation](#)

Asian Clam Monitoring

[Asian clams](#), also called "golden clams", are round, yellow-green to dark brown colored shellfish with thick, concentric rings on their shells. The clams are typically small, averaging less than 1.5 inches in size, and have a life span of one to seven years. A single clam can release 2,000-8,000 offspring per year, depending on conditions, and some can self-fertilize. Because of their rapid reproduction rate, DES is concerned that this non-native and invasive clam can quickly increase in numbers and do ecological and environmental harm to waterbodies in New Hampshire.

Asian clam has already been documented in the Merrimack River, Cobbetts Pond in Windham, and Lond Pond in Pelham. DES suspects that the clam may already exist at additional sites in New Hampshire. DES is currently developing a standard operating procedure for volunteers to monitor their waterbody for the presence of Asian clams. The full method, as well as equipment to borrow, should be available by early June. If you are interested in volunteering to check your waterbody for this invasive clam, please contact Amy Smagula via email at amy.smagula@des.nh.gov.



Image courtesy of Lake George Association, N.Y.

2012 VLAP Reports

The 2012 VLAP [Regional Reports](#) and [Individual Lake Reports](#) are now posted on the VLAP website. The Individual Lake Reports were revised for 2012. The reports are concise, two-page reports designed to be easily distributed by volunteers and lake associations. Check out your report and provide feedback to

[Community Grants Program](#)

Small Grants less than \$5,000, rolling applications March 1 through November 15, 2013

Large Grants greater than \$5,000, application deadline August 1, 2013.

[Travelocity Voluntourism Grants](#)

\$5,000 grant towards a citizen science volunteer trip with Earthwatch Institute!

Limno Lingo

Graben: A type of basin formed from tectonic faulting. The faults move and separate forming a depression which collects rainfall and groundwater, eventually forming a lake. This is the mode of origin for many of the world's most spectacular relict lakes which contain a vast number of unique plant and animal species. Lake Baikal in Siberia and Lake Tahoe in California are examples of graben lakes.

sara.steiner@des.nh.gov. We would love to hear what you think!

Secchi Dip In Report

The North American Secchi Dip-in has released a report summarizing data collected for the past 18 years. One goal of the dip-in is to look at transparency trends to see if they are getting better or worse. Check out the [report](#) on the VLAP website. Don't forget the **2013 Secchi Dip-in is June 29 - July 1!** Enter your Dip-in data [here](#).

Lake Ice Out Data Entry

Starting in 2011, VLAP began storing annual ice out data for lakes. We have now created an [on-line form](#) for you to enter your annual ice out data. This will serve as a warehouse for ice out data and hope that you will enter ice out data annually. Ice out definitions vary over time and between observers. Lake ice out can be considered when you can safely navigate from point A to point B with ice still visible in certain areas, or when the lake is mostly free of ice. For those looking for a fun and interesting way to hold an ice out contest see what the folks at [Norway Pond in Hancock](#) did!

National Volunteer Week is April 21-27

VLAP would like to extend our appreciation to the dedicated citizen scientists who monitor the water quality of New Hampshire's lakes and ponds. Your efforts are truly amazing. In 2012, VLAP volunteers conducted 398 sampling events at 180 lake deep spots and 500 river/stream stations generating approximately 13,000 individual sample results. Volunteers spent approximately 3,600 hours collecting water quality samples and delivering them to analytical laboratories. The value of this time is approximately \$79,000. These efforts have been instrumental in sustaining New Hampshire's quality waterbodies for recreational use, aesthetic beauty and economic value. Congratulations citizen scientists, you are truly this state's environmental protectors!

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