



# The Sampler

August 30, 2016

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 [Mirror Lake Protective Association](#), Tuftonboro, NH

[Predicting Dangerous Bacteria Levels in N.H. Lakes](#)

[High Tech Buoy Measures Quality of Lake Water](#)

[Good Watershed = Good Lake](#)

[Toxic Blue-Green Algae Adapt to Rising CO<sub>2</sub>](#)

[Scientist: One of the Worst Milfoil Seasons at Candlewood](#)

## Upcoming Events

[Safe Waters, Healthy Waters Webcast](#)

Wednesday Aug. 31, 2016  
1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

[River Runners Invasive Species Training Workshop](#)

Wednesday Aug. 31, 2016  
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.  
Conservation Center  
54 Portsmouth St.  
Concord, NH 03301

[Smartphone Navigation Training Workshop](#)

## **It's Jellyfish Season!**

The water's warm, maybe a bit too warm, but that means it's jellyfish season! Few of us have been lucky enough to catch a glimpse of the freshwater jellyfish. For those of you who have not seen one, here is a short description.



Freshwater Jellyfish Caught in Lake Ivanhoe, Wakefield, N.H.

*Craspedacusta sowerbii* was first noted in England in 1880, but was first discovered in the United States in 1908 and has since been reported in many of the contiguous 48 states. Typically, this creature appears in small ponds, however, there are conflicting reports stating in what types of waterbodies the freshwater jellyfish are most commonly discovered. Some literature says they are found in old quarries, while other literature indicates that they thrive in new reservoirs. Wherever they are found, many scientists agree they are elusive.

In its polyp form the jellyfish is less than 2-millimeters long. It is often unnoticed by the naked eye, mostly because it resides in the mucky bottom of a pond. As the polyp creeps along the substrate it eats tiny invertebrates like zooplankton. The polyps can reproduce by asexual reproduction. Small buds are produced and before too long the adult jellyfish are found floating freely in the water. The freshwater jellyfish can also reproduce sexually, although the populations are rarely of mixed sexes. For the most part, all male or all female congregations have been observed.

Friday September 16, 2016  
3:00 - 5:30 p.m.  
Conservation Center  
54 Portsmouth St.  
Concord, NH 03301

[NH Wetlands Mapper  
Workshop](#)

Friday September 23, 2016  
NH Technical Institute  
Concord, NH 03301

## **Grants**

[Upper Connecticut River  
Mitigation  
and Enhancement Fund](#)

Deadline: January 6, 2017

[2017 Local Source Water  
Protection Grants](#)

Deadline: November 1, 2016

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## **Limno Lingo**

***Keratella***: A member of the zooplankton community in freshwater and marine environments; belonging to the phylum Rotifera, meaning wheel or whirling, for the cilia used to obtain food and move through the water. *Keratella* feed on algae, bacteria and protozoa and are commonly found in New Hampshire's lakes and ponds.



Polyp Colony

The freshwater jellyfish medusa is about the size of a quarter. It is translucent, but may appear white or green. Its sex organs, which hang from the center of the bell, make the jellyfish more visible. The tentacles around the bell are used to capture prey. Due to their small size, they are not harmful to humans; only small invertebrates are susceptible to their stings. In this stage, the creature may be visible for only a few months in the summer time, usually from July to October. It seems they prefer the warmer waters that late summer has to offer. Don't count on seeing them in the same pond two years in a row; they may appear again in a few years or not at all!



Medusa Colony

## **Filamentous Green Algae: Unsightly yet Harmless**

We have received a large number of complaints about algal growth in 2016. 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.

## **Native Aquatic Plant Growth Beneficial, Not Harmful**

Native aquatic plant growth has been abundant in 2016, just like the filamentous green algae. Native aquatic plants provide many benefits to lakes and ponds. SOLitude Lake Management recently released an [article](#) about the benefits of native plant growth, and is a good read for anyone concerned about plant growth in their lake or pond.

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