

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Top 10 Reasons to Attend the Lake Hopatcong Block Party on May 9 *2nd Annual Event to Celebrate New Jersey's Largest Lake*

LAKE HOPATCONG, N.J. (May 6, 2015)—Local bands performing on patio boats; local restaurants selling signature dishes; local businesses selling their products and services; community organizations sharing their missions and messages... and at the center of it all, a full-on celebration of Lake Hopatcong itself, with boat rides, nautical kids' crafts, and lake demonstrations. The second-annual **Lake Hopatcong Block Party** is all about New Jersey's largest lake and the vibrant community that surrounds it. To be held from **10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 9 at Hopatcong State Park**, it will bring together a variety of businesses and groups from around the lake, along with thousands of visitors from near and far.

"There is so much to celebrate about this lake and the people and businesses who call this area home," said Jessica K. Murphy, president of the Lake Hopatcong Foundation, which is coordinating this event for the second year. "The details are really coming together for what should be a fun, entertaining, and educational day for everyone who is a part of it."

A \$6 parking donation is requested at the gate to the State Park to help cover the cost of the event; nearby off-site shuttle parking is free.

Wondering why you should attend? Here are our top 10 reasons to join the fun:

10. Give and get. The variety of nonprofit organizations represents the variety of passions around the lake. Get your child fitted for a free helmet from Transoptions, an alternative transportation nonprofit organization. Learn about lake-friendly gardening practices from the Hopatcong Community Garden. Discover the rich history of Lake Hopatcong as a resort destination from the Lake Hopatcong Historical Museum. There's much to learn, and plenty of worthy causes to support!

9. Toe-tapping entertainment. Four bands will be performing on patio boat stages, with Shore Soundz playing hits from 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.; Big Jeff Music performing songs for young children from 12:15 to 1 p.m.; the Hawk Owls Band performing acoustic folk melodies from 1:30 to 2:45 p.m.; and Soul Groove performing from R&B and soul hits from 3:15 to 4:45 p.m.

8. Mother's Day gifts galore. From woodworkers to artisans to florists to honey makers, there will be lots of opportunities to pick up a last-minute gift for mom the day before Mother's Day!

7. Family fun. With kid crafts and activities planned throughout the day, Big Jeff Music at 12:15 p.m., and a model airplane show, along with playgrounds, sand toys in the beach volleyball court, a bubble entertainer, and expansive lawn and wooded areas, there will be plenty of ways for kids to burn energy and have fun, all with Lake Hopatcong as a backdrop!

6. Another Hildebrandt masterpiece. Just as he did last year, world-renowned artist and Hopatcong resident Greg Hildebrandt will be live painting a Lake Hopatcong scene, which will be auctioned off at the LHF Gala and Auction on Saturday, July 18. Come watch a master create another breathtaking work of art!

5. A festival of Culinary Delights. Be prepared to graze! More than a dozen restaurants from the Lake Hopatcong area will be serving some of their signature dishes for visitors to taste and enjoy. Whether you're in

the mood for barbecue, hot dogs, pasta, pizza, a burger, sandwiches, ice cream, or a variety of other yummy treats, you won't go home hungry, and maybe you'll discover your new go-to local eatery.

4. All aboard! The LHF will have a 18-passenger train available for rides, with donations going toward the new train station building capital campaign. Families can take a ride, get a great view of the park and lake, and help support the (eventual) Lake Hopatcong cultural and environmental center.

3. Win spending money. The Lake Hopatcong Foundation will be running a 50/50 throughout the day with two drawings, so a couple of visitors will have an opportunity to win a hefty sum of cash! In addition, other groups and organizations will be running giveaways and other types of raffles, so there will be lots of chances to be a winner.

2. Get on the water. Take advantage of the opportunity to get out on New Jersey's largest lake, with boat rides from local marinas and the Miss Lotta of Lake Hopatcong Cruises. There is limited space, but dozens of lucky visitors will be able to get on a boat for a short ride; sign up for a time slot and enjoy the open water and a view of the Block Party from the lake.

1. Support the lake! This is a day to celebrate the local business community, the residents and visitors of Lake Hopatcong, and the efforts of the Lake Hopatcong Foundation. By joining us for this fun event, you can throw your support behind the mission of improving Lake Hopatcong for all, now and in the years to come. A parking donation of \$6 will go directly to the LHF (off-site shuttle parking is free), and there will be lots of other ways to help put money into the local economy and community efforts. Let's keep the Lake Hopatcong community healthy, vibrant, united, and fun!

And one small addition to this list—a “what not to do at the Lake Hopatcong Block Party entry”: Hopatcong State Park has some lawn areas that are being reseeded for the 2015 summer season and have not fully grown in yet. They are marked with tape, and we are asking all Block Party attendees to please make sure to stay out of those areas of the lawn. (Also, since no lifeguards will be on duty, no swimming or wading in the lake is permitted during the Block Party. But there's plenty of other stuff to keep everyone occupied; see above!)

The Lake Hopatcong Block Party has all the makings of a beautiful and festive celebration of New Jersey's largest lake, with thousands of folks coming together to support the lake itself and the community around it. Join the fun!

The Lake Hopatcong Foundation is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission of “improving Lake Hopatcong for all, now and in the years to come.” The Lake Hopatcong Block Party is part of the group's effort to bring together the four towns and two counties that surround Lake Hopatcong and celebrate as a united community. Learn more about the LHF's initiatives and activities at www.lakehopatcongfoundation.org.

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