

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Donna Macalle-Holly, donna@lakehopatcongfoundation.org

**Tires, cans, bikes, and a lawn mower among items pulled from Lake Hopatcong  
by hundreds of volunteers**

LAKE HOPATCONG, N.J. (November 18, 2013)—More than 23,000 pounds of debris were removed from Lake Hopatcong by hundreds of volunteers at the Lake Hopatcong Foundation's Lake-Wide Community Cleanup on Saturday, November 9.

More than 400 volunteers registered to participate in this event, and each of the teams of volunteers reported back to the Lake Hopatcong Foundation with a tally of what they pulled from the miles of exposed shoreline. That haul included:

- More than 1,000 tires (most of which were recycled by Bridgestone Retail Operations)
- More than 2,000 beverage cans
- More than 1,500 glass bottles
- 13 appliances
- 500 plastic bags
- 141 pieces of clothing
- 188 toys
- 14 batteries

Some notable items removed included a lawn mower, a Jet Ski, bikes, a shopping cart, political and real estate signs, a trampoline, a couch frame, carpets, lounge chairs, cell phones, a leather jacket, a fishing pole, and even a mannequin.

"There is no doubt that Lake Hopatcong is a healthier ecosystem today because of the efforts of all of these volunteers to remove debris from its waters," said Lake Hopatcong Foundation president Jessica K. Murphy. "In addition to the improvement to the lake environment, it was also nice to know that so many groups were working together, having fun, and supporting one another in this effort. It truly was a wonderful day for those of us who love Lake Hopatcong."

The effort was coordinated by Donna Macalle-Holly of the Lake Hopatcong Foundation, who placed team leaders and groups of volunteers at about 40 access points around the lake, plus a team from Elite Divers went into Great Cove to pull debris from the lake bottom. The Lake Hopatcong Foundation would like to thank everyone who participated, including the boots-on-the-ground volunteers and groups (including Boy and Girl Scouts, community beach clubs, civic organizations and clubs, schools, churches, property owner associations, businesses, and elected officials), the property owners who granted access to the lake for each of the teams, and those who cleaned up their local areas on their own time. Special thanks goes to Morris and Sussex counties' Clean Communities programs for providing gloves and bags for the volunteers; the Departments of Public Works in Hopatcong, Jefferson, Mt. Arlington, and Roxbury, which picked the debris removed by volunteers; Hopatcong Fire Department and Jefferson Township for cleaning the tires; Bridgestone Retail Operations for taking the tires to recycle; Marty's Reliable Cycle for providing water for the volunteers. The last time an effort was made to remove debris from the shoreline was in 2003 when the Lake Hopatcong Commission staff cleaned some of the exposed

lake bed (the lake is dropped 60" every five years, so more of the shoreline is exposed). In the time since then, the area has faced multiple hurricane events, along with the usual accidental loss of items into the water.

"I keep saying that I'm not sure if I'm encouraged or discouraged by the amount of debris removed from the lake, since it's unfortunate that all of that was in the lake to begin with," Murphy said. "But I am nothing but encouraged by the enthusiasm of those who participated in this event. And in a broader sense, none of this would be possible without those who have stepped up to support the Lake Hopatcong Foundation. This is just a small taste of what we can do, but we need the community's support through memberships and donations, and then the possibilities for Lake Hopatcong are endless."

For photos of the day, go to our SmugMug page: [lakehopatcong.smugmug.com](http://lakehopatcong.smugmug.com)

or our Facebook pages:

<https://www.facebook.com/LakeHopatcongFoundation>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/LHCleanUP/>

The Lake Hopatcong Foundation is a 501c3 registered nonprofit organization that was started in 2012 with a mission "to improve Lake Hopatcong for everyone, now and in the years to come."

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