

### **More than 300 volunteers to come together to clean Lake Hopatcong**

LAKE HOPATCONG, N.J.—From shopping carts to golf balls, dock lumber to car batteries, tires to cell phones, a variety of items find their way to the bottom of Lake Hopatcong. And every five years, the state of New Jersey drops the lake five feet, exposing much more of the lake bed than usual. To take advantage of this exposure, the Lake Hopatcong Foundation has coordinated with four municipalities, two counties, the state, and a spectrum of local groups to get more than 300 volunteers to walk the shoreline and remove debris on Saturday, November 9, from 8 a.m. to noon at the LHF Lake-Wide Community Cleanup.

“With multiple hurricane events in recent years, along with the usual accidental loss of items from the shoreline and boat traffic, odds are high that we have a collection of items in the lake bed that shouldn’t be there,” said Lake Hopatcong Foundation president Jessica K. Murphy. “I’m so impressed by the community, local governments, and other groups for coming together for such a worthy effort.”

Among the items to be picked up will be tires, thanks to Bridgestone Tire, which will accept clean and standard tires through its Bridgestone Community Clean-Up Support Spent Tire Recycling Program. “We are happy to be a part of this effort, and look forward to not only allowing for the removal of tires from Lake Hopatcong, but also to recycling those tires to be used again,” said XXXXXX of Bridgestone.

Volunteers will be using gloves and trash bags donated by the counties of Morris and Sussex, through their Clean Community programs. And the four municipalities’ Departments of Public Works will be involved in removing the debris collected by volunteers. The DPWs will also attempt to remove debris that is embedded in the lake bottom and unable to be removed by volunteers, due to being stuck in a mucky area or some other issue with the location. Lakefront residents who notice such debris before the cleanup can submit information about it in the form at the bottom of this webpage:

<http://www.lakehopatcongfoundation.org/initiatives/falllakecleanup.html>

People and groups interested in volunteering or leading a volunteer team can also submit their information on a form at that link. The Lake Hopatcong Foundation website, [lakehopatcongfoundation.org](http://lakehopatcongfoundation.org), will also include information about where property owners can dispose of lake debris they collect themselves as the cleanup gets closer. Lake debris does not include vegetative waste, and recyclable materials should be separated out as necessary.

This is the first time a community event of this size has been organized to clean up Lake Hopatcong in conjunction with the 5-foot drawdown. The last time a cleanup was conducted was a decade ago, during the 2003 drawdown, when the Lake Hopatcong Commission staff removed debris from around the lake. That effort turned up six shopping carts, a lawnmower, nine bicycles, a bathtub, several car batteries, more than 3,000 tires, and more than 9,600 pounds of metal, among other things. For a list of what was removed during that cleanup, go to this document: [http://lakehopatcong.org/Pubs/Reports/Final\\_Clean-Up\\_Debris\\_Report.pdf](http://lakehopatcong.org/Pubs/Reports/Final_Clean-Up_Debris_Report.pdf)

The Lake Hopatcong Foundation is a registered 501c3 nonprofit group with a mission to “improve Lake Hopatcong for all who use it, now and in the years to come.” For more information about the cleanup or the foundation, visit the website at [www.lakehopatcongfoundation.org](http://www.lakehopatcongfoundation.org), call the office at 973-663-2500, or visit the office at 37 Nolan’s Point Park Road, Lake Hopatcong, NJ.

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