

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lake Hopatcong Foundation wins two awards for lake-wide cleanup

LAKE HOPATCONG, N.J. (June 2, 2014)—The Lake Hopatcong Foundation received two awards this spring for its efforts to coordinate a lake-wide community cleanup in November, which resulted in more than 23,000 pounds of debris being removed from the shores of Lake Hopatcong by more than 400 volunteers.

The Morris County Chamber of Commerce presented the “Innovative and Effective Program” award to the Lake Hopatcong Foundation at its Not-For-Profit Conference on April 17, and New Jersey Clean Communities presented the foundation with a “Clean Water Award” at its 11th Annual Clean Communities Award Program on May 22. In presenting the awards, both organizations noted the scale of the cleanup coordinated by such a young organization.

“We are so honored to have been presented with these awards, and we share them with the many partners and the hundreds of volunteers who made the Lake Hopatcong Fall Community Cleanup possible,” said Jessica K. Murphy, president of the Lake Hopatcong Foundation. “Our mission involves many aspects of lake life, but at the heart of it all is a clean lake, and we are happy to have made a difference in that regard.”

The cleanup on Nov. 9 coincided with the five-year 60” drawdown, which exposed much more of the Lake Hopatcong shoreline than usual. The haul of removed items included more than 1,000 tires, more than 2,000 beverage cans, more than 1,500 glass bottles, 13 appliances, and a variety of other items, from lawn mowers and bikes to political signs and a couch frame.

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 that pulled debris from the lake bottom in Great Cove. The Morris and Sussex Counties’ Clean Communities programs provided gloves and bags for the volunteers; the Departments of Public Works in Hopatcong, Jefferson, Mt. Arlington, and Roxbury picked the debris removed by volunteers; Hopatcong Fire Department and Jefferson Township cleaned the tires; and Bridgestone Retail Operations recycled many of the tires.

“It was just an excellent example of many groups coming together with a joint purpose of making our lake a better place,” Murphy said.

The Lake Hopatcong Foundation is an IRS registered 501c3 nonprofit organization with a mission of “improving Lake Hopatcong for all, now and in the years to come.” Learn more about the organization at www.lakehopatcongfoundation.org.

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