

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lake Hopatcong Foundation now hiring “Lake Stewards” to help protect lake from invasive species

LAKE HOPATCONG (June 5, 2015)—In an effort to protect New Jersey’s largest lake from the spread of invasive species and inform boaters about clean boating, the Lake Hopatcong Foundation is initiating a new Lake Steward program and is hiring interns and an intern coordinator for this summer season.

Based on a Lake George program of the same name, the Lake Stewards would be located at Lee’s County Park Marina in Mt. Arlington and would inform arriving and departing boaters about clean boating practices and about high-risk invasive species, in particular the aggressive water chestnut.

Students in Seton Hall University’s “Greenius” program helped develop the plan for the Lake Hopatcong program, including the training manual and a draft of an invasive species brochure, as part of the first partnership between the university and the foundation.

“These students really put together the structure of a great program for us,” said LHF president Jessica K. Murphy. “And they were helped along the way by the great folks at the Lake George Association, who developed an excellent method to help protect lakes from some of their biggest threats. We’re excited to put all this work into practice here.”

For more details on the Lake Steward positions and to apply, submit an application on the LHF website at lakehopatcongfoundation.org/about/projects-and-initiatives/environmental-initiatives/lhf-lake-steward-program/

“We’re really excited to see this program get off the ground this summer, and hoping it will enhance our other efforts to protect the lake from invasive species,” Murphy said. “It should also be a great opportunity for any young people who are pursuing a long-term career in the environmental science field or who just have a passion for Lake Hopatcong and keeping its ecosystem healthy.”

The Lake Hopatcong Foundation is a 501c3 nonprofit organization that was established in 2012 and is focused on improving the lake environment and experience. To learn more, go to www.lakehopatcongfoundation.org.

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