

Hanson's message to NSF about Sunapee, 24 October 2007

*“The partnership between Dr. Kathleen Weathers and the LSPA is an excellent example of how a diversity of talents and resources can create a monitoring station that serves the needs of scientists, educators, and the Lake Sunapee community. The deployment of automated instrumentation and the subsequent installation of information management also gives Lake Sunapee a presence in the global community of lake research sites. The information delivered by the buoy engages the curiosity of all in the partnership, forming a nexus around which ecological knowledge is shared and ideas are created about the study and management of Lake Sunapee. The experience and vision that this partnership between Weathers and LSPA has to offer the GLEON community will undoubtedly motivate the formation of future partnerships and foster closer relationships among the stakeholders in our precious freshwater resources.”*

On Lake Sunapee and the LSPA, By Kathleen Weathers, 23 October 2007

Lake Sunapee is the fifth-largest lake located entirely in NH. This nutrient poor (oligotrophic) lake is more than 1600 ha in area and is an important part of the ecology and economy of the Upper Valley Region of NH/VT. The LSPA is the oldest environmental association in NH. For more than 100 years the mission of this private non-profit educational association has been to preserve and enhance the environmental qualities of the Lake Sunapee region. LSPA's small number of paid staff is aided by a large citizen science volunteer base. LSPA is well known throughout northern New England for its education and outreach efforts, and for its connection with the research community. It is a resource and repository for much of the scientific information about Lake Sunapee and its watershed, but also about issues that affect lakes of the region. Present concerns include the ecological effects of increased human activities, including sedimentation, the introduction of invasive species, and water pollution.

The LSPA is an educational, not an advocacy, organization. It monitors lake water quality on a monthly basis; runs a water quality laboratory; studies, monitors and attempts to eradicate invasive species; and carries out best management practices in the watershed. One of LSPA's current goals is to be more strongly based in watershed and limnological science. Since 2004, Dr. Kathleen Weathers (Senior Scientist, Institute of Ecosystem Studies) has been working closely with the LSPA Board and staff to engage the scientific community in research, education and outreach focused on the Lake Sunapee region. Weathers took a sabbatical leave (2004-2005) with the LSPA during which time she and the LSPA catalyzed research, outreach and education projects, including the development and deployment of a GLEON monitoring buoy and initiation of an LSPA scientific advisory committee (SAC), which Weathers chairs. The SAC works closely with the LSPA Board and staff to facilitate access to and use of scientific research and understanding about lakes. This information is used to enhance LSPA's educational, management, and outreach efforts.