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**Lake Hopatcong
Commission**

Press Release

Lake-Friendly Retailers Receive Recognition

Landing, New Jersey, March 23, 2006 — The Lake Hopatcong Commission (LHC) recognized the commitment and efforts of local retail establishments that help protect and preserve Lake Hopatcong by participating in the Commission's award-winning lake-friendly fertilizer campaign. During the Commission's March public meeting, retailers were presented with a certificate of recognition to acknowledge their efforts.

"Our lake-friendly fertilizer program would never have taken off if these seven retailers did not agree to carry lake-friendly, non-phosphorus fertilizer," stated Arthur Ondish, Chairman of the Lake Hopatcong Commission during the recognition segment of the meeting.

The Commission also recognized former LHC Commissioner Sam Hoagland for spearheading the lake-friendly fertilizer program. Mr. Hoagland, a member of Hopatcong Borough Environmental Commission and Planning Board, accompanied by LHC Field Staff Director Bill Clark, canvassed many stores in and near the Lake Hopatcong Watershed last spring to convince retailers to stock the non-phosphorus fertilizer and promote its use to residents.

Eric Shaberick was on hand to accept the recognition certificate for True Value of Lakeside in Jefferson Township. "As a business owner within a lake community, its important to do our part to work with the Lake Hopatcong Commission to protect one of our most

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precious natural resources.” Bob Kriete of Mohawk Gardens in Sparta concurred. “Sales of lake-friendly fertilizer were on the rise last year and I anticipate this trend to continue as homeowners realize that by simply using non-phosphorus fertilizer, this will help clean up Lake Hopatcong and cut down on weed growth.”

Other retailers that participate in the program and have lake-friendly fertilizer available for sale are Hopatcong Hardware, Headley Lumber, Roxbury Garden Center, Station Hardware & Garden Center, and Lowe’s in Flanders.

Plans are underway to expand the lake-friendly fertilizer outreach campaign. More retailers will be encouraged to carry the non-phosphorous fertilizer and residents will be urged to make the switch to lake-friendly fertilizer. To learn more on how you can protect Lake Hopatcong by using lake-friendly fertilizer and for other yard and lawn maintenance tips, visit www.lakehopatcong.org.

Last November, the Lake Hopatcong Commission was awarded a 2005 Environmental Excellence Award in the Clean and Plentiful Water Category by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. The Commission received the award for its leadership and innovation to promote the use “lake-friendly”, phosphorus-free fertilizer and for its aquatic weed harvesting program to improve the lake’s water quality.

The Lake Hopatcong Commission is an independent New Jersey State commission founded in 2001 to protect the natural resources of the State’s largest lake. The Commission was created through legislation introduced by Senators Anthony Bucco (R-Morris) and Robert E. Littell (R-Sussex).

Lake Hopatcong is a 9-mile-long lake located in the northwest part of New Jersey on the borders of Sussex and Morris Counties. The 2700-acre lake is held in trust by the State of New Jersey for all New Jersey residents. It has nearly 40 miles of shoreline and a watershed population of over 65,000 people. It is a major recreational center in New Jersey and is considered one of the best freshwater fishing locations on the East Coast. The lake is also an emergency source of drinking water during declared drought emergencies.

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