



**Contacts:**

Jess Murphy, President, Lake Hopatcong Foundation  
973-663-2500, [jess@lakehopatcongfoundation.org](mailto:jess@lakehopatcongfoundation.org)

Donna Macalle-Holly, Grant and Program Director, Lake Hopatcong Foundation  
973-663-2500, [donna@lakehopatcongfoundation.org](mailto:donna@lakehopatcongfoundation.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – photos included**

**Floating Classroom offering summer learning cruises**

LAKE HOPATCONG, N.J. (June 10, 2019) – The school year may be wrapping up for many New Jersey students, but learning isn't taking a break for the summer on Lake Hopatcong. The Lake Hopatcong Foundation (LHF) will be running 90-minute summer cruises on their Floating Classroom, an interactive education center with scientific equipment right on board to facilitate a hands-on learning experience that's fun for children and adults alike.

"We at the Lake Hopatcong Foundation are passionate about fostering a vibrant and healthy Lake Hopatcong and its surrounding community," said LHF president Jessica K. Murphy. "One of our most important initiatives is educating people about the importance of our freshwater resources and how to take care of them. And what could be better than learning right on the lake itself?"

Thanks to the generous support of FirstEnergy Foundation and Investors Foundation, new digital microscopes from local Succasunna Company Zarbeco, along with tablets to view the images, have been added to the Floating Classroom, making it easier for passengers to view plankton samples during the cruise.

"The Lake Hopatcong Foundation is delighted to receive grants from FirstEnergy Foundation and Investors Foundation," said LHF Grant and Program Director Donna Macalle-Holly. "With this new technology, passengers will be amazed at how clearly they can see the diversity of the plankton in the lake, which is critical to the stability of the ecosystem."

The public is invited to take a ride, conduct experiments, and learn about the Lake Hopatcong watershed every Monday from July 8 to August 26 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Cruises will depart from the docks at Nolan's Point, 37 Nolan's Point Park Road,

Lake Hopatcong. Activities will be geared toward guests who are at least 10 years old, but younger guests are welcome to come aboard and join the cruise.

Advance tickets are recommended, however, walk-on guests are welcome, as space permits. Tickets prices are \$18 for adults, \$12 for children up to 17 years old, and \$16 for seniors ages 65 and up. Reservations can be made at [lakehopatcongfoundation.org/floatingclassroom](http://lakehopatcongfoundation.org/floatingclassroom), or by calling the Lake Hopatcong Foundation office at 973-663-2500.

The Lake Hopatcong Foundation is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to protecting the lake environment and enhancing the lake experience by bringing together public and private resources to encourage a culture of sustainability and stewardship on and around New Jersey's largest lake, for this and future generations. To learn more, visit [lakehopatcongfoundation.org](http://lakehopatcongfoundation.org).

-30-



The Lake Hopatcong Foundation Floating Classroom, a forty-foot, covered catamaran pontoon boat, with seating for 40 passengers plus crew, serves as an interactive learning center on Lake Hopatcong.



Digital microscopes from local Succasunna Company Zarbeco, along with tablets to view the images, makes it easy for passengers to view plankton samples during the cruise.



The Lake Hopatcong Foundation Floating Classroom is an interactive education center with scientific equipment right on board to facilitate a hands-on learning experience that's fun for children and adults.