



# Lake Anasagunticook Association Newsletter

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Summer 2005

## President's Corner

Here we are into the month of August and unlike last year; we are wondering when we will get a break from this heat and humidity. In any event, let's hope for nice weather for **Sat. August 13<sup>th</sup>** when we hold our **annual "Lake Day"** at the Hartford Public Beach. Festivities will start at **11 a.m.** and everyone, members or non-members, is invited. There will be games for all and, of course, the famous "raffle" that boasts great prizes donated by many of the fine establishments in the lake community. If you have any prizes for the raffle, contact Jack Atwater or any of the officers or directors. Bring your own food and drink and have a picnic at the beach. Make sure to bring at least two neighbors with you. A special prize will be given to the member who brings the most neighbors! Festivities tend to wrap up around 3 pm.

This year we will be fortunate to have the Maine Lakes Conservancy Institute, an environmental educational organization dedicated to preserving Maine lakes, join us on Saturday to provide a number of educational boat tours of the lake. See John Convey's article (page 2).

It was just last year on Lake Day that we kicked off the LakeSmart program to help preserve Lake Anasagunticook. You will be proud to know that we are already the second most "LakeSmart Lake" in Maine! See John Convey's article (page 2) for the details of what we have accomplished and what you can do to make us number 1!

We have also been working diligently with Maine Lake Charts and expect to have maps of the lake available for purchase.

Hopefully, you have all discovered that we now have a web site, [LakeAnasagunticook.org](http://LakeAnasagunticook.org). A terrific job done by the web committee, Terri Swanick, Leslie Boness and Judy Hamilton! Don't forget to thank them when you see them. (President's letter continued on page 2)

## [www.LakeAnasagunticook.org](http://www.LakeAnasagunticook.org)

Take a look. Just a click away to view the work of our own Terri Swanick. She volunteered to create a web site for our association. Without previous experience and in a very short period of time, the site was launched. Congratulations!!! Well Done!!! Three Cheers!!!

The site is clean and very easy to navigate. Work continues so bookmark the front-page and check it frequently. New information will appear periodically. Now there are lists of officers for the Association, projects, calendar, art gallery, links to other relative Maine sites, and a bunch of other stuff.

Terri said she had fun doing the project although there were many moments of frustration and if the computer could talk back... whew!

She also mentioned that Leslie Boness and Judy Hamilton, also members of the association, kept her on track and motivated with their help.

So, what's holding you back? Put down the newsletter now and go fire up the computer and check out [LakeAnasagunticook.org](http://LakeAnasagunticook.org). You can add your comments, observations and suggestions. Thanks Terri for your wonderful work.



(President's Letter... cont.)

On Friday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, a Camp Road Workshop was scheduled at the Canton Municipal Building. Lake Shore Drive was to be a demo road for the workshop. Hopefully enough people signed up to conduct the workshop. Properly maintaining gravel roads/driveways is one of the most important tasks we can do to protect water quality in Maine.

If we all pitch in and do one thing to improve the lake environment and water quality, who knows, we may end up with Loon chicks back on the lake!

On **Sunday, August 14<sup>th</sup>** at **Canton Municipal Building**, the annual association meeting will be held starting at **10 am** and adjourning by noon. The agenda will likely include some of the following topics:

dam status, lake map, revised by-laws, lake cleanup activity, Canton beach stairs, and the Church Street /Thompson Brook Project. Let us know if you would like to have a particular topic included.

**We want to see you at Lake Day, August 13<sup>th</sup> and at the annual meeting on August 14<sup>th</sup>**

Joe Cloonan, President

## Lake Day Boat Tour with Maine Lake Conservancy

One of the planned events for this year's Lake Day - August 13, 2005 - is an environmental education conducted at Lake Annasagunticook on a mobile floating classroom. The classroom is a custom outfitted 30' pontoon boat with the latest array of lake science technology equipment. Classes introduce participants to the basics of lake science, the ecology of the watershed and to issues impacting water quality and lake health.

Currently, we plan to have two tours - 10:00 AM, and 1:00 PM. Each trip will last about 90 minutes and be limited to 12 participants. If you are interested in the tour, please either e-mail John

Convey at [convey@megalink.net](mailto:convey@megalink.net) or call 207-597-2392 and inform him of the tour you wish to take. SO, DON'T MISS THE BOAT!!

## LakeSmart Program

The Department of Environmental Protection of the State of Maine has an excellent program to evaluate the maintenance of property in Lake Annasagunticook Watershed (Special Note: property in the entire watershed, not only shoreland property owners). How land is maintained in watersheds can have a huge impact on the water quality - landscaping property in a natural, lake- friendly manner results in less pollutants being washed into the lake and protects lake quality water.

Pristine lake waters add beauty and increase property value. Conversely, as water quality declines, so does the value of lake property.

The LakeSmart evaluation process involves reviewing landscape and management practices in four categories relating to each property. The categories include:

- Road, Driveway, and Parking Areas;
- Structures, Housekeeping, and Septic;
- Lawn, Recreation Areas, and Footpaths; and
- Shorefront and Beach Areas.

If you want your property evaluated, please contact:

John F. Convey  
75 Pine Shore Drive  
Hartford, ME 04220  
Tel: (207)597-2392

e-mail: [convey@megalink.net](mailto:convey@megalink.net)

LakeSmart is one way to do your part in protecting your lake's water quality.

John F. Convey

### PROTECT OUR LAKE AND LOWER TAXES

Here is an idea with potential for double bonus benefits. Check out the Androscoggin Land Trust website [www.androscogginlandtrust.org/easements.html](http://www.androscogginlandtrust.org/easements.html) Consulting with your taxman and/or lawyer is also recommended.

## **Your Influence in Hartford**

The Town of Hartford is working on their Comprehensive Plan and is interested in issues and concerns of those who own shore land property. As a member of this committee, I am recommending that we ask the two lake associations in Hartford to form a task force to assist us in our work in formulating an Action Plan and proposing Ordinances to protect one of Hartford's greatest assets - our lakes. We are hoping to find at least three volunteers from the LAA and the Bear Pond association to work together, through email or in person, to advise us and help us preserve our lakes. This would be an excellent way for seasonal residents to influence Hartford's government. Canton is also in a similar process and this task force could also influence what is done in Canton as well.

If you would like more information or would like to consider working on this task force, email me at [mafinch@megalink.net](mailto:mafinch@megalink.net), call me at 207-597-2604 or talk with me at Lake Days or the Annual Meeting in August.

Judy Hamilton

### **Editors Comment**

Our Loon Lady, Margi Taylor, has reported many loon sightings. but no chicks as the nesting failed. At least four loons have been in residence. Swamp sparrows, kingbirds, yellow-bellied sapsuckers, herons have all been sighted. Has anyone seen any kind of rail? **Lake Day Saturday the 13th. Annual Meeting Sunday, the 14th Be there or be square!**

Biff Atwater

## **Enhanced "911" in Hartford**

The database for Fire and Rescue is now near completion and will soon be turned over to Oxford Dispatch and local telephone services. Road signs, blue for private, green for public roads, were posted about a year ago. All property owners who have any kind of dwelling in town will be receiving a letter from the Selectmen confirming assigned number and street addresses very soon. These numbers must be clearly visible by November 21, 2005. Fines could be levied for non-compliance after that date.

For assistance in finding you in the event of a 911 emergency, you should give immediate attention to displaying your house number clearly. All old numbers should be removed and your E911 street number should be large (4" minimum) and easily visible from your road. Keep in mind that fire/rescue may need to find you at night when numbers are harder to see. Putting the number in a visible place on your house or camp AND at the end of your driveway will be very helpful. Encourage your neighbors to display their numbers as well. Their numbers will help 911 responders find you.

Judy Hamilton,  
Deputy Addressing Agent Hartford

### **BOAT SPEED REGULATION**

Watercraft may not be operated at greater than headway speed while within the water safety zone defined as "within 200 feet of any shoreline."

State of Maine Boating  
2005 Laws and Rules

