



Lake Anasagunticook Association Newsletter

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Spring 2006

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

For those who missed winter at the lake this year-you didn't miss much! The winter brought little snow (59 inches) and unseasonably warm temperatures. As a result, ice-out occurred the first weekend of April, about eighteen days earlier than last year. It makes some people wonder if we are experiencing a bit too much of global warming.

Looks like the lake will need a very wet spring and the dam gates will need to be closed on a timely basis if we are to see the water level reach the target by summer. If not, watch out for all those rocks when you are out boating.

As you may recall, we voted at the annual meeting to fund two rentals of the frontrunner attachment that is used by the state to properly crown gravel roads and driveways. According to the state, gravel roads remain the greatest pollution threat to our lakes in Maine. The benefit of the frontrunner is it enables you to easily crown the road and therefore allow the water to runoff immediately and not stand and create potholes or erosion. Let us know if you have a (3/4-1 ton) pickup truck and would like to help protect the lake. If you were unable to attend the training session cosponsored by the

Lake Association with Androscoggin County last year, another one is scheduled for April 19th and again in May and June. See the article in this newsletter for a complete schedule of training dates. Hopefully, we can find someone to help us measure and inventory all gravel roads in the watershed.

The spring months provide a great time to walk around your property and identify any locations experiencing erosion from the early rains. Such erosion contributes to non-point pollution of the lake if you are anywhere within the watershed. You can correct the pollution problem by planting and/or installing barriers to eliminate the erosion. If you need help/advice contact Christine Smith, of the DEP LakeSmart Program at 287-7734. LakeSmart will provide free landscaping advice to correct your problem.

With rising postage rates the cost to print and mail a newsletter four times a year is beginning to exceed our income from dues. For 2006 we have budgeted income from dues of \$1,300 and newsletter expenses of \$1,095. I have noticed that many lake associations have a \$20 annual dues rather than our \$10 and mail a newsletter only to dues paying members. Do you have any suggestions on how best to reduce our costs and/or increase our income?

Keep August 12th and 13th open for Lake Day and our annual meeting. Lake Day will be held at the Hartford Public Beach on Saturday, August 13th, from 11am to about 2pm. The annual meeting will follow on Sunday, August 14th, starting at 10 am at the Canton Municipal Building. We hope to see all members at both functions.

Joe Cloonan, President



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DATES TO REMEMBER

SAT. AUGUST 13

SUN. AUGUST 14

What You Can Do to Prevent Non-point Source Pollution From the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay*

Copied with permission from the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Inc. 6600 York Rd., Suite 100, Baltimore, MD 21212-9897 special on Watershed Watch.

- Limit the amount of impenetrable surfaces in your landscape. Use permeable paving surfaces such as wood decks, bricks, and concrete lattice to let water soak into the ground.
- Allow thick vegetation or buffer strips to grow along waterways to slow runoff and soak up pollutants. Plant trees, shrubs, and ground cover. They will absorb up to 14 times more rainwater than a grass lawn and don't require fertilizer.
- Use natural alternatives to chemical fertilizers and pesticides. If you must use chemicals, test your soil to determine the right amount.
- Don't hose down driveways or sidewalks. Dry sweeping paved areas, along with careful trash disposal, are simple, effective pollution reducers.
- Gutters and down spouts should drain onto vegetated or gravel-filled seepage areas - not directly onto paved surfaces. Splash blocks also help reduce erosion.
- Divert runoff from pavement to grassy, planted or wooded areas of your property, so storm-water can seep slowly into the ground.
- Compost grass clippings and leaves. Never allow them to wash into roadways where they will reach streams, rivers or the lake..
- Get involved in the planning and zoning process in your community. That's where the decisions are made that shape the course of development and the future quality of our environment.
- Place litter, including cigarette butts, in trash receptacles. Never throw litter in streets, streams or the lake.
- Properly dispose of household hazardous wastes. Many common household products, (paint thinners, moth balls, drain and oven cleaners, etc.) contain toxic ingredients. When improperly used or discarded, these products are a threat to public health and the environment. Do not pour hazardous products down any drain or toilet. Do not discard with regular household trash. Learn about natural and less toxic alternatives and use them whenever possible. Contact your County Solid Waste Management Office for information regarding hazardous waste collection in your area.
- Recycle all used motor oil by taking it to a service station or local recycling center. Motor oil contains toxic chemicals that are harmful to humans and animals. Do not dump used motor oil into streams or on the ground.
- Animal wastes contain bacteria and viruses that contaminate aquatic animal and can cause the closing of bathing areas. Pet owners should pick up after their pets and dispose of the wastes in the garbage or toilet.
- Wash your car on the grass so soapy water soaks into the ground. Use a hose nozzle to prevent water from running when not in use.
- *edited a little by wma to apply to our lake and watershed



Read any good books lately? Are you curious about how frogs and turtles live through the winter? Bernd Heinrich in his book Winter World, The Ingenuity of Animal Survival, published in 2003 by HarperCollins and now available in paperback provides wonderful descriptives about the habits and survival techniques utilized by animals to survive the winter in New England. There are chapters about kinglets, their feathers and their fuel. Where do they sleep, what in the world do they find to eat? How do

ants and bees keep from freezing? Where do chipmunks and squirrels live during the winter? And plants - you can learn all about the various ways they have adapted to keep their life cycle intact. For those of you who have never read a Bernd Heinrich book Winter World would be a good book to start. And I've also enjoyed The Trees in My Forest, A Year in the Maine Woods, and The Geese of Beaver Bog. WMAwater

PS if you want to suggest a book or two let me know.

A new item to the newsletter

For Rent/For Sale in the Watershed

Do you want to buy or rent property in the Lake Anasagunticook watershed? Do you have property to rent or to sell? Here is your opportunity. This experimental new column is being included to provide free advertising to LAA members. If you want to advertise you may become a member for \$10 annual dues. Contact Judy Hamilton to join. Then send your ad copy by email to editor, Biff Atwater wmatwater@comcast.net. He will email you details and deadlines for your ad. We won't be responsible for accuracy of the descriptions or values of the property listed. Of course it is hoped that descriptions are accurate and represent the features well enough so both the parties are satisfied. New ads will be limited to 200 words or less subject to editing. Further adjustments to rules for the column may be made if deemed necessary.

WMA editor

OTHERS HAVE SAME PROBLEM Better Roads, Cleaner Streams

The creeks and streams in Maryland's upper Potomac River system look like a chocolatey brew after a major rainstorm. Large plumes of brown sediment from dirt and gravel roads threaten Sideling Hill, Town and Fifteen Mile creeks—home to more than 40 species of fish, three species of globally rare mussels and a globally rare flower called harperella.

"These wooded watersheds have no significant development and minimal logging and agriculture," says Donnelle Keech, who directs The Nature Conservancy's Allegany Forests

Project. "One of the biggest polluters is poorly maintained dirt and gravel roads."

To address this, the Conservancy is collaborating on a project called Better Roads, Cleaner Streams with western Pennsylvania Conservancy and the Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies at Pennsylvania State University.* The partners are working to assess and address sediment pollution in the three upper Potomac River tributaries and their watersheds. The work is part of the Conservancy's region-wide effort to conserve natural diversity in the Greater Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Summer Home on Canton Lake for Rent

Enjoy waking each morning to the sun reflecting through the windows dancing on your ceiling. As you make your way out onto the dock at the waterfront with your breakfast, the warmth of the sun brings on a smile. Looking out over the water on this quiet morning, you see the loons, kingfishers, and blue herons also enjoying the morning and breakfast.

The day brings swimming, canoe rides, and quiet relaxation. A lunch on the deck, lounging in the sun, or a hike or bike ride on nearby dirt roads.

This home includes 100 feet of shoreline frontage with a dock, a diving float, and a swimming area that is shallow for youngsters. The lake has a public landing for launching your boat, or feel free the use of the canoe which is included.

The home has an open kitchen, dining and living room, and full bathroom on the first floor. There are two bedrooms and a half bath upstairs. There is also a full basement to store gear. Sleeps 5 to 7.

Amenities: Phone, TV, Full Kitchen, Microwave, Refrigerator, Cooking Utensils provided, Gas Grill (BBQ). No Smoking, no pets.

Weekly Rate- \$850/week plus 7% State of Maine rental sales tax. Plus a \$250 cleaning & security deposit. If you clean and do not damage, you will receive a full refund. Half of rental and cleaning deposit is due upon booking, the other half is due one month before arrival.

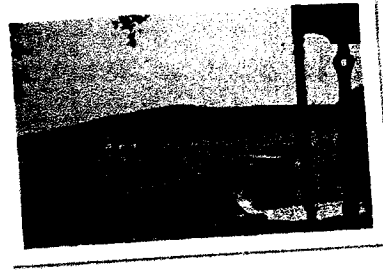
Bob Poirier at 207-345-3196 or
mtnrinna@megalink.net for more details

or to reserve your week.

Last fall, the project participants inventoried hundreds of miles of roads in western Maryland and southwestern Pennsylvania to identify problem areas and help prioritize them for local municipalities. Starting this year, the partners will provide grant money and technical assistance to enable municipalities to begin correcting the problems, which rang from improper placement of drainage pipes to collapsed road banks.

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*www.mri.psu.edu/centers/cdgrs/



Boat group wants ramp closed

Sunday, January 15, 2006

OAKLAND (AP) - The Messalonskee Lake Association is asking the state to shut down a popular boat ramp on Route 27 to stem the spread of variable-leaf milfoil, an invasive aquatic plant that can quickly take over lakes and ponds.

In a letter to the commissioners of three state departments, the association said milfoil continues to spread in the lake despite four years of state-sanctioned restrictions at the boat ramp.

Data from the Department of Environmental Protection showed milfoil fragments were found on 46 percent of the boats and equipment exiting the lake last year, up from 35 percent last year.

In response to those findings, the association sent a letter to the DEP, the Department of Conservation and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife asking that the ramp be closed. The state has resisted past efforts to close the ramp.

Maj. Gen. Bill Libby, the association's president and head of the Maine National Guard, said the evidence shows that boat inspections no longer work and that not closing the ramp poses a threat for milfoil spreading to other lakes.

"The numbers are pretty clear," he said. "I don't understand why the state would want to put at risk the other 6,000 lakes in this state."

The state has been battling milfoil in lakes and

ponds for several years through aggressive educational efforts, boat inspections and other means. Milfoil can form dense mats on lake bottoms and degrade the habitat for native fish and other wildlife species.

The commissioners of the three departments the letter was sent to typically meet in February each year to decide what action is appropriate for the Route 27 ramp, said John McPhedran, director of the DEP's invasive aquatic species program. McPhedran wouldn't speculate on how the commissioners might act this year.

The letter raises "serious concerns about the uncontrolled use of this ramp during the duck-hunting season."

Outdoors groups have opposed past suggestions to close the ramp, saying they have made every effort to inspect their boats for milfoil fragments.

Information from: Morning Sentinel,
<http://www.onlinesentinel.com/>

Editor's Note...

Keep an eye on our website as new things pop up every so often. In case you've forgotten it's www.lakeanasagunticook.org There are some wonderful pictures and quite a few links to keep up with what is going on in the area. Thanks Terry. Our next issue will have a report on the Lakes Task Force working to help The Town of Hartford develop it's Comprehensive Plan for the next decade.
WMA editor