

LAA Newsletter

The latest news from the
Lake Anasagunticook
Association.

April 2019

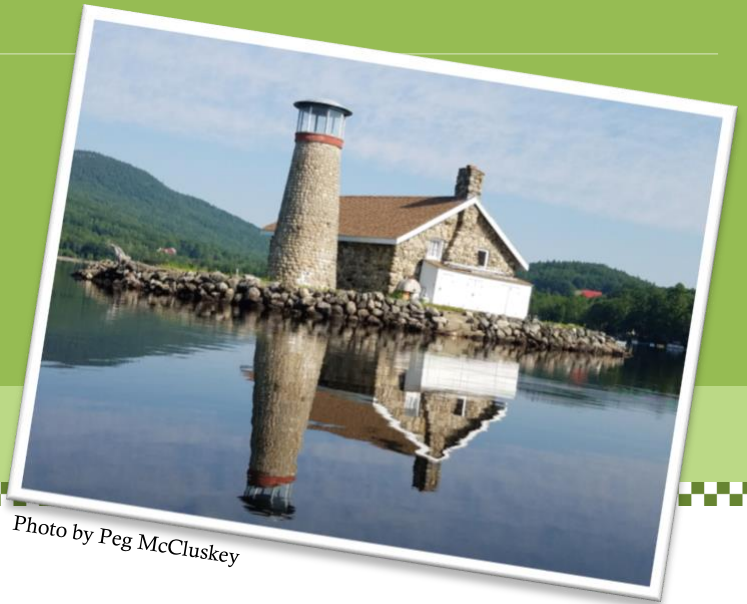


Photo by Peg McCluskey

Upcoming Events

- 9:00 a.m. Saturday, May 18** **Watershed Survey.** Read more about this on Page 4.
- 9:00 a.m. Sunday, August 18** **Annual Meeting.** This meeting is for the entire membership. Hear about the state of our association and health of the lake; vote on a slate of officers; express your concerns; etc.
(note that unlike previous years, this meeting will be on a Sunday)
- 10:30 a.m. Sunday, August 18** **Nature Talk.** Immediately following the Annual Meeting, a speaker from the Chewonki Foundation will introduce us to live animals native to Maine!
- Specific Time and Date TBD** **Lake Days.** This annual celebration includes food, fun, and prizes—and our second annual Raft Race.

What is LAA?

The Lake Anasagunticook Association (LAA)—also known locally as the “Lake Association”—is a public, non-profit organization founded to bring together people who care about Lake Anasagunticook. Lake Anasagunticook is the 600-acre, 50-foot deep lake located in the towns of Canton and Hartford, Maine. The lake is used for recreation purposes, including boating, swimming, and fishing, and is a source of drinking water.

The LAA addresses topics related to preserving and protecting the lake as a natural resource. Membership donations and fundraisers are our primary source of funding. The organization distributes a newsletter to its members, friends, and interested parties; holds periodic board meetings; celebrates Lake Days every summer; and holds an annual meeting. Members collect data on water quality and check the lake for invasive plants and animals—and they played a large role in fundraising for the Lake Anasagunticook Dam Project. This year, the association will spearhead a Watershed Survey to identify potential problems on the shore effecting the health of the lake. The LAA participates in the Lake Stewards of Maine (www.lakestewardsofmaine.org) and the Maine Lakes Society (mainelakessociety.org).



Photo by Peg McCluskey

Want to know more?

For more information on LAA, go to the Friends of Lake Anasagunticook Facebook page or the www.lakeanasagunticook.org website. To join the LAA, simply pay your dues! (See Page 4.)

LAA Board Members

President:	Tim Kirwan	Directors:	
Vice President:	Mike McCluskey		Mel Barron; John Blancato; Marilyn Bittner; Polly
Secretary:	Diane Ray		Bussiere; Tony D'Ambrosio; Elaine G. Ferland; Bill
Treasurer:	Biff Atwater		Gray; Shawn Henderson; Cyndi Phillips.

Letter from the LAA President

Dear Members and Friends,

We had a good year in 2018 with the lake's levels stable, water clarity holding, and overall boating activity most uneventful. A few minor rescues, but no reported emergencies. Our broader water quality testing showed no new concerns, and we trend on average equal to other Maine lakes in our geographic zone. In the fall, we added new testing samples to our regular set specific to phosphate levels. More to come on that.

Ongoing challenges, however, never end. Reducing erosion, chemical use, and adhering to Shoreland Zoning (SLZ) guidelines are priorities. In this regard, the LAA—in conjunction with the Lake Stewards of Maine and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) are planning a Watershed Survey on Saturday, May 18, 2019. It's been over 10 years since it was last updated, and the ability to apply for support and make suggested improvements require that we do it.

The good news is on recent tours and hikes in the watershed heights, many road and culvert projects have been executed. But there's always room for improvement. Many of our property owners have jumped in to help with this work, and we are currently finalizing plans for the May 18th survey.

If you would like to be on a survey team, please contact me at: tkirwan@gmail.com. Thank you.

Tim Kirwan
LAA President

Be Responsible on the Lake

Practice Boat Safety:

All boats need their current registration stickers (available at your Town Office) properly installed. Of course, life preservers, anchors, horns, and fire extinguishers are required as well. Also, paddleboarders must have a life vest and a whistle. Remember, all non-motorized craft require lights at dusk.

Pick Up Debris:

All of us enjoy a lake that is clean and beautiful. Despite available trash receptacles, trash is still being left behind or thrown from cars. Please go the extra step and pick up debris when you see it, including on the town beaches. Avoid glass containers, and be smart about alcohol and fires.

Avoid Accidents:

Over the years, we have had various accidents on the lake including collisions (in at least one case, due to the lack of a spotter while skiing), boats running out of gas, boats simply breaking down, etc. LAA members often make themselves available to assist with rescue efforts. Let's strive to make 2019 "accident free"!

LAA at Canton Bicentennial Valentine Party

LAA was a “Love Bug”-level sponsor for this year’s Canton Bicentennial annual fundraising event. The Valentine-themed party was held on Saturday, February 9, at the Canton Historical Society. LAA Secretary Diane Ray and LAA Directors John Blancato and Marilyn Bittner and a number of LAA members were in attendance. The event was hosted by the Canton Bicentennial Committee.



Valentine Party photo by Sen. Lisa Keim



Canton Snow Daze photos by Art Chamberlin

LAA at Canton Snow Daze Extravaganza

The LAA was one of the sponsors of this year’s Canton’s Snow Daze Extravaganza. The event, previously known as the Canton Fishing Frenzy, was held on February 17. Those in attendance—many of whom were LAA officers, directors, and members—enjoyed ice skating, ice fishing, snowmobiling, food concessions, bonfires, and an ice rescue demo by the Canton Volunteer Fire Department. The day ended with a brilliant fireworks display. The event was hosted by the Canton Recreation Department. To access an article about the Canton Snow Daze Extravaganza written by Mary Atwater, click here: <http://lakeanasagunticook.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/2019-Canton-Snow-Daze-Extravaganza.pdf>.

Excerpt from the October 14, 2018 article by Marianne Hutchinson in the Sun Journal and Rumford Falls Times:

Problem of dogs on Canton beach resolved

The problem of dogs running loose on Canton Lake beach has been solved, according to Administrative Assistant Tina Cagle.

She told residents Thursday night that the Maine Department of Transportation has owned that land since the inception of Route 140.

“They have instructed us that no dogs are allowed on the beach and we are to write an ordinance that states no dogs allowed on the beach,” Cagle said.

The MDOT will put up a sign with the message and will serve as law enforcement, if needed, she said.



Ariel photos by Caroline Rothrock



Coming Soon: The LAA's Watershed Survey

The LAA is scheduled to do a Watershed Survey of Lake Anasagunticook on May 18, 2019. Perhaps you're asking, "What is a Watershed Survey—and why should we do one?" Let's start by defining "watershed." According to Maine.gov, a watershed is "all the land that drains to a lake through streams, ditches, directly over the ground's surface, or through groundwater." Maine.gov expounds on this by noting the following:

Even though a watershed may extend many miles away from the lake itself, the watershed is actually part of the lake ecosystem, and the two cannot be separated. Whatever happens in a lake watershed can affect the lake.

And now for the definition of "Watershed Survey." According to the University of Massachusetts (UMass), a Watershed Survey is "a visual survey of the land surrounding the stream or lake of interest to you." UMass describes the three methods used to do the survey as the **indoor survey** (looking at your watershed on maps and aerial photographs); the **windshield survey** (checking "hot

spots" by car); and the **shoreland survey** (walking along the waterfront).

In answer to the question, "Why should we do one?" UMass suggests that a watershed survey can serve one or more of three primary functions:

- 1) collect information on present or "baseline" conditions;
 - 2) identify potential sources of pollution; and
 - 3) track changes in water quality and land uses over time for the detection of long-term trends.
- These functions will help the LAA and the towns of Canton and Hartford in their efforts to ensure the health of the lake. (BTW, the last time a Water shed Survey was done on Lake Anasagunticook was 17 years ago...so it's time!)

This past summer, Tim Kirwan, President of the LAA, attended the Watershed Survey Workshop co-sponsored by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and

the Lake Stewards of Maine. Both organizations will partner with and provide technical support to the LAA, as will the Maine Rural Water Association; the Oxford County Soil and Water Conservation District; and the Androscoggin River Watershed Council.

Tim envisions using the results of the survey to create a lake protection plan and apply for a "319 Grant" from Maine's DEP to fix any watershed problems that might be identified. In the spring, Watershed Survey training will be offered to people throughout the Canton and Hartford communities. The training is scheduled for Saturday, 18 May.

Please consider making a difference in our community by volunteering to help with the Watershed Survey. To sign up or for more information, please contact LAA President Tim Kirwan at tkirwan1@gmail.com.

Your 2019 Dues are Due!

We hope you enjoy this newsletter. To ensure you continue to receive LAA newsletters and correspondence and to have a voice at the Annual Meeting and a vote in the selection of officers and board of directors (and thereby influence the direction of the organization and its projects), please pay your dues. The 2019 annual dues are **\$15 per person**.

Please mail the money along with this form (or a reasonable facsimile) to:

LAA
c/o Biff Atwater, LAA Treasurer
142 Hampton Meadows
Hampton, NH 03842

Name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Local Address (if different): _____

E-mail Address: _____

If you have questions about whether or not you have paid your 2019 dues, please contact Biff Atwater (508-361-0750 or williamatwater1@mac.com).



Photo by Biff Atwater

LAA Holds Ice-Out Contest

By the time you read this, the ice will be gone from Lake Anasagunticook and a lucky winner will have won half the entry money from the LAA Ice-Out Contest!

Thanks to Gary Dougherty and the Bussieres for coordinating the contest.

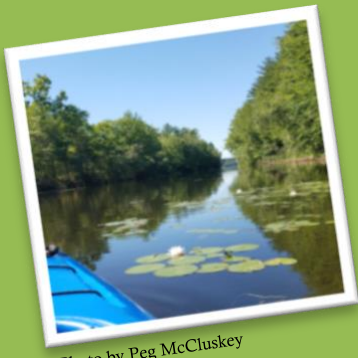


Photo by Peg McCluskey

Be “LakeSmart”

The LAA is a proud sponsor of LakeSmart. We urge you to “Be LakeSmart”—that is, take the lake into consideration while beautifying your property and enhancing its value. To find out more about being LakeSmart or to arrange for a LakeSmart evaluation, please contact LAA Secretary Diane Ray, dianeraypfi@gmail.com, or 717-314-7778.

Online Community Resources

Newsletters:

LAA Newsletter (bi-annual newsletter): - Sign up by joining the association. See membership form on page 4.

Canton Updates (ad hoc announcements sent via e-mail) - Sign up by sending your e-mail address to: info@townofcantonmaine.org OR text message the word CANTONEVENT to 22828 and follow the prompts.

Canton Crier (quarterly hardcopy newsletter) - Sign up by providing your mailing address to the Canton Town Office.

Hartford News (quarterly hardcopy/e-mail newsletter) - Sign up by sending your address to: hartfdnews@megalink.net

Webpages:

Lake Anasagunticook Association - www.lakeanasagunticook.org

Town of Canton - <http://townofcantonmaine.org>

Town of Hartford - <https://hartfordmaine.weebly.com>

Canton Historical Society - www.cantonmehistorical.com

Canton Bicentennial Committee - <https://www.1821canton2021.org>

RCAM - Rural Community Action Ministry - <http://rcam.net>

Facebook Pages:

Friends of Lake Anasagunticook - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/271189350112/about/>

Town of Canton, Maine - <https://www.facebook.com/cantonmaine/>

Canton Volunteer Fire Department and Auxiliary - <https://www.facebook.com/Canton-Volunteer-Fire-Dept-215788898443562/>

Canton Recreation - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/361840707266369/about/>

Canton Maine Historical Society - <https://www.facebook.com/Canton-Maine-Historical-Society-1934798230093833/>

Canton, Maine Bicentennial - <https://www.facebook.com/Canton-Maine-Bicentennial-319147121798407/>

Hartford Heritage Society - <https://www.facebook.com/hartford.heritage>

RCAM - Rural Community Action Ministry - <https://www.facebook.com/RCAM-Rural-Community-Action-Ministry-439478319444338/>

Canton Hi-Riders Snowmobile Club - <https://www.facebook.com/Canton-Hi-Riders-Snowmobile-Club-134508973262027/>

For weather alerts:

www.weather.com
www.noaa.gov
www.weatherbug.com

For listing or locating lake rentals:

www.vrbo.com
www.homeaway.com
www.airbnb.com
<https://maine.craigslist.org/d/vacation-rentals/search/vac>



Photos by Peg McCluskey

What is “Lake Days”? Lake Days is an annual celebration sponsored by the Lake Anasagunticook Association (LAA). It’s a tradition that’s occurred since the organization’s inception. The event gives members of the community an opportunity to get together, socialize, and enjoy the lake.

Lake Days is held on a single day—despite its plural name. Munchies, soft drinks, and ice cream sundaes are provided, and everyone leaves with a fun trinket. Pontoon boats run continuously during the event for anyone who’d like to take a spin around the lake! Raffle tickets—\$1 each or six for \$5—are sold as a fundraiser. The raffle prizes are baskets, items, and gift cards donated by the LAA Board members and others. The raffle drawing occurs during the last hour of the event.

Last year’s Lake Day’s included a Raft Race for homemade/human powered rafts. It’s not too soon to start thinking about a raft for this year’s race!

The event is FREE and open to members and non-members of all ages.

Planning will begin soon for this year’s Lake Days event and details will be announced this summer.



Lake Anasagunticook Association