

# LAA Newsletter

The latest news from the  
Lake Anasagunticook  
Association.



## Upcoming Events

- 3:00 – 5:00 PM **Doc Dash**  
Saturday, Aug. 15 Pg. 3
- 7:30 – 8:30 PM **Lighted Kayak**  
Saturday, Aug. 15 **Regatta**  
Pg.3
- 4:00 PM **Board**  
Tuesday, Sept. 8 **Meeting**
- 4:00 PM **Annual**  
Tuesday, Sept. 15 **Members’**  
**Meeting**  
Pg. 3
- Aug. 29 – Sept. 15 **Online**  
**Auction**  
Pg. 3



## LAA –President’s Message

The Lake Anasagunticook Association (LAA) is entering its 32nd year of existence and the work of the association is more important than ever. Monitoring and reporting water quality helps keep the focus on mitigation efforts, preserving and protecting this asset critical for municipal drinking water, recreation, wildlife, natural resources and economic development. While water quality is negatively affected by global warming, motorized activity, run-off and humans in general, we are collectively doing the work of spot-checking boats for invasive plants, reducing run-off, educating on preventive actions, picking up trash, certifying Lake Smart properties and raising the overall level of conservation. Thanks to each and every person for doing their part! Please reach out with questions, concerns and offers to join-in mitigation efforts. All Are welcome!

*Tim Kirwan*

*LAA president*

*Tkirwan1@gmail.com*

For More Information:

[www.lakeanasagunticook.org](http://www.lakeanasagunticook.org)



Friends of Lake Anasagunticook

# LAA Board Members

**President:** Tim Kirwan  
**Vice Pres:** Cyndi Phillips  
**Secretary:** Diane Ray  
**Treasurer:** Biff Atwater

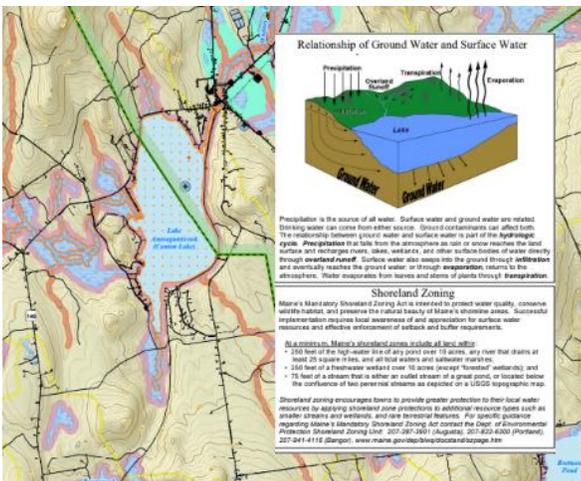
**Directors:**  
Mel Barron, Elaine Gammon, Bill Gray,  
Carolyn Gray, Christine Carrigan, Mike  
McClusky

## Watershed Mitigation Work to Start in 2021

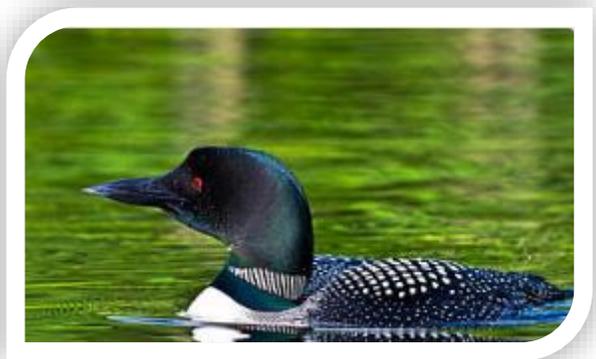
In 2019 the Lake Anasagunticook Association (LAA), with the help of many volunteers and water quality experts undertook a WATERSHED SURVEY to identify water quality risks, mostly in the form of run-off/erosion that causes conditions for algae to grow. The Survey led to a WATERSHED BASED PROTECTION PLAN which identified specific actions to stop/minimize run-off and erosion. The WBPP in turn, led to a federal grant application for funds to help repair the biggest problem areas. The federal grant is a matching grant and monies are being raised to provide the match.

Canton has voted to contribute \$5,000 over the course of 2 years to help mitigate run-off caused by town roads. Hartford will be voting on a contribution of \$10,000 at the September Town Meeting. Please, if you are a Hartford resident, attend and express your support for this warrant item. Citizens and the LAA are raising additional matching funds and volunteering time or resources to address other problem areas. You can contribute via the LAA website or any officer.

*The Federal Grant has been conditionally awarded- thanks to Jeff Stern for spearheading the grant writing process!*



Water Resources/Riparian Habitats



## LAA Membership is important – Please pay your Dues!

Membership Dues are used to support education efforts on water quality, invasive plants, signage, state regulations, individual homeowner mitigation efforts, wildlife habitats and more! Please pay your dues promptly to the address below..

Lake Anasagunticook Association  
PO Box 411  
Canton, ME 04221

[www.lakeanasagunticook.org](http://www.lakeanasagunticook.org)

Facebook: Friends of Lake Anasagunticook

Email: [Anasagunticook@gmail.com](mailto:Anasagunticook@gmail.com)

\$15 per person Annual Membership to LAA.

# What to do during a pandemic?

## Upcoming Activities

**Dock Dash:** How to have something resembling a Lake Days get together and maintain social distancing protocols? Join our Doc Dash! Any resident in town who would like to sit on their dock and entertain passing paddlers or boaters, please reach out to Diane Ray [dianeraypfi@gmail.com](mailto:dianeraypfi@gmail.com) and you will be provided a flag/sign for your dock. We are looking for 5 or more dock Hosts. Dashers will be able to traverse the lake, visiting with dock “hosts” while maintaining a safe distance. Hosts, are encouraged to offer refreshments or a token/souvenir or simply a warm welcome! *Saturday August 15 from 3-5pm.*



**Nighttime Kayak Regatta:** Those interested in an evening Kayak Regatta please meet at the road shore (north end) and you will be provided with LED lights to place on your water craft. A Regatta route will be shared that allows observers to enjoy the light show without overtaking the paddlers. If interested, please email the LAA at [Anasagunticook@gmail.com](mailto:Anasagunticook@gmail.com) so we can plan appropriately. *Saturday August 15, meet 7:00 pm, Regatta from 7:30 – 9 PM*

**Online Raffle:** Typically a Lake Days gathering includes a much anticipated raffle of donated gift baskets, gift cards and product/service certificates. In order to not disappoint, a series of items will be made known to the general public from *August 29, 2020 to September 15, 2020 at 12:00 Noon.* Persons interested in getting raffle tickets can email [dianeraypfi@gmail.com](mailto:dianeraypfi@gmail.com) or stop by the Ray’s home – 95 Staples Hill Road, Canton where items will be displayed and physical tickets may be purchased. If you are purchasing from a distance, simply make your donation on the website or GoFundMe page then provide direction as to how many tickets you would like to go against which items and voila! You have a great chance to win the item of your dreams. LAA Board Members will be creating/recruiting the items that will be offered at the raffle. Ticket early/Ticket often!



**Annual Members’ Meeting:** This year’s Annual Meeting will be held *Tuesday September 15, 2020 at 4:00 PM EST* with members able to participate from their homes via ZOOM. The agenda, presentation materials, slate of officers and the ZOOM link will be made available at least 2 days in advance. *Please mark your calendars and plan to join this meeting!*

# Online Community Resources

## *Newsletters:*

**LAA Newsletters:** Sign up by joining the association. Past issues posted on the LAA website.

**Canton Updates:** Sign up by sending your email address to [info@cantonme.org](mailto:info@cantonme.org) OR text message the word CANTONEVENT to 22828 and follow the prompts.

**Canton Crier:** To receive this hardcopy newsletter, provide your mailing address to the Canton town Office.

**Hartford News:** sign up by sending your address to: [hartfdnews@megalink.net](mailto:hartfdnews@megalink.net)

## *Webpages:*

**Lake Anasagunticook Association** – [www.lakeanasagunticook.org](http://www.lakeanasagunticook.org)

**Town of Canton** – pending

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

**Canton Historical Society** – [www.cantonmehistorical.com](http://www.cantonmehistorical.com)

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

## *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 & Auxiliary** <https://www.facebook.com/canton-volunteer-fire-dept-215788898443562/>

## *Shore Landscaping Resources*

[Buffer Publication Resource List](#). This document lists publications available in Maine regarding lake buffers

[Buffer Handbook](#). A Guide to Creating Vegetated Buffers for Lakefront Properties (1998).

[Buffer Handbook Plant List](#). This 50-page publication contains a listing of and details about trees, shrubs, and groundcovers that could be used in planting or improving a buffer in Maine.

[Gardening to Conserve Maine's Natural Landscape: Plants to Use and Plants to Avoid](#) from University of Maine Cooperative Extension.

[Invasive plants](#) from the Maine Natural Areas Program.

[Yardscaping](#). Yard care tips with a conservation focus.

[LakeSmart Program](#), Maine Lakes Society.

[DEP Lakes Page](#). This webpage provides links to more information about lakes.



# To Loon Nest or Not? That is the Question!

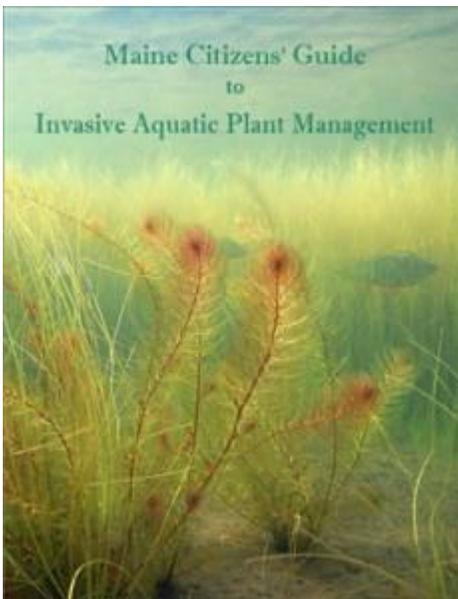


For years, individuals on the lake have leant a helping hand to the loons by building nests and anchoring them a short ways off-shore. The intent was to offer a safe option for mating pairs and was initiated when people saw fewer and fewer chicks and a high prevalence of predators. Well, in 2020 the naturalist community is divided – some continue to encourage the building of man-made loon nests while others advocate for letting nature take its course – the loons will naturally migrate to safer locations on the lake. As a Lake Association, we are not building/maintaining nests but are grateful to those who have put in the work – for the love of loons!

This year, 11 adults and 2 chicks have been spotted on the lake though the official loon count for the Audubon Society is a bit different. While the loons may approach YOU, if you are near them and they start flapping wings, calling or ducking their head in tight to their neck – THESE ARE SIGNS OF DISTRESS – please move away from the loons if you see this behavior.



## Aquatic Herbicides – CAUTION, CAUTION, CAUTION



**To Lake Front Property Owners:** please report sightings to the DEP of suspected invasive plants instead of taking action on your own. Recent news about the invasive plant Eurasian watermilfoil have led some people to take inappropriate action against valuable lake plants. These actions range from physical removal to the illegal use of aquatic herbicides. While aquatic herbicides can be easily purchased in stores, mail order catalogs and over the Internet, people may have the misimpression that these chemicals are safe when they are not. Herbicides can be hazardous to the environment as well as the applicator. That's why applying these without proper permission is a serious legal offense. Maine requires a permit from the DEP\* and an applicator's license from the Pesticide Control Board to apply aquatic herbicides (or any other pesticides) to waters of the state. Homeowners are allowed to hand-remove a swath of vegetation 10 feet wide perpendicular from their shoreline out into the lake.. To do this, an owner needs to get a "Permit by Rule" from DEP. For information about permit by rule or if you have questions, contact your nearest regional DEP office.

# Canton Bicentennial Celebration

## August 5-8, 2021

It's never too early to start planning a great event and the Canton Bicentennial Committee has been hard at work for several years. The LAA will be participating on several fronts:

- Opportunities for promoting LAA membership
- Sharing Water Quality education materials
- Offering lake tours, and a bit of lake history, on Sunday August 8

More details will be forthcoming but please hold the dates and plan to be in town for this weekend. You won't want to miss the celebration!



Original Maine State Flag

## Charlie's Lighthouse

Article courtesy of the Canton Historical Society.

Anyone who has visited Lake Anasagunticook is almost certain to have noticed the faux lighthouse that sits on its own island just off the northeast shore of the lake. It's obvious that a small lake like ours doesn't need a lighthouse for safety purposes, so why's it there? According to the August 1968 issue of *Yankee Magazine*, Charlie and his family moved to Canton in 1902—that's when Charlie's father, Arthur, got the job of running the tannery. Charlie loved the lake. As a teenager, he and his friends spent much of their time in and on the lake. At one point, they decided to pile some rocks in a shallow spot to make a swimming pool. It seemed to Charlie that the next natural step was to build an island!



Charlie, who by then worked at the local tannery, constructed the island in the evenings. A local farmer sold him the rocks from his stone walls, which Charlie moved to the island location. The work often occurred in the winters when the lake was frozen. Charlie would position the rocks so that when melting occurred in the spring, the rocks would land where he wanted them. According to *Yankee Magazine*, some of the townspeople were skeptical about the island—and wondered about Charlie's mental state—but he was not deterred. His work continued in the summers when he moved rocks out to the island via a homemade barge, and in the summer of 1936, the island was complete. The island is a circle, 55 feet in diameter. Charlie named it "Rocky Mecca" after the Native American Rokomeko tribe that used to inhabit the area, as well as for Mecca, the famous place of religious pilgrimage. Charlie worked with the town selectmen to get a deed for the island. Then, with help from his family and local carpenters and masons, he began building a cabin and lighthouse! The height of the lighthouse would be over 18-feet and would include a windmill to provide electricity to the cabin. The structures were completed in 1937. The lighthouse camp was truly a labor of love for Charlie Ray. For many years, he and his wife Hazel, their children, and their grandchildren enjoyed summers at the island camp.

Sources: <https://www.oldhousedreams.com/2019/07/02/1937-canton-me/>; *Yankee Magazine*, August 1968, pages 76-77, 100-101; and information from CHS Board Member Mac Ray (who is one of Charlie Ray's grandsons).

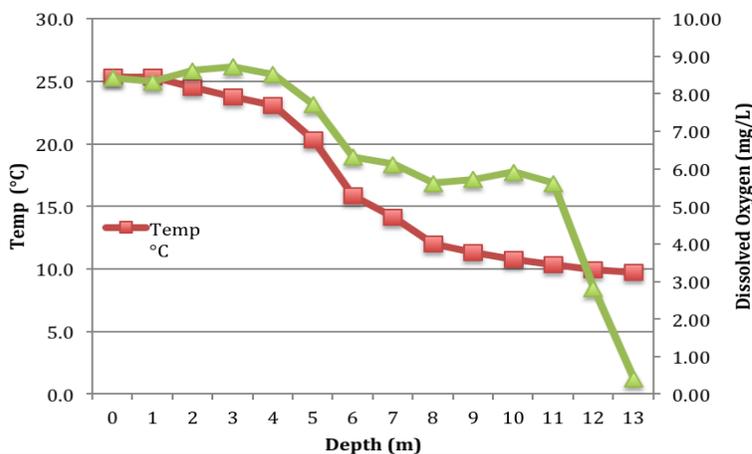
From Tom Hamilton, PhD

July 20, 2020 Water Test Today at 9:15 am. (That's a lot of 20"s!)

- Secchi reading (clarity): 5.20 meters (about 17 ft.), Average Secchi for July is 4.93 m (n=42).
- Air temp this morning at 9:15 am: 22.5C (72.5°F).
- Surface water temp: 25.3°C (77.5°F),
- Dissolved oxygen at surface 8.4 mg/L.
- Bottom “the hole” water temp: 13 meters (about 42 ft.): 9.7°C (49.5°F), Dissolved oxygen 0.4 mg/L.
- Fairly calm this morning although I had to fight a few light windy gusts when returning to my dock! There was a bright-blue morning sky with a few high cirrus clouds. The air was heavy, hot and muggy so I got a good workout in hot sunshine.
- *Gloetrichia* have increased significantly over the last two weeks. The density of Gloeo. is at least “3” maybe a bit more (on a 0 to 6 scale). Gloeo typically sits well below the surface but this year is more visible. I did not check for Gloeo in any of the coves it was just too hot for this old man.
- Note that clarity decreased quite a bit over the last 18 days, the level of oxygen is now essentially zero in the “hole”, and *Gloetrichia* has increased at the sampling station.

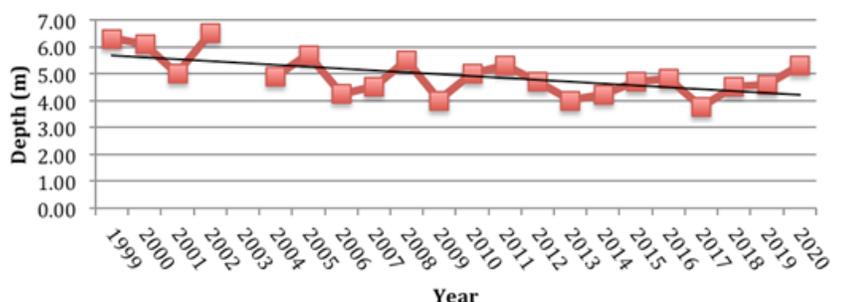
This Gloeo phenomenon is something to watch with caution but not to raise an alarm over – yet. Come to the Annual Meeting in September for a more in-depth discussion of water quality trends.

**Anasagunticook Temp and DO Profile  
July 20, 2020**



Thank you Tom for sharing  
your gifts and talents in  
support of water quality  
monitoring-  
we are blessed to  
have you!

**Lake Anasagunticook  
Mean Secchi Readings for July  
1999 to 2020**



Summertime July 2020 - The Atwaters

The Atwater family has spent summers in a cottage on Lake Anasagunticook since 1927. The cottage has a screen porch across the front which allows a view of the light house to the north, and, the marsh to the south, where adorable frogs with green and yellow eye rings and springy legs seem to play chase from lily pad to lily pad. Lake Anasagunticook is a cool escape from the traffic and noise and stop lights and parking lots of city life and we eagerly look forward to “opening camp” every Spring. We moved last November to a Continuing Care Retirement Community in Durham, NH; with just over 150 apartments, exceptionally talented chefs, a movie theatre and a library our winter home was cozy and welcoming – we just hadn’t planned on spending most of the summer there!



Bliss and delight departed when COVID 19 arrived in March. To protect residents, management began taking temperatures of all residents on a daily basis. One resident was found to have a high temperature. Lockdown in individual apartments and quarantine for the entire resident population was announced. No one could

leave the property except for emergency medical visits. Anyone who left the property, even for medical appointments, was placed in quarantine for 14 days, no exceptions. We miss the simplicity of life at the lake.

In seven days, over 500 masks for residents and staff were sewn and life wearing a mask became a “new normal”. The dining room staff delivered meals in brown boxes to apartment doors. Meals were taken in individual apartments. We miss picnics at the water’s edge.

It is now late July and much of the entire world is wearing a mask. Lockdown has been lifted. No one is currently in quarantine. Residents are required to keep a daily log of individual temperature; People may now walk the hallways and attend movies in small gatherings.

Dear Friends, our world has changed, we wish you a safe summer and a rollicking good time at the lake – from a distance.



**Lake Anasagunticook Association**  
**PO Box 411**  
**Canton, ME 04221**