

LAA NEWSLETTER

LAKE Anasagunticook Association - Stewards of the Canton-Hartford Watershed

Upcoming Events

LAA Board Meeting*
Sunday, June 8 at 3 PM

LAA Board Meeting*
Sunday, July 6 at 3 PM

LAA Board Meeting*
Sunday, August 3 at 3 PM

Lake Days Celebration
and Fundraiser Raffle
Saturday, August 9 at TBD
(always the Saturday of the first full
weekend in August—rain or shine!)

Annual Members Meeting
Sunday, August 10 at 9 AM
(always the day after the Lake Days
Celebration)

* To receive a Zoom link for the
LAA Board meetings, e-mail
board@lakeanasagunticook.org

2025 LAA Board Members

President: Wes Barry, 2026
Vice President: Rob Bihlmeyer, 2026
Secretary: Lucille Cacciatore, 2027
Treasurer: Diane Ray, 2027
Directors: Biff Atwater, 2026
Bill Gray, 2026
Suzy Henderson, 2025
Katie Kirwan, 2027
Mike McCluskey, 2025
Jeff Stern, 2025

*The number indicates the year the
director's term ends in August.*



Photo by Peg McCluskey

Letter from LAA President Wes Barry

Dear LAA Members and Friends,

Summer is right around the corner and many of you will be returning to the lake soon. This winter brought impressive ice formation to the lake. Thickness was over 12" in early January and topped out at 25" in early March. I spoke to several residents and ice-fisherman who commented that they could not remember the last time the ice was this thick. The early cold weather and lack of snow also made for excellent skating opportunities early in the season. If you haven't already done so, now is the time to renew your annual membership of \$15 per person. And new this year, for a minimum \$50 donation, businesses can sponsor the LAA and have their logo and website link displayed on our website. You can join or renew your membership or become a business sponsor online at www.lakeanasagunticook.org/join.

I look forward to seeing you on the lake!

Wesley Barry, LAA President, wbarry@lakeanasagunticook.org



Please be a Litter Picker!

Perhaps as you've walked along the roads near the lake or along the Canton or Hartford beaches, you've noticed we have our fair share of litter bugs. Please consider taking a bag with you when you walk and stopping to pick up the waste. Let's strive to make our two towns litter free this summer. Thank you!

Let's get down to business.

The Lake Anasagunticook Association now offers sponsorships to businesses! Businesses can make a donation of at least \$50 per year. Doing so will result in your business ad/logo being displayed on the LAA website homepage!

Has it been that long?

Did you know that the LAA was formed in 1988 as the Canton Lakefront Owners Association? It was started to address issues related to the development of the Pine Shores subdivision.

For the Love of Loons

by Cyndi Phillips

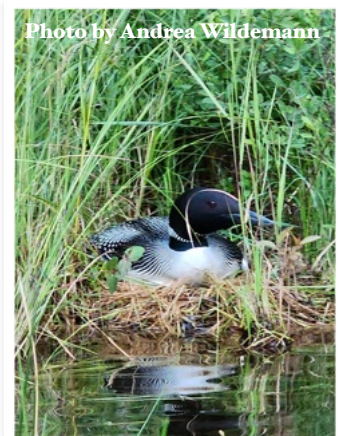
Winter is slowly easing its grip and it is almost time for the loons to return! I want to remind our loon lovers that the annual loon count is the third Saturday in July (19 July this year). In order to get an accurate count (and avoid counting the same loon twice), we split the lake into four quadrants. We begin around 7:00 a.m. It is a very peaceful, lovely time of day to be out on the water and easy to see or hear the loons. If you would like to be part of this magical process, grab your binoculars and feel free to join by e-mailing info@lakeanasagunticook.org. A canoe or kayak is best, but idle speed in a small boat works, too. In the meantime, did you know....

- ✦ Once a chick leaves to migrate to the coast the first winter, it will not return to lake breeding grounds until it is two to five years old. Then, it may wander between lakes over a few breeding seasons before settling one to breed on—either the same lake where it was raised as a chick or one within a dozen miles of it. Loons do not start breeding until they are around six years old (thus explains our bachelor or bachelorette moseying around alone sometimes).
- ✦ Once the loons have settled on breeding territories, they are quite faithful to returning to the same lake every spring and typically stick with the breeding territory until they lose it to a challenger. During breeding season, males are very fierce about testing the territory where current pairs are living!
- ✦ During breeding, loon pairs will do "circle dances" when they meet with other loons. During The Dance, three or more will swim in a circle dipping their heads under water while quickly looking back and forth at each other. Circle dancing is considered a territorial invasion by a non-breeding loon.
- ✦ Loons will also use the same nesting site repeatedly, though may move to a new nesting site within their territory if, for instance, they've had low success at a site or the habitat has changed.
- ✦ Female loons lay 1 or 2 eggs at a time and both parents incubate the eggs for about a month. They can re-nest if their first nest is not successful, however, they won't produce more than a single brood in a season. On average, a couple successfully hatches and fledges one chick every other year.
- ✦ Loons do not mate for life and can live to around 20 years old.
- ✦ Small lakes like ours typically only have one pair nesting. Loons are extremely territorial and fiercely protect their area.
- ✦ Late in the summer after chicks are less dependent on their parents, loons will "raft" up (also called an asylum) and become quite social. They will travel between nearby lakes, which explains why we are blessed to see more loons later in the summer.

Remember to stay at least 200 feet away from nesting areas and families—particularly during the May thru July mating and chick-rearing season. Please, no wake in these areas! Loons will abandon their nests if frightened by people, especially dogs. Eagles are predators of the loons, but loons have been known to kill an eagle to protect a nest or their young. If an eagle has been successful at getting on a nest, it may be because a loon was frightened off the nest by people or pets.

Hoping for a productive chick season!

Source: <https://maineaudubon.org/projects/loons/your-loon-questions-answered/>



Call for Raffle Donations

The Lake Days Committee is looking for prizes for our annual fundraising raffle to be held on Saturday, August 9. If you would like to donate gift cards, items, fruits, vegetables, meats, flowers, gift baskets, etc., please e-mail info@lakeanasagunticook.org for pickup. Examples are below.



Water Quality Protection Fund

Announcing a Pilot Program for the Lake Anasagunticook Association to help landowners in the watershed with run-off mitigation efforts!

The Lake Anasagunticook Association is working to help property owners in the watershed with projects that have significant impact in reducing run-off—sand, dirt, and chemicals that get in to the lake and cause water quality degradation. (Note that not all watershed properties are directly on the water. To find out if your property is in the watershed, e-mail info@lakeanasagunticook.org.)

The Pilot Program will begin this season (2025):

- The LAA will sponsor up to three projects as part of the Pilot Program;
- The LAA will MATCH a landowner's contribution up to \$350. The match will be paid as a reimbursement following the completion and LAA review/approval of the project.
- For smaller projects to which the landowner contributes less than \$350, LAA will match that amount (e.g., if the landowner kicks in \$200, LAA would also pay \$200, as well).
- The landowner's contribution can be cash or in-kind, e.g., donated labor, supplies, or equipment;
- An additional \$100 will be available from the LAA if a Maine DEP Permit-by-Rule (PBR) is required to assist with the cost of permitting;
- LAA will provide technical assistance on the DEP application if needed;
- Qualifying properties must have a current Lake Smart assessment (in the last 5 years). The LAA can help with this as well;
- Applications will be reviewed to determine fit with the water quality protection goals of the LAA;
- Priority will be given to projects determined to have HIGH impact from the prior Watershed Survey or similar assessment;
- If this pilot program is successful, the LAA Membership will be asked to make this a permanent program at the Annual Meeting on 10 August 2025.

For more details and to see the application, go to the LAA website:

<https://www.lakeanasagunticook.org/grant>.

For a list of local and lake-related resources, go to:

<https://www.lakeanasagunticook.org/links-learn>

A Testimony by Wayne Schultz

This past year, I was invited to attend the LAA Annual Meeting to be awarded the Eagle Award as a result of my 20 years of association membership. Upon receiving the award, I was compelled to say a few words about my feelings about Lake Anasagunticook and the lake association. I will relay what I said here, but first I will provide a little history to put things in perspective.

My wife Hilda and I came to Maine in 1969, specifically to look for a suitable place for our family to have a refuge, escape, and vacation spot. We had always enjoyed camping, but we didn't have much money, so land in New York, New Hampshire, and Vermont was out of the question, and Canada was a foreign country—hence our search in Maine. Essential for our purchase was our desire for clean water. Where we lived in New York, the water was like an open sewer!

We bought a plot of land in 1969. It was a lovely spot in Temple, but the kids quickly told me it wasn't enough. I knew then that we had to be on a lake where there was more, but not too much, activity. I also wanted some land around me for space.

In May of 1970, my realtor showed me several locations. When we got to the 250-acre lot at the southwest end of Lake Anasagunticook, it was solid brush. I pushed my way through the swamp to the water, took one look at the lake, and said, "Where do I sign?"

Since then, we have spent every one of the next 55 years enjoying Canton Lake. There have been changes—some good, a few bad—but overall, the lake has not changed much in all that time. I can still sit on my deck and have the same view down the lake. With the forever wild land at Pine Shore, my view should not change.

The land was purchased as a family retreat, and I want as many of my progeny as possible to enjoy it. So far that has happened—my six children have all come here, and many of my 20 grandchildren and even some of my 35 great-grandchildren are enjoying what we have. My fervent desire is for my great-grandchildren to sit on my deck 55 years from now and be able to say that the lake hasn't changed since Grandpa bought the place in 1970.

My thanks to those of you who had the desire and time to devote to our association over the years. Although my schedule did not permit me to serve, I greatly appreciate those of you who have. Keeping our lake as pristine as possible for future generations is a gift for all of us.



Lake Days - August 10, 2024

At Your Beck and Call!

Mailing Address

Lake Anasagunticook Association
PO Box 411
Canton, ME 04221

Website

www.LakeAnasagunticook.org

Emails

Info@LakeAnasagunticook.org
Board@LakeAnasagunticook.org
Membership@LakeAnasagunticook.org

Facebook Group

Friends of Lake Anasagunticook
facebook.com/groups/anasagunticook

QR Code for Membership



The LAA Mercantile is Open for Business!

Leather/Wood Bottle Opener - \$10
Ceramic Coffee/Soup mugs - \$15
Hot/cold drink cups - \$15
Baseball Style Caps - \$15

To purchase, please contact:
dianeraypfi@gmail.com
717-314-7778 (mobile)



Membership Matters

Membership Matter will be a regular column in the LAA Newsletters where we will report on numbers and issues of importance to the membership. At this writing, 21 members have paid dues for 2025 (\$15 per person/per calendar year) and there are five Business Sponsors (see list at www.LakeAnasagunticook.org) supporting the LAA.

The Membership Committee is the first official Committee of the LAA Board, formed in 2022 by four long-time LAA members (two from Hartford and two from Canton) working to develop, maintain and grow the official membership of the LAA. The membership database indicates there were 84 members (8 were new to the association) in 2021; a total of 138 (23 were new) in 2022; 148 (20 were new) in 2023; and a whopping 159 (5 were new) in 2024.

Just a year ago, the board approved a Membership Committee Charter that states the committee's authority and responsibilities. Members of this committee have changed over time, and we gladly welcome new members from either town. We are particularly in need of representation from Canton. If you are interested or just want to see what we are all about, please email MemCom@lakeanasagunticook.org.

We want to boost our Welcome Bag project and will continue to look for ways to raise membership awareness of what is happening around the lake and in the LAA.

Submitted by the LAA Membership Committee: Rob Bihlmeyer (chair), Carol MacBride (secretary), Wes Barry, John Dyke, and Judy Hamilton

Special "Health of the Lake" Issue in the Works

We have so much information to share with you about how best to care for the lake that we will be publishing a special issue of the newsletter dedicated to the topic. Look for the issue this summer. It's one we hope you'll share with your neighbors!

In the meantime, if you'd like to have a free property review by one of our trained LakeSmart representatives, please send an email to info@lakeanasagunticook.org. It's the first step in qualifying for a LakeSmart Award.

To become a 2025 member of the LAA, you may access the online form here www.lakeanasagunticook.org/join or print and complete the form below.

LAKE ANASAGUNTICOOK ASSOCIATION (LAA) MEMBERSHIP FORM <i>For annual membership, please complete this form and mail it and a donation of at least \$15 per person to: LAA Membership, PO Box 411, Canton, ME 04221</i>			
Name _____	Mailing Address _____		
Lake Address (if different) _____			
E-mail Address _____	Phone Number _____		
Dues: \$ _____ for which year(s)? _____ Additional Donation: \$ _____ Total enclosed: \$ _____ Check No.: _____			
<u>Preferred method of personal contact</u> (pls rank 1-4 with 1=most preferred) <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <input type="checkbox"/> E-mail <input type="checkbox"/> USPS Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Phone Calls <input type="checkbox"/> Text </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <u>I stay informed about the LAA and its activities by</u> (please check all that apply): <input type="checkbox"/> Checking my e-mail from LAA Correspondent <input type="checkbox"/> Reading the LAA Newsletter, Canton Crier, and/or Hartford News <input type="checkbox"/> Occasionally visiting www.LakeAnasagunticook.org <input type="checkbox"/> Joining the Friends of Lake Anasagunticook Facebook group </td> </tr> </table>		<input type="checkbox"/> E-mail <input type="checkbox"/> USPS Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Phone Calls <input type="checkbox"/> Text	<u>I stay informed about the LAA and its activities by</u> (please check all that apply): <input type="checkbox"/> Checking my e-mail from LAA Correspondent <input type="checkbox"/> Reading the LAA Newsletter, Canton Crier, and/or Hartford News <input type="checkbox"/> Occasionally visiting www.LakeAnasagunticook.org <input type="checkbox"/> Joining the Friends of Lake Anasagunticook Facebook group
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For more information, please contact the Membership Committee at membership@lakeanasagunticook.org . <i>Membership is open to anyone who has an interest in protecting the lake and supporting our projects.</i>			

The Lake Anasagunticook Association (LAA) is a public, non-profit organization that works in partnership with the lakefront property owners, residents of Canton and Hartford, and other interested parties to preserve the water quality of the lake, sustain its aesthetic appeal, and provide recreational opportunities.



Lake Anasagunticook Association
PO Box 411
Canton, ME 04221