

LAA NEWSLETTER

Lake Anasagunticook Association – Stewards of the Canton-Hartford Watershed

Upcoming Events

LAA Board Meetings:

Dec 9th, 2024 at 5pm

Feb 10th, 2025 at 5 pm

April 7th, 2025 at 5pm

June 8th, 2025 at 3 pm

July 6th, 2025 at 3 pm

Aug 3rd, 2025 at 3pm

Lake Days 2025

August 9th

Annual Meeting 2025

August 10th at 9 am

.....

2024-2025 LAA Board Members

Pres.: Wesley Barry

Vice Pres.: Rob Bihlmeyer

Treas.: Diane Ray

Sec. Lucille Cacciatore

Biff Atwater

Bill Gray

Suzy Henderson

Katie Kirwan

Mike McCluskey

Jeff Stern

Letter from the LAA President

My name is Wesley Barry, and I have the privilege of being the president of the 2024-25 Lake Anasagunticook Association Board of Directors following the annual meeting in August. My wife and I purchased a home in Pine Shores in 2022, and we quickly realized Lake Anasagunticook is a special place and wanted to take an active role in the community.

I would like to welcome new LAA board members, Lucille Cacciatore, Suzy Henderson, Katie Kirwan, and Jeff Stern to the LAA. All have long-standing ties to the Lake and will be valuable additions to the board.

As we reflect on the past year, the LAA raised thousands of dollars in support of a follow up erosion control grant. I want to thank, Oxford FCU, OTIS FCU, Dirigo FCU, Franklin Savings Bank, Androscoggin River Watershed Council, the towns of Hartford and Canton, and the members of the LAA for their support towards the grant.

The previous grant reduced runoff into the lake by an estimated 44 tons annually! For those of you at the annual meeting, you will remember that I repeatedly mentioned runoff as the biggest threat to our lake that we have the power to mitigate. Unfortunately, Lake Anasagunticook came in just shy of the requirements to receive funding for a second grant. However, with all the successful fundraising, we will investigate further steps the association can take to use these funds to continue our erosion control efforts.

In the interim, I encourage all property owners to get a free LakeSmart evaluation. This important program can help all properties within the watershed, not just those directly on the lake, understand their impact on the environment and what voluntary steps can be taken to mitigate runoff. It is said that a lake dies by a thousand cuts, but we can each do our part. For more information, please email lakesmart@lakeanasagunticook.org.

Lastly, thanks to the continuing and previous board members for their commitment to our lake. Together they represent decades worth of work to protect this special place we all hold dear. Please feel free to reach out to me directly at

wbarry@lakeanasagunticook.org if you

have questions, comments or want to get involved further.

GET INVOLVED
Make a Difference!



Erosion Control Remains a High Priority for LAA 2025-2026 Watershed Mitigation Efforts

It's been said that "close" only counts when you're playing horseshoes. Unfortunately, the concept of closeness does not apply to erosion control grants. LAA and its partner, the Androscoggin River Watershed Council, came up just shy of obtaining a Section 319 erosion control grant from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (Maine DEP).

Quick review: Soil from Lake Anasagunticook's surrounding watershed naturally contains phosphorus, a plant nutrient. If there is a lot of soil erosion from gravel roads, driveways, ditches, and paths that washes into streams feeding the lake, or directly into Lake Anasagunticook itself, this upsets the natural balance of nutrients. A disastrous chain of events is unleashed if too much phosphorous enters the lake. This is because phosphorous is like junk food to algae: it feasts on it and grows exponentially. The end result is a clear blue lake that turns slimy green.

Does this sound farfetched? Not so! Lake Anasagunticook has suffered such algae blooms, albeit limited in scope and duration thus far, in the recent past. The lake is at the tipping point. The goal of these "319 grants", as they are commonly called, is to minimize soil erosion by sharing the costs of erosion control with towns and private landowners.

LAA and its partners coordinated a 319 grant from 2021 to 2023. This grant project brought in \$51,655 of 319 money (federal funds that are passed through to the Maine DEP for distribution in a competitive grant program), matched by \$153,234 in local matching funds. This grant project reduced soil loading to Lake Anasagunticook by a whopping 43.71 tons ANNUALLY. Through this grant, we fixed many of the most egregious erosion problems. We were hoping to build on the success of this grant project and knock off the remaining high priority sites with a new grant. But it wasn't meant to be. This time around, we applied for \$56,623 in federal 319 funds.

Here's what the head of the Nonpoint Source Pollution program (aka: erosion) at Maine DEP wrote about our grant application: "We thought your application was really tight, and scored very well on the feasibility for success and cost effectiveness categories. The difference came down to the problems in the waterbody. We thought the next lake up was just a little worse off water quality wise than Anasagunticook. That, combined with the way we're scoring comprehensive plans and disadvantaged communities (which provides fractions of points) provided the end result of half a point. I think in a year that wasn't so competitive with lake protection projects that your application would have been funded."

That's right, by Maine DEP's scoring system we were 0.5 point away from getting funded. So...close but no cigar. Where do we go from here?

The LAA board is looking into starting its own erosion control cost-sharing program, utilizing monies raised through the "Give Lively" campaign last winter. It will obviously be at a lesser scale than the 319 grant would have allowed, but it would permit us to work with landowners to continue minimizing erosion, and to keep this critical issue front-and-center amongst watershed residents.

In the meantime, we would like to thank everyone who contributed to the "Give Lively" campaign, as well as other contributors. LAA was heartened by this strong show of support for combating soil erosion so central to our mission to protect water quality in the lake. *Jeff Stern – Grant Writer, LAA Board Member*



FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:

Currently, there are a total of 146 members of the LAA for 2024. We want to welcome Ashley Rand, John and Sabrina Dyke, Lee Holman and Bonnie Cray, the five new members this year. We encourage those who have not yet renewed their membership for 2024 to complete the form in this newsletter and mail it with your check to LAA Membership, PO Box 411, Canton, ME 04221, or use this barcode to manage your membership dues online.

Your dues support the various LAA programs and give the organization a voice in the community.



LONGEVITY AWARDS

The LAA Board charged the Membership Committee with organizing and reinstituting the awards for years of LAA support.

- The Loon certificate for 10-years of membership
- The Eagle certificate plus an Eagle Member t-shirt for 20-years of membership
- The new Owl certificate for 30 years of “wise” support of LAA.

These three awards were distributed at the August 11th Annual Meeting in recognition of and with gratitude to those members listed below.

Anyone who is missing a certificate or has a question about these longevity awards, please contact membership@lakeanasagunticook.org.

LOON AWARDS FOR 10-YEARS MEMBERSHIP

Mel Barron
Doug & Susan Bean
Babe & Mary Binette
Emily Bourassa
Richard Cousins
Gary Dougherty
Randy Gammon
Elaine Gammon
Jim Hathorne
Jerry & Corrine Hutchinson
Gale Johnsen
Joe & Michelle Knapp
Tom “Rusty” Knight

Marj Kraske
Michael & Marion Manning
Betty Meader
Cyndi Phillips
Sharon Poulin
Gloria Rains
Caroline Rothrock
Armand & Barbara Rouleau
Tom Ryan
Jeff Stern
William & Virginia Van Hee
Chris & Tim Williams



Eagle Awards and Eagle Member t-shirt for 20-years membership

Glenn Appleton
Rob & Krista Atwater
Gayton & Joanne Bartlett
Rob & Dale Bihlmeyer
Daryl & Leslie Boness
Michael & Linda Brustolon
Joe & Donna Cloonan
Bob & Linda Coates
Albert "Buzz" Croston
Rich Dwyer
Bill & Carolyn Gray
Shawn & Karen Henderson

Terry Hinkley
Kerry & Christine Huckins
Susie Johnsen
Mike & Melissa Lara
Paula Marsters
Pete & Ann McCluskey
Richard & Diane Ray
Dan & Claire Riley
Larry & Darlene Savarese
Wayne & Hilda Schultz
Norm Trenoweth
Dick Williams



Owl Awards for 30 years of Wise Support

Biff & Mary Atwater
Polly Bussiere
Brian Campbell
Priscilla Campbell-Wyman
Tom & Judy Hamilton
Sandy Howes
Tim & Mary Ellen Kirwan

Diane Lavoie
Mike McCluskey
Dick & Meg Powers
Mike & Terri Swanick
John & Margaret Taylor



Need a Gift Idea? Think LAA Gear!!



We have the following gear for purchase! These items help promote the association AND make fun gifts for family and friends. Please reach out, and we can deliver if you are not too far away!



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

dianeraypfi@gmail.com or
717-314-7778



Maine Lakes partners with lake association volunteers who visit with neighbors and friends to assess their lakeside properties, and check for erosion around structures, in the yard, and along the lake. Properties that protect the lake and meet LakeSmart standards earn the coveted LakeSmart Award, consisting of two distinctive signs that can be posted at the waterfront and driveway. The signs identify the homes of good stewards and show everyone what lake-friendly living looks like.

Property owners not yet meeting the LakeSmart standards receive recommendations for what they can do to reduce erosion and protect the lake. Whether it's installing a dripline trench around a structure, reducing lawn size and maintenance, adding more plants to a shoreline buffer, or covering bare areas of soil with erosion-control mulch, there is always something landowners can do to reduce their impact on the lake.

Many persons have previous Lake Smart awards – THANK YOU! Recent assessments and awards are as follows:

Lake Smart Awards

Mary Ellen & Katie Baron	Paul & Sue Butler
Mike McCluskey (1)	David Stiles
Mike McCluskey (2)	Wes and Erika Barry

Lake Smart Commendations

Tim & Mary Ellen Kirwan	Diane Lavoie
Lynn & Radean Hutter	

If you would like to schedule a Lake Smart assessment – please reach out:

Lakesmart@lakeanasagunticook.org

Remembrance for Members who have passed.....

William Brewster Southworth
Dr. Jean Elizabeth Williams
Shirley Blackwell Southworth



Mary Tentunian Ranks
Judith Ann Southworth
Robert Phillips

2024 Water Quality Update - By Wesley Barry

The 2024 season saw a significant improvement in water clarity (Secchi) readings over 2023. Readings surpassed 20 feet several times during the summer and are more in line with historical readings (although the long-term trend continues to be a decrease in clarity).

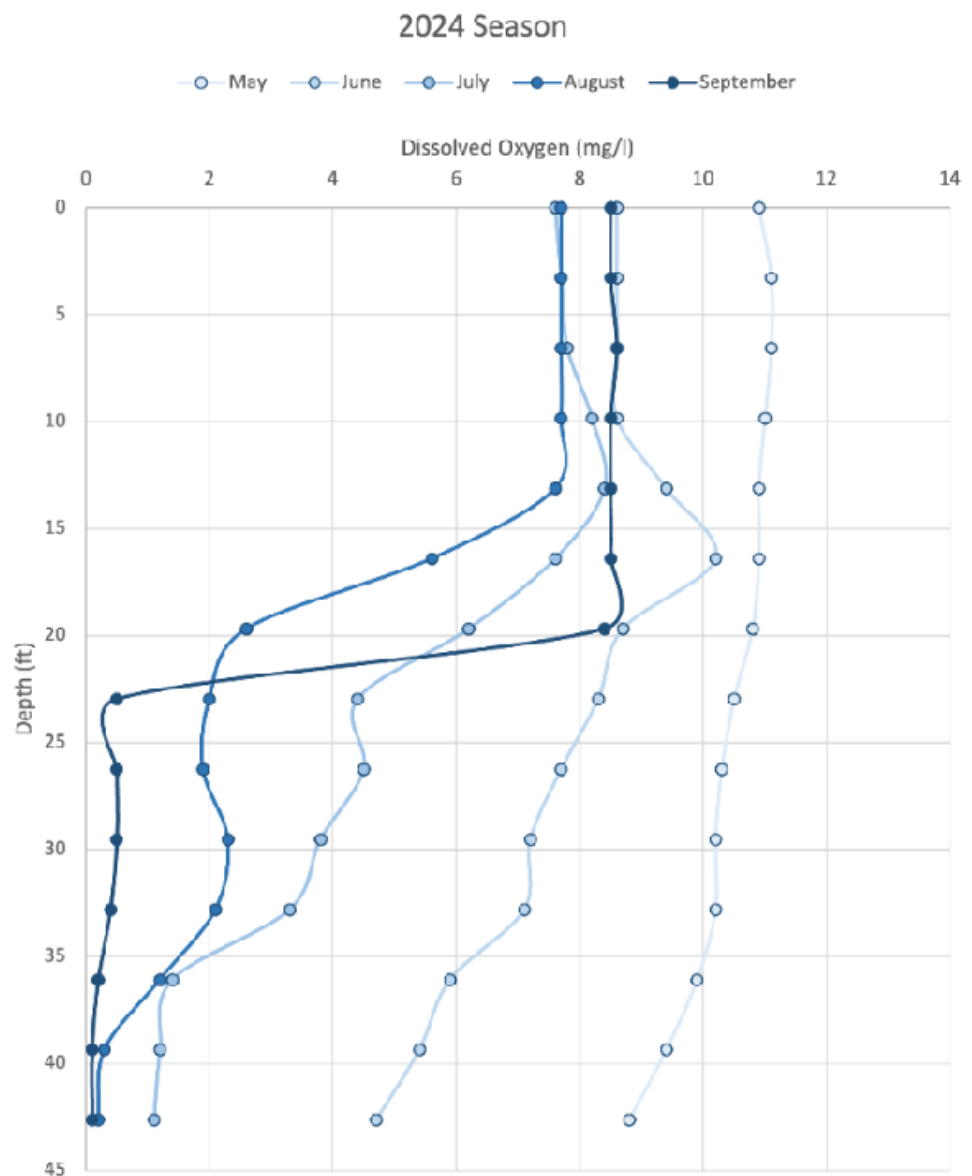
Dissolved Oxygen profiles continue to show an anoxic (oxygen deficient) zone that starts at the bottom of the lake and works its way up over the season, eventually encompassing the entire lower, cold layer of the lake (called the hypolimnion).

The chart below illustrates this effect with the top of the chart representing the surface of the lake and the bottom of the chart representing the bottom of the lake. The line on the right shows oxygen in May and is mostly uniform throughout the entire water column. Each subsequent line represents another month and illustrates the steady depletion of oxygen over the season through September.

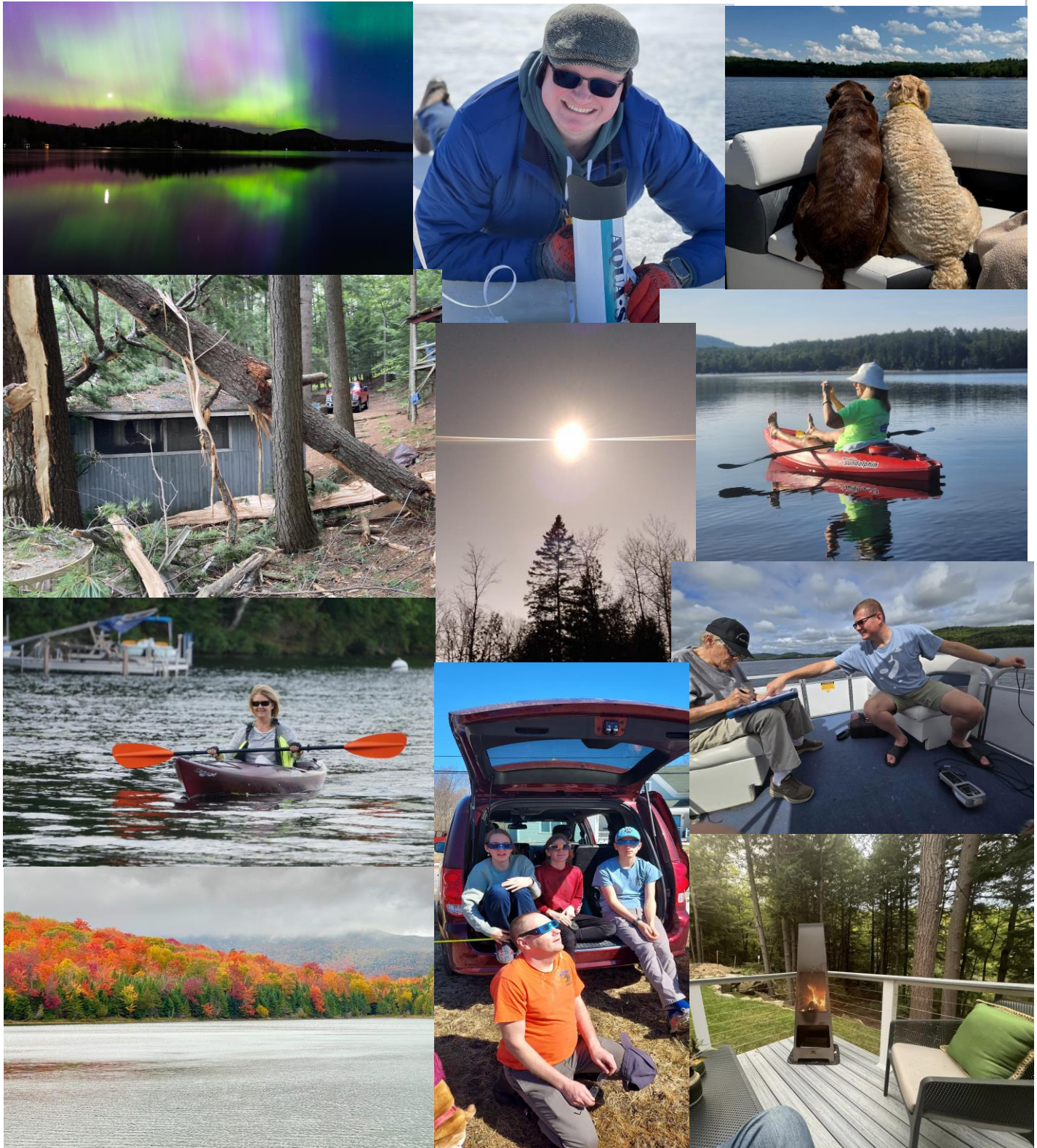
What causes this and what can we do?

Increased nutrients (phosphorus) in the water leads to an increased growth of microorganisms that deplete the water of oxygen (this is called eutrophication). When the oxygen gets low (anoxic), the microorganisms die off and release the nutrients (phosphorus) back into the water. Since the primary source of most of these nutrients is runoff, controlling runoff is the key to slowing this cycle. If left unchecked, the lake runs the risk of algae blooms which can be toxic to people and animals.

Help keep the lake clean!



2023-2024 in Photos



2024 Lake Days & Annual Meeting



2024 Lake Days & Annual Meeting



Planning for 2025 Invasives work

We have been gifted with very few/ no invasives in Lake Anasagunticook – *and we want to keep it that way!*

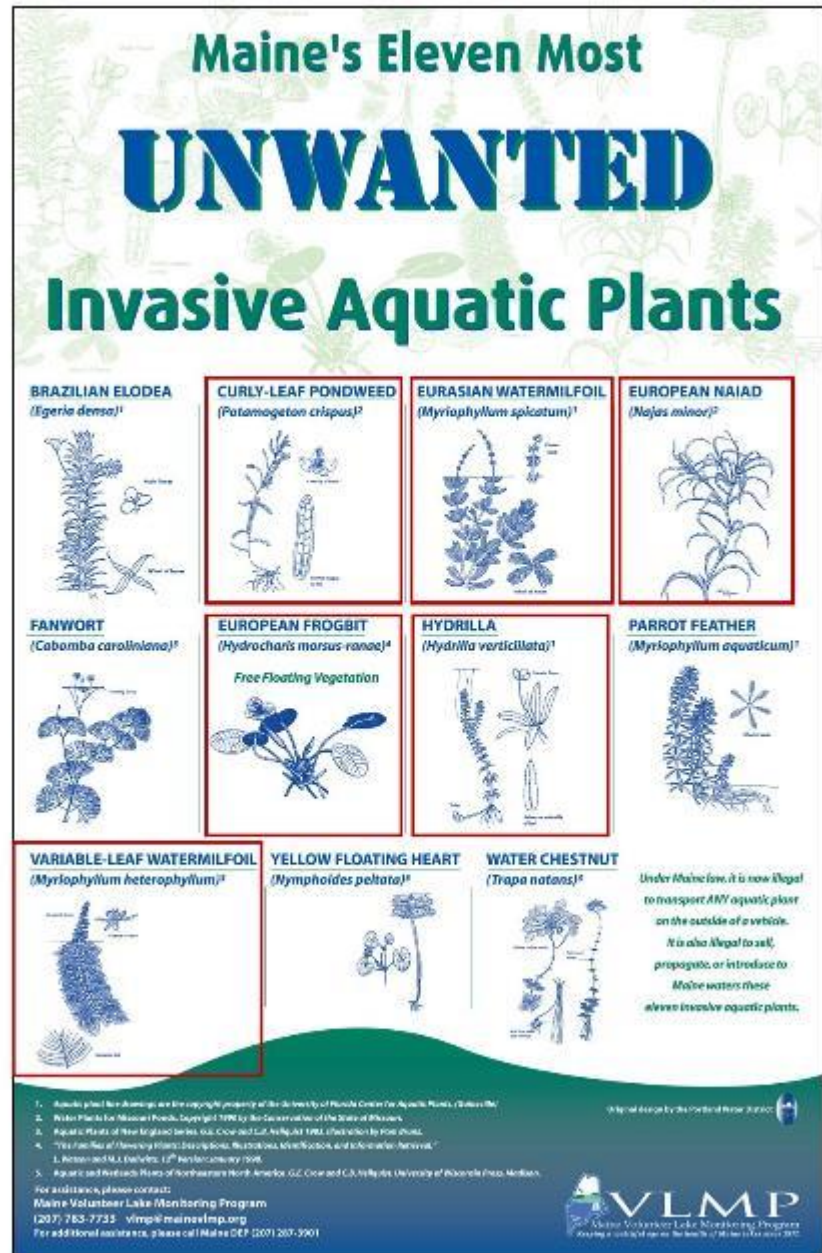
We have two key initiatives to kick off early next year but we can start thinking about them now:

1) Invasive Plant Survey

This typically includes training, a one-day survey that covers the entire lake (lots of participation) with expert guidance, then ongoing monitoring & reporting on a regular basis. We carried this out some years ago but with new members we could use a refresher and an updated, comprehensive survey.

2) Courtesy Boat Inspections (CBI)

We have had sporadic volunteers in the past but really little activity during COVID – time to renew our efforts!



Resources:

<https://mainelakes.org/resources/visitors-guide-to-lakes/>

<https://mainelakes.org/boaters/>

<https://mainelakes.org/resources/clean-lake-check-up/>

<https://mainelakes.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/2014-CBI-Handbook-web-quality.pdf>



Newsletters:

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

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

Hartford News: Sign up by sending your address to:
hartfdnews@megalink.net

Webpages:

Lake Anasagunticook Association – www.lakeanasagunticook.org

Town of Canton – www.cantonme.com

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

Canton Historical Society – www.cantonmehistorical.com

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. <https://www.lakes.me/lakesmart>

DEP Lakes Page. This webpage provides links to more information about lakes.

What is the LAA?

The Lake Anasagunticook Association (LAA) is a public, nonprofit organization that brings together people who care about Lake Anasagunticook—aka “Canton Lake.” The lake has a depth of 50 feet and occupies 600 acres in the towns of Canton and Hartford, Maine. It is used for recreational purposes, including boating, swimming, and fishing, and is currently a source of drinking water.

The LAA is concerned with preserving the lake as a natural resource and protecting the surrounding watershed. Fundraisers and member donations are our primary sources of funding. The organization monitors water quality, pursues invasive plants and animals, communicates with citizens via public meetings, a newsletter; and annual Lake Days celebration.

Please reach out!

Board of Directors: board@lakeanasagunticook.org

Membership Committee: membership@lakeanasagunticook.org

LakeSmart: lakesmart@lakeanasagunticook.org

Website: www.lakeanasagunticook.org

Facebook: Friends of Lake Anasagunticook;
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/271189350112>

LAKE ANASAGUNTICOOK ASSOCIATION (LAA) MEMBERSHIP FORM

For annual membership, please complete this form and mail it, and a donation of at least \$15 per person, to:
LAA, PO BOX 411, Canton, ME 04221

Name _____ Mailing Address _____

Lake Address (If Different) _____

E-mail Address _____ Phone: _____

Dues \$ _____ For which year(s)? _____ Additional donation: \$ _____ Total Encl:\$ _____ Check No.: _____

Preferred method of personal contact
(pls rank 1-4 with 1=most preferred)

_____ E-mail
_____ USPS Mail
_____ Phone Calls
_____ Text

I stay informed about the LAA and its activities by
(Check all that apply)

_____ Checking my email
_____ LAA Newsletter, Canton Crier, Hartford News, etc.
_____ Occasionally visiting www.LakeAnasagunticook.org.
_____ Joining *Friends of Lake Anasagunticook* Facebook group

If you are considering memorial gifts, please email membership@lakeanasagunticook.org

Membership is open to anyone who has an interest in protecting the lake and supporting LAA projects.