



Lake Anasagunticook Association Newsletter

Volume 8: April 2002

President's Corner

It's nice to start a year with good news and with it come new challenges.

The lake association was honored by the Oxford County Soil and Water Conservation District (OCSWCD) as the "Cooperator of the Year" for our efforts to improve and protect the lake and watershed. Polly and Ray Bussiere received the award on our behalf at the OCSWCD Annual Meeting on March 27, 2002. Please read Jeff Stern's interesting article on page 2. The BMP project for which the LAA received this award will end this summer. Jeff Stern, the project manager, has proposed a very impressive list of tasks to be tackled this year. The details are in his article on page 4. I hope we can continue to support his leadership. I would like to see the LAA continue to take on one or two erosion control sites each year in the future.

The threat of invasive plants is as serious as ever in the State of Maine. This year legislation that was passed to prevent the spread of invasive plants in Maine will become reality. The act will be funded by the sale of boat stickers mandated to be purchased by operators for all powered watercraft. Our job will continue to be to support this legislation and its enforcement. Please read the article on page 5 on how the association and you can help.

On the subject of workshops, there is a program some of you might be interested in, which I hope to attend. It's called "Conservation Expo" and will be held on Wednesday, April 17, at the University of Maine Farmington. Workshops on erosion control will be featured. Lake Anasagunticook Association will pay your registration if you are interested in attending. More information is available by calling 207-778-4279 or writing to Franklin County SWCD, 107 Park St., Farmington, ME 04938.

Many of us are concerned about the lake water level this year. Dana Murch, DEP's Supervisor of Dams, has received several calls about water-level concerns. He has written to Ray Fortier, dam owner, and asked him to close the first two gates two weeks ahead of schedule this year (April 1st) and the

remaining two gates by April 15th instead of May 1st. I hope Maine has received as much rain as we in eastern New York State since he wrote the letter. If so, maybe the problem is abating.

The Selectmen's letter in the fall *Hartford News* makes me realize that we and the Hartford Selectmen have a strong common interest in road maintenance (read Hartford Selectmen's Letter on page 6). Kay Hawkins, Hartford's Code Enforcement Officer, is dedicated to enforcing the laws that are in place to protect lakes. She would like to know more about existing septic systems and work with property owners to improve their safety and effectiveness (article page 6). I am



encouraged by the efforts of Hartford officials in support of our lakes.

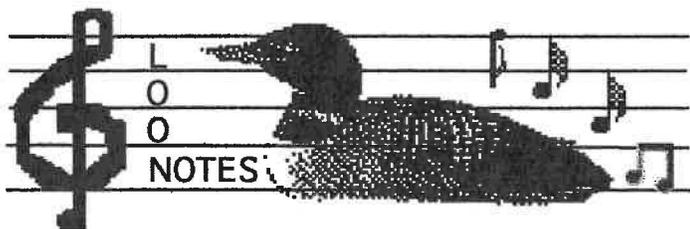
I'd like to thank Polly Bussiere and others who worked with her to finally get granite steps in place along the Canton road shore. There are breaks in the guardrail for two more sets of steps. Unfortunately, the permitting process is now more involved. We are still working through the details and specifications to decide whether or not to go ahead with the other two sets of steps.

Our annual Lake Days picnic will be Saturday, August 3, once again at the Hartford Beach, with games and a raffle for all. If you haven't attended lately, try it. You'll like it! The annual meeting is the next day, Sunday, August 4 at 10 a.m., at the Canton Community Building. This is the one time of

the year when we can benefit from new ideas, suggestions and discussion of important issues concerning the lake and watershed. Please plan to come, get involved, and support the efforts of the LAA.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible this summer and to a successful season for all we have planned.

Submitted by: Jack Atwater, President, LAA



BIRD QUIZ

1. What is Maine's state bird?
2. What are the two most stressful months of the year for birds?
3. What is the predominate color of the red-bellied woodpecker's belly?
4. What bird builds a nest that looks like an oven?
5. What four-letter word makes up part of the name of the bird called a starling? How does that word relate to its name?
6. Should you feed birds all year long?
7. What is the name of the hummingbird that migrates to the lake every year?
8. What is the name of the species with the nickname "L.B.J."?
9. Why is the cardinal so named and what was its original name?
10. Why is feeding birds bread or bread crumbs responsible for the death of some birds?

Answers on page 3.

LAKE ANASAGUNTIKOOK ASSOCIATION 2001 COOPERATOR OF THE YEAR

Anasagunticook! The word doesn't exactly roll off the tongue. In fact, if you're not careful, your tongue can get tied up in knots trying to pronounce it!

Yet this was the name given by the Native Americans to a certain lake that today is located in Hartford, Canton, and Peru Maine. (Of course, if you're not up to trying the A-word, you could call it Canton Lake, as the locals often do.) We have it from a reliable source that Anasagunticook means, "The Spirits Smile".

It's an appropriate description. Lake Anasagunticook is nestled pleasantly in the

hills of East Central Oxford County. Since the days before Maine was a state, or even a part of Massachusetts Colony, the lake has drawn people. Native Americans set up their summer camps on the east shore of the lake. In 1814, Gustavus Hayford built a sawmill and dam on Whitney Brook at the outlet of Lake Anasagunticook. (This explains why present day Canton was once called Hayford's Mills.) A tannery and textile mills came later.

Early in the twentieth century, Lake Anasagunticook earned a reputation as a vacation paradise for stressed out city dwellers. Resorts popped up in the surrounding hills. Building lots along Camp Road on the south end of the lake were sold as early as 1920.

Today, the Town of Canton has grown up around the original site of Hayford's sawmill. Lake Anasagunticook provides drinking water to 600 residents. Resorts from an earlier era have been abandoned. The railroad tracks that once brought vacationers to the lake have long since disappeared.

But one thing hasn't changed: Lake Anasagunticook and environs are still treasured by locals and visitors alike for the clean water, beautiful scenery, wildlife and recreational opportunities they provide. The Canton Lake Association formed way back in the 1920s. Though the group's name changed recently to Lake Anasagunticook Association (LAA), the association's continued dedication to watershed protection earned it the honor of the Oxford County SWCD's 2001 Cooperator of the Year.

Lake Anasagunticook faces threats that could spoil water quality. The watershed's steep slopes and erosive soils make it a prime candidate for erosion if land isn't managed carefully. Improperly constructed gravel roads and driveways can contribute sediment to the lake. Phosphorus, a plant nutrient, often "hitchhikes" on eroding soil particles. The concern is that excessive phosphorus loading will cause algae to bloom in the lake, which can ruin water chemistry, fishing and recreation.

In fact, Lake Anasagunticook experienced one such bloom in 1980. The lake's water clarity was reduced to less than six feet. Determined that this disaster will not be repeated, the LAA works hard to educate the watershed community about land stewardship. In 1998, the association spearheaded an effort to survey the entire watershed (13 square miles) for sources of polluted runoff. It's not just lakeshore activities that can affect a lake;

land use high in the watershed also can have an impact.

Volunteer surveyors documented 74 sites where erosion was occurring. Most were associated with roads and residential areas. Working with the Oxford County SWCD, the LAA used the survey as a springboard to action. In 2000, the "Lake Anasagunticook Watershed BMP Demonstration Project" began. It's a long title, but the goal is clearly defined: Reduce sediment loading to the lake. (By the way, "BMP" stands for "Best Management Practices". A BMP is a technique, usually inexpensive and easy to install, that reduces erosion from a road, driveway or residence.) Now in its final year, the project has shared the cost of minimizing erosion from some of the worst sites identified in that 1998 survey.

LAA members, with their knowledge of the watershed, have been instrumental in the success of this project. Many actively participate on the project steering committee and are always the first to volunteer (sometimes on very short notice!) when a little manual labor is needed.

They're the reason an erosion control project went in so smoothly at the Route 140 Boat Ramp in October 2000. At this site, the lake's only public boat ramp was an eroding, axle-busting mess. Each time a boater launched or retrieved a boat, eroding soil was sprayed into the lake as they tried desperately to climb around the rocks and ruts up to the road. Volunteers installed locking concrete blocks that provide a less erosive surface that is easier for vehicles to negotiate.

Since then, erosion control "demonstration" projects have been installed at private driveways and on town roads in Canton and Hartford. A buffer planting is planned along the shore in June 2002. The idea is to demonstrate a wide variety of BMPs that people can use on their own land to control erosion and to protect the lake. The LAA has been involved every step of the way, by contributing money and helping to spread the word about conservation, as well as providing volunteer muscle. The lake association wants to provide watershed residents' with the knowledge they'll need to protect the lake after the project ends.

The Lake Anasagunticook Association has monitored water quality in the lake for many years. Another task is keeping tabs on the resident loon population. Recently, the LAA produced road signs to inform motorists that they have entered the watershed.

Hmm...With a dedicated group like the LAA looking out for Lake Anasgunticook, you have to believe that the spirits are *still* smiling on this beautiful lake!

Submitted by: Jeff Stern, OCSWCD, with special thanks to Al Somes for some of the lake history.

Maine/COLA Lakes Conference

Maine Congress of Lake Associations will be held on Saturday, June 22, 2002 at the University of Maine Farmington. This day-long conference is packed with workshops designed to interest and instruct participants on the issues and challenges that lake associations face as they work to protect their resources.

My husband and I have represented the LAA in the past and found the Lakes Conference to be informative as well as fun. If anyone is interested in more information or would like to attend this year, please check the appropriate box on the Membership Form. Thanks, Judy Hamilton, Treasurer



BIRD QUIZ ANSWERS

- (Black-capped) chickadee
2. March and April. Birds start to nest at this time and the natural food supply is depleted or exhausted.
3. Gray
4. Ovenbird
5. Star. The starling's winter breast is dotted with tiny "stars."
6. Yes. With a few exceptions, birds will migrate if it's in their nature but if you discontinue feeding, they know how to survive. Exception: once you start feeding hummingbirds, discontinue only after they have migrated south.
7. Ruby-throated hummingbird
8. Sparrow. "L.B.J." stands for little brown job.
9. The cardinal was named in 1758 by Linnaeus. The male cardinal's plumage reminded him of the red robes and hats worn by cardinals in the Roman Catholic Church. Before 1758 it was commonly known as the redbird.
10. Feeding bread or bread crumbs to birds can cause death because: A bird metabolizes food quickly. Foods high in protein and fat with little carbohydrate area bird's normal diet. High amounts of energy are required to conserve body heat during the night. Bread is

metabolized much faster than protein or fat. A bird that fills its stomach with bread may die from the cold at night. Never feed bread to birds regardless of season.
Submitted by: Margaret Taylor, Loon Protection

LAKE PROJECT ENTERS FINAL YEAR

It's hard to believe, but 2002 marks the final year of the Lake Anasagunticook Watershed BMP Demonstration Project. At this point, we have two solid years behind us. This is in large part due to the active participation of the Lake Anasagunticook Association every step of the way since the project's inception two years ago.

But there are still some important tasks we hope to accomplish this year. The Oxford County SWCD is working with the Town of Hartford to share the cost of fixing erosion problems on Godding Road where it crosses Sparrow Brook. We've had our eyes on this site for quite some time; it's a significant source of sediment to the brook, which flows into the lake. Plans call for lining the road ditch with rock, as well as reshaping, seeding and mulching where needed. We anticipate that the work will be done in early summer.

Plans are in the works to plant a buffer along the shoreline at the Route 140 end of Lakeshore Dr. in Canton. We're hoping to do this in May or June. It will provide a good "hands-on" demonstration of a simple, important technique for protecting water quality in the lake. Stay tuned, we'll have more details later. Participants are always welcome!

Need help fixing your driveway? Want to do it once and not every year? Get technical assistance from Oxford County S&WCD! Contact Jeff Stern, 207-743-5789 x3 or email jeffstern@me.nacdnet.org.

Later this summer, we'd like to conduct a tour of the demonstration projects that have gone in since the project started. These

include Bonney Road, Camp Road, the Route 140 boat ramp, two driveway sites and, soon, Godding Road and the shoreline buffer planting described in the previous paragraph. The demonstration projects resulted from the hard work of landowners, the lake association, the towns of Canton and Hartford, volunteers and District staff. They show a range of erosion control techniques that can be used, where they're needed and elsewhere around the lake. As of this writing, the tour date has not been set.

With the help of Maine DEP, we're putting together a brochure that can be given to people who apply for building permits in Canton or Hartford. The brochure describes the importance of controlling erosion and protecting water quality, no matter where people plan to build in the Lake Anasagunticook Watershed.

We still have technical assistance (TA) evaluations available! TA is a great deal. For one thing, there's no charge. The landowner receives expert advice for tackling any tricky erosion problems on his or her property. Call me (Jeff Stern 207-743-5789 Ext. 3) if you'd like to take advantage of this free service!

There are other loose ends to tie up, as well. All in all, though, I'd say we're on track for the successful completion of this project. I'm grateful to the lake association for helping make things go as well as they have!

Submitted by: Jeff Stern, OCSWCD
The Lake Anasagunticook Watershed BMP Demonstration Project is funded in part by Maine DEP through a U.S.E.P.A. Nonpoint Source Grant under Section 319 of the federal Clean Water Act.

Is Your Property Secure???

There have been several properties broken into recently, many resulting in tools and other items being stolen. Locking your residence is not enough to deter thieves from breaking the law and invading your space. What can you/we do to protect ourselves and our property?

Mark tools, electronics and all valuables with your name or some identifying number or sign. Take pictures of valuables. Keep receipts and records with serial numbers when possible. When serial numbers can be provided, the state police post this information on a nation-wide network which helps them to identify stolen property. Carry insurance and be sure that you know what your coverage is. Form neighborhood crime watch groups.

If you are the victim of a break-in, report it immediately to the police. Canton and Hartford are covered and patrolled by the State Police at 1-800-228-0857 (or from out of state at 1-207-657-3030). Your insurance carrier requires police reports for verification. Thefts and break-ins are actively investigated by the state police and thefts from properties reported to them have been patrolled on a regular basis. The State Police have several leads and may apprehend these tool-thieves because of their increased surveillance.

Because our properties around the lake are vulnerable, I would like to work with anyone else who is interested in starting neighborhood watch groups. The State Police are willing to help us organize and guide us in this effort. It is from reports of suspicious behavior that the police get their best leads on solving crimes of this sort. Let's take an active role in protecting ourselves. When you return your membership form check the box indicating your interest in working with us, call (597-2604) or email me. Submitted by Judy Hamilton jhamilton@andover.edu

Invasive Plants & Courtesy Boat Inspectors

The Third Annual Milfoil Summit was held on February 28, 2002. Anyone interested in the summary report should check the box on the Membership Form and a copy will be mailed to you. The Lakes Environmental Association (LEA) is offering training for those interested in becoming invasive plant courtesy boat launch site inspectors. It is important to get as many volunteers in the field as we can for the spring and summer season. It is also important that the volunteers be properly trained and use the uniform questionnaire. The training is free and is supported by the State's invasive aquatic plant program through DEP.

2002 Courtesy Boat Inspector Training

Date		Location	Sponsor Group
April 29 7:00 PM	Monday	Togus	Maine Bass Federation
May 6 7:00 PM	Monday	Casco	Town of Casco Planning Dept.
May 18 9:00 AM	Saturday	Winthrop	Cobbossee Watershed Dist.
June 11 TEA	Tuesday	Rangeley	Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust
June 14 12:30 PM	Friday	Naples	Southern Maine Milfoil Summit
June 22 TEA	Saturday	Farmington	Univ. of Maine COLA / VIMP

If you are interested in the Courtesy Boat Inspector program, check the interest box on the Membership Form. We would like to send a small delegation to the June 22nd training session in Farmington.

I have copies of the latest version of the inspector's handbook and the questionnaire expected to be used this spring and summer which I will send to anyone interested. The Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program is scheduling plant patrol workshops and we'll try to provide this schedule when it is available.

This information has been supplied through our email distribution network from Peter Lowell lakes@megalink.net (207-647-8580) who is part of the task force leadership for milfoil legislation and the Lakes o Association. Please contact him directly for more information.

Submitted by: Judy Hamilton and Peter Lowell

Hartford Selectmen's Letter from Hartford News Winter 2002-Jan-Feb

Dear Residents,

This has been a contentious fall and early winter. Thus far the Selectmen have been involved with setting two penalties for Shoreland Zoning Ordinance violations, one of which is being contested with the alleged offender choosing to take his case to the Superior Court. Two penalties have also been assessed for violations of permits required under the Automobile Graveyard/Junkyard Ordinance. One of these, because of a complicated ownership situation, is being handled by the Town's lawyer. Nobody enjoys being involved in these situations where ordinances adopted by the Town have been disregarded by various owners. But, if we do not enforce the provisions of the ordinances then for all practical purposes we don't have an ordinance!!

On the brighter side, we have made good progress on the details of the E911 mapping system for the Town. The "final" version of the map is at the office for a last review. Next comes a discussion with the postal officials followed by notifications of residents of their new addresses which we think will happen in the spring. The naming of roads has been a hassle! We are required to follow certain regulations. For example, if an adjoining town has already approved a road name for a road that continues in Hartford then we must use the same name (only in rare cases can this be modified); you should not have two roads with similar names - for

example, Adams Road and Adams Point Road, and so on. The final work will involve developing an order for road signs and obtaining estimates of cost.

The Selectmen and the Waste Committee will be meeting in February to develop a modified plan for the operation of the Transfer Station this spring. Tentatively, we plan to open the Station on a schedule yet to be determined as soon as the road posting is lifted in late April or early May.

Finally, the Special Town Meeting held on January 8, 2002 went well. Approximately 20 residents attended and discussions were open and productive. The voters approved a Mobile Home Park and Mobile Home Ordinance which gives the Town some control over any developer who wants to set up a Mobile Home Park in Hartford, and it imposes certain safety restrictions on mobile homes moved into Hartford after the date of the meeting. The second article approved an agreement with Sumner concerning the maintenance of the former dump which has been closed for some time. In essence, the agreement says that the 2 towns will split the costs of maintaining the integrity of the closure cap (a soil layer) by preventing wood growth. This really calls for just an annual mowing or bush hogging at a current cost of approximately \$100-\$50 each. Or, if a truck went off the road onto this site and damaged the "cap" then this would require the 2 towns to repair the cap. Finally, if "fifty" years down the road the Town of Sumner gets approval to use the site for some other purpose, the agreement becomes null and void and Hartford is no longer involved. The third article was approved authorizing the Selectmen to spend up to \$1200 to test for ash toxicants at the Transfer Station - a necessary step in our agreement to clean up the site.

Respectfully submitted by your Selectmen,
Peter Theriault, Dave Bowen, Dave Kraske

Email Helps Us Stay in Touch

The email network set up by Judy Hamilton has been active this winter with news of the algae bloom scare, BMP project, milfoil legislation, and septic system concerns. If you have access to email and are not already on the list, send your email address to Judy at <jhamilton@andover.edu>. Please remember to keep her up to date on email and snail mail address changes so that you don't miss any news. Thanks as usual to Judy for taking care of this in addition to doing an outstanding

job as newsletter editor and treasurer of our association.

Submitted by: Jack Atwater



Hartford CEO's Septic System Survey

In the October 2001 issue of this Newsletter, we reported a concern that the Hartford Code Enforcement Officer has for possible failure of septic systems in the town. This is particularly hazardous for stream and lakefront properties because of their close proximity to our lakes. Septic system failure was suspected, explored and rejected as the cause of the algae bloom at the south end of the lake last fall.

If one, or worse several, septic systems leak or overflow, the water quality declines and our property values with it. We all lose.

Kay Hawkins, Hartford C.E.O., is undertaking a project to update the Hartford's data on septic systems. She would like to work with property owners to insure that their systems are safe. As a lake association, I think, we should support these efforts. To that end, I'm asking that property owners provide her with information she is requesting on the short Septic System Survey on the next page. After completing the survey please return it directly to: Kay Hawkins, Town of Hartford, Canton ME 04221 or to me with your membership form and I'll see that she gets it.

Kay reports that the State is currently working on an ordinance that would encourage Towns to inspect septic systems that border lakes, streams and rivers in the future. It would be nice to complete this task out of common interest and cooperation rather than regulations.

Submitted by: Judy Hamilton, Newsletter Editor

Lake Anasagunticook Association Membership 2002

Name: _____
Mailing _____ (Give first names of each family member)
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Telephone # _____
Lake mailing address: _____ Canton, ME 04221
Lake phone if different: _____
Dates receiving mail at lake address: _____
e-mail address: _____

Limited number of
T-Shirts available in
most sizes
\$10 @ shirt plus
\$4 for shipping

COLA Lakes Conference
Saturday
June 22, 2002
at
University of Maine
Farmington

Dues: \$10/2002 _____
Water Quality Monitoring Fund _____
Fish Screen Fund _____
COLA Newsletter (\$8) _____
Unencumbered Donation _____
Total for CLA t-shirt/s _____
Total check: _____
Make payable to: LAA/Lake Anasagunticook Assn.
Mail Check to: Judy Hamilton
39 Salem Street
Andover, MA 01810

Vol 8: Issue 1



Lake Anasagunticook Association
39 Salem Street
Andover, MA 01810
Address Correction Requested

Lake Anasagunticook Association Officers:

President: Jack Atwater
Vice President: Polly Bussiere
Secretary: Mitzie Turnbull
Treasurer: Judy Hamilton

Board of Directors

Biff Atwater - at large
John Convey, BMP Steering Committee
Buzz Croston - at large
Bob Doucette, Water District
Tom Hamilton, Water Quality Monitor
Carroll Howes, at large
Regina Hutchinson, Fund Raisers
Hutch Hutchinson, at large
Tim Kirwan - Raffle/Special Events
Ruth Martin, Lake Days
Margaret Taylor, Loon Protection

Lake Days -
Saturday, August 4, 2002
Annual Meeting -
Sunday, August 5, 2002

Dues are \$10 per family per year.
See mailing label for last year dues were paid.