

# LAA NEWSLETTER

## Lake Anasagunticook Association - Stewards of the Canton-Hartford Watershed

### Upcoming Events

LAA Board Meeting\*  
Sunday, June 7 at 4:30-6 PM

LAA/Canton Historical Society History  
Hour and Spaghetti  
Dinner (see Page 3)  
Saturday, June 13 at 3-6 PM

LAA Yard Sale at Canton Boat Launch  
(see Page 6)  
Saturday, July 11 at 9 AM to 1 PM

LAA Board Meeting\*  
Sunday, July 26 at 4:30-6 PM

Lake Days Celebration  
and Fundraiser Raffle  
Saturday, August 8 at TBD  
(always the Saturday of the first full  
weekend in August—rain or shine!)

Annual Members Meeting  
Sunday, August 9 at 9-11 AM  
(always the day after the Lake Days  
Celebration)

\* To receive a Zoom link for the  
LAA Board meetings, e-mail  
[board@lakeanasagunticook.org](mailto:board@lakeanasagunticook.org)

### 2025 LAA Board Members

President: Wes Barry, 2028  
Vice President: Rob Bihlmeyer, 2026  
Secretary: Lucille Cacciatore, 2027  
Treasurer: Diane Ray, 2027  
Directors: Biff Atwater, 2026  
Bill Gray, 2026  
Katie Kirwan, 2027  
Mike McCluskey, 2028  
Jeff Stern, 2028

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



Lake Anasagunticook - September 2025

### Letter from LAA President Wes Barry

After a long, cold winter on the lake, spring is here at last. The mud is a good indicator! As you bring out your boats and summer furniture, please consider looking around your property for places where runoff might be occurring. If you'd like some help spotting the issues, feel free to e-mail [info@lakeanasagunticook.org](mailto:info@lakeanasagunticook.org), and one of the LAA board members will walk the property with you. Problems that you/they find could qualify for matching funds from our Water Quality Protection Fund. There's more about that on Page 3 of this newsletter.

Also, on Page 5 you will find a survey that we encourage you to complete. By doing so, you will give us a better understanding of how the LAA might serve its members and the community at large. It will also give us a sense of what volunteer activities you are interested in pursuing.

I look forward to seeing you on or around the lake this summer—and definitely at our Lake Days celebration (8/8) or annual meeting (8/9). In the meantime, enjoy yourselves and our beautiful lake.

Wesley Barry, LAA President, [wbarry@lakeanasagunticook.org](mailto:wbarry@lakeanasagunticook.org)

*"Heaven is a little closer when your home is near the water." (Unattributed)*



### LAA t-shirts for Sale!

Look familiar? We've reissued the t-shirt we produced almost two decades ago. The t-shirt features original artwork by LAA member Tom Hamilton. The shirts are available in various sizes and color. To purchase and arrange to pick up the t-shirts or other LAA merchandise (see Page 6), please contact [membership@lakeanasagunticook.org](mailto:membership@lakeanasagunticook.org) or call 207-320-1113.

### Make It Your Business

The Lake Anasagunticook Association continues to offer 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, and you will receive an invitation to set up a table at our annual Lake Days event!

### A Walk Down Memory Lane

Stop by the Canton Historical Society (CHS) to see the recently added Lake Association archives. To see the CHS's open hours as well as their special programs, go to ([www.cantonmehistory.org](http://www.cantonmehistory.org)).

## Congrats to Kiwi!

Congratulations to Miranda Lara, daughter of Mike and Melissa Lara and granddaughter of Leslie and Daryl Boness. Some of you may know Miranda by her nickname, "Kiwi." On August 10, 2025, Kiwi received the Loon Award at the LAA Annual Meeting. The Loon Award is given in recognition of 10 years of membership in the Lake Anasagunticook Association. Kiwi's award was presented to her by LAA President, Wes Barry, as seen in the photo.

Congratulations, too, to her parents and grandparents for making sure Kiwi's LAA dues were paid every year, even when she was a babe in arms.

Please consider sponsoring memberships for one or more of your children or grandchildren—or for a niece, nephew, cousin, neighbor, or friend. What could be better than a gift that helps keep a lake healthy? They will thank you for it—and Mother Nature will appreciate it as well.



## Looking for a good lakeside read?

Let us recommend an historical book that will give you insight on life in our environs. "In the North Woods of Maine" was written by Elmer E. Thomas in 1923. The book was as part of the Pioneer Life Series. In the book, Elmer, who grew up in Hartford, recalls the adventures he and his cousin Frank had in 1875, when they spent eight months in the region just beyond Moosehead Lake. It was just the two of them, and they were both only 15-years old at the time. Their goal was to hunt, fish, and trap—not only to sustain themselves, but to return with pelts that they could sell. The period they were on their adventure included the winter!

Thomas's book is beautifully illustrated by H. Boylston Dummer, and the book's appendix has descriptions of the animals found in the North Woods. You can check for the book in your local library or search for the title on eBay. Alternately, you can listen to the audio version of the book for free on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GJUssQasq9Y>.

For a list of local and lake-related resources, go to: <https://www.lakeanasagunticook.org/links-learn>

### Call for Raffle Donations

The Lake Days Committee is looking for prizes for our annual fundraising raffle to be held on Saturday, August 8. If you would like to donate gift cards, items, fruits, vegetables, meats, flowers, gift baskets, etc., please e-mail [info@lakeanasagunticook.org](mailto:info@lakeanasagunticook.org) for pickup. Examples are below.



### Water Quality Protection Fund

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 into 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@anasagunticook.org](mailto:info@anasagunticook.org)).

Program details:

- If approved, 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 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 LakeSmart assessment (in the last 5 years). The LAA can help with assessments as well...at no cost to you;
- 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.

For more details and to see the application, go to the LAA website: <https://www.lakeanasagunticook.org/grant>.

#### Mamma Mia!

You can learn about Lake Anasagunticook history AND enjoy a spaghetti dinner!

The Canton Historical Society and the Lake Anasagunticook Association are co-hosting three short history presentations followed by spaghetti & dessert.

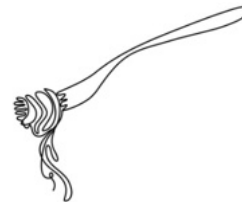
Date: Saturday, June 13th

Time: Program 3 PM (free!)

Dinner 4 - 6 PM

Suggested donations \$5 per adult, \$3 per child.

Place: 25 Turner Street, Canton (building is handicap accessible)



Spaghetti dinners are also available for carryout. Prego!

The Country Store Gift Shop will be open for business!

### LAA and MDOT: Working Together on Watershed Mitigation

In November 2025, after more than a year of planning and coordination, LAA and the Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) implemented a project to reduce erosion in Canton. The project took place at the Route 140 beach between Lake Shore Drive and Bonney Road. The beach is known by some as the Road Shore.

Frequent visitors to this area know that, over the decades, a huge sediment delta has built up in the lake at the outlet of the brook that crosses under Route 140. This delta is easily visible when the lake is drawn down in the fall.

To make matters worse, the outlets of the two culverts under Route 140 are hanging—or “perched”—at least two feet above the lake during low water. This creates a small waterfall that can stir up bottom sediments. This churning action reduces clarity in the lake and can mobilize Phosphorus, a key culprit in causing algae blooms.

With this in mind, LAA and MDOT lined the formerly unprotected plunge pool at the outlets of the culverts with angular rock rip-rap. The goal was twofold: 1) Armor the plunge pool with rock so bottom sediments would no longer be stirred up, and 2) Improve water clarity. The before and after photos below show the dramatic improvement.

LAA is constantly on the lookout for places where erosion can be minimized, and this site was high on our priority list. Erosion introduces Phosphorus into the lake, and as mentioned above, too much Phosphorus causes algae to bloom. This ruins recreation and water quality—and can negatively affect shoreline property values.

Lake Anasagunticook has experienced algae blooms in the past, but we hope to prevent them from happening in the future. Our thanks to MDOT for their timely assistance in dealing with this problem and to Jeff Stern for being the LAA liaison for the project!



← BEFORE and AFTER  
↓



The LAA 2026 Membership Survey

Lake usage, member involvement, and concern for the long-term health of Lake Anasagunticook and its watershed areas are the major goals for those who serve on Board of Directors of the Lake Anasagunticook Association. One of the ways the Board can reach these goals is by hearing from you, the members of the LAA. Your thoughts, concerns, and opinions are important to us. So, please respond to the following survey questions and return the completed form to either of the addresses below. Alternately, you may complete the survey online at https://www.lakeanasagunticook.org/survey. Your participation will help the Board to move the LAA in the right direction.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_
Mailing/email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Resident of either Hartford or Canton? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

If non-resident/snowbird, length of time spent at the lake?

Number of Days \_\_\_\_\_
Number of Weeks \_\_\_\_\_
Number of Months \_\_\_\_\_

How do you and your family make use of the lake? (check all that apply)

- \_\_\_ Swimming
\_\_\_ Kayaking/Canoeing, etc.
\_\_\_ Fishing/Ice Fishing
\_\_\_ Picnicking
\_\_\_ Camping
\_\_\_ Boating/Jet skiing
\_\_\_ Other (pls list below)

If the following lake activities were available, please check those that you and/or your family would participate in:

- \_\_\_ Lake clean-up (kayak/canoe around lake in a group bagging up and disposing of trash)
\_\_\_ Monitoring water quality
\_\_\_ Pollution Control
\_\_\_ Soil erosion/run off
\_\_\_ Lake Smart Program
\_\_\_ Water Level Management
\_\_\_ Jet Ski and boating safety
\_\_\_ Beach Cleanliness (Hartford and Canton beaches)
\_\_\_ Invasive plants monitoring
\_\_\_ Loon Monitoring

The LAA has several active and essential committees, please check the one(s) that you would be able to participate in:

- \_\_\_ LAA Membership Committee
\_\_\_ Communication Committee
\_\_\_ Financial Committee
\_\_\_ Fund Raising Committee
\_\_\_ Nominating Committee
\_\_\_ Lake Days Committee
\_\_\_ Grant Committee
\_\_\_ Invasive Plants/Wildlife Committee

What do you feel are the most important issues that the Board should address (check all that apply):

- \_\_\_ Water Quality
\_\_\_ Run off/erosion
\_\_\_ Algae growth
\_\_\_ Loon monitoring and awareness
\_\_\_ Invasive plants awareness and monitoring

Have you accessed the LAA's website?

- \_\_\_ Yes, rate your experience from 1 to 10 (1 being poor and 10 being excellent)
\_\_\_ No (access to the LAA's website is www.lakeanasagunticook.org; when you get a chance, please check it out.

Please forward the completed this survey to membership@lakeanasagunticook.org or mail it to LAA Membership Committee, PO Box 411, Canton, ME 04221. Your response is greatly appreciated.



LAA Annual Meeting - August 10, 2025

## Let's Keep in Touch!

### Mailing Address

Lake Anasagunticook Association  
PO Box 411  
Canton, ME 04221

### Website

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

### Emails

[Info@LakeAnasagunticook.org](mailto:Info@LakeAnasagunticook.org)  
[Board@LakeAnasagunticook.org](mailto:Board@LakeAnasagunticook.org)  
[Membership@LakeAnasagunticook.org](mailto:Membership@LakeAnasagunticook.org)

### Facebook Group

Friends of Lake Anasagunticook  
[facebook.com/groups/anasagunticook](https://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 and arrange to pick up, please call 207-320-1113 or email [membership@lakeanasagunticook.org](mailto:membership@lakeanasagunticook.org).



## Mark Your Calendars for the LAA-sponsored Community Yard Sale

A number of you have generously offered to donate items such as canoes, kayaks, rafts, floats, etc., to the LAA for fundraising purposes. We've brainstormed on how best to benefit from your donations and have decided that we'll have a yard sale on Saturday, July 11, 2026. Bill and Carolyn Gray have generously agreed to let us hold the sale on their downtown Canton property (adjacent to the Canton Boat Launch), so we'll set up there. We'll have you drop off your items the morning of the sale between 7:00 and 9:00 a.m. The items don't have to be lake related—in fact, drop off ANY items you have at your house that you think are saleable. The sale will start promptly at 9:00 a.m. (no early birds, please). It will end at 1:00 p.m.

In addition to the LAA's sale, we will be selling spots to anyone else who would like to sell their items. The cost of the spots will be \$15 each. You need not be an LAA member to participate. The LAA will do the advertising and provide the signage. You will need to provide your own table.

All proceeds from the LAA sale, as well as the payment received for the other yard sale spots, will go into the LAA coffers for future use. Monies made by those selling in the other spots is theirs to keep, of course.

Here's a recap of the details for you to clip and put on your fridge or send to your friends:

### Lake Anasagunticook Association (LAA) Yard Sale Saturday, July 11, 2026

5 Staples Hill Road in Canton  
(adjacent to the Canton Boat Launch)

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

— No early birds, please. —

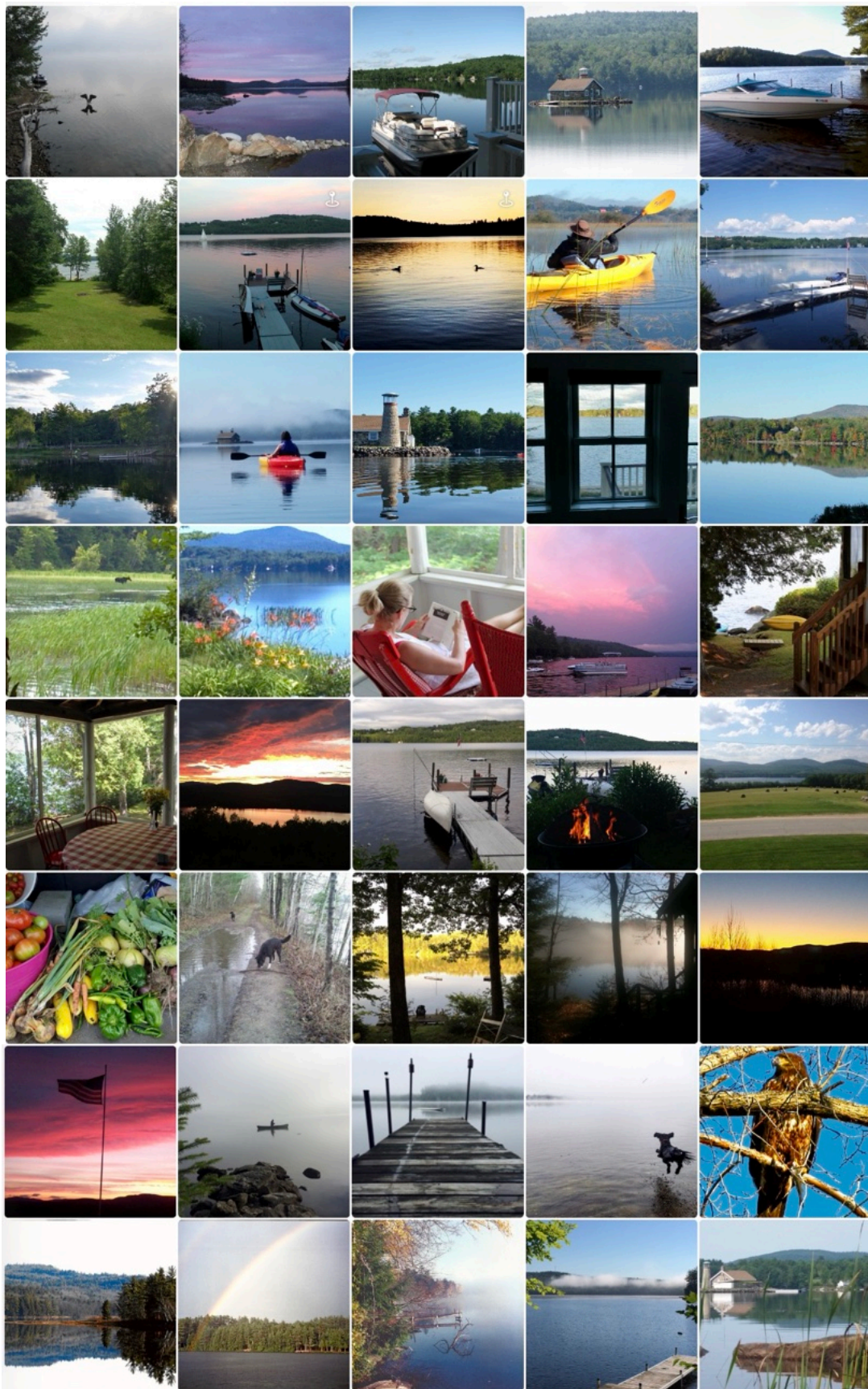
**We welcome miscellaneous donated items for the LAA sale. They may be dropped off at 7:00 - 9:00 AM the day of the sale.**

**Additional yard sale spots are available for individuals to rent for \$15 each. The LAA does the advertising and signage; you provide your own table. Please e-mail [info@lakeanasagunticook.org](mailto:info@lakeanasagunticook.org) to book your spot.**

### Permit me to tell you....

There are Shoreland Zoning (SLZ) Ordinances in place in every town in Maine. Because of this, permits may be required before building, renovating, landscaping, doing watershed mitigation, etc. State (DEP) permits may be required as well. Before doing any of the aforementioned projects, please contact your town's Code Enforcement Officer. Jared Johnson (207-461-1105) is the CEO for Hartford and Aaron Lashua (207-597-2920) is the CEO for Canton.

Here are some throwback photos from the 2015 LAA Photo Contest to whet your appetite for our summer to come:



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

**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 Membership, PO Box 411, Canton, ME 04221*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lake Address (if different) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Dues: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for which year(s)? \_\_\_\_\_ Additional Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred method of personal contact (pls rank 1-4 with 1=most preferred)      I stay informed about the LAA and its activities by (please check all that apply):

<input type="checkbox"/> E-mail	<input type="checkbox"/> Checking my e-mail from LAA Correspondent
<input type="checkbox"/> USPS Mail	<input type="checkbox"/> Reading the LAA Newsletter, Canton Crier, and/or Hartford News
<input type="checkbox"/> Phone Calls	<input type="checkbox"/> Occasionally visiting <a href="http://www.LakeAnasagunticook.org">www.LakeAnasagunticook.org</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> Text	<input type="checkbox"/> Joining the Friends of Lake Anasagunticook Facebook group

For more information, please contact the Membership Committee at [membership@lakeanasagunticook.org](mailto:membership@lakeanasagunticook.org).  
*Membership is open to anyone who has an interest in protecting the lake and supporting our projects.*

*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. It is recognized as a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and therefore, donations are tax deductible.*



Lake Anasagunticook Association  
PO Box 411  
Canton, ME 04221