

# LAA NEWSLETTER

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

### Upcoming Events

LAA Board Meeting\*  
Sunday, April 14 at 6 PM

LAA Board Meeting\*  
Sunday, June 9 at 6 PM

LAA & CHS History Hour  
and Spaghetti Dinner  
Saturday, June 15 at 3 PM  
(see page 3)

LAA Board Meeting\*  
Sunday, July 14 at 6 PM

LAA Board Meeting\*  
Sunday, August 4 at 6 PM

Lake Days Celebration  
and Fundraiser Raffle  
Saturday, August 10 at 11 AM  
(see page 2)

Annual Members Meeting  
Sunday, August 11 at 9 AM

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

### 2024 LAA Board Members

*President:* Mike McCluskey

*Vice President:* Tim Bernard

*Secretary/Treasurer:* Diane Ray

*Directors:*

Biff Atwater                      Wes Barry

Rob Bihlmeyer                  Bill Gray

Carolyn Gray                    Tom Ryan

Paula Marsters



### Letter from the LAA President Mike McCluskey

Much has happened around the lake and with the Lake Anasagunticook Association (LAA) since our last newsletter. Heavy rains in late December provided challenges, not only on lakefront properties, but to other residents in Hartford and Canton. We were fortunate that the lake level was low before the rain; this helped to limit some of the damage. Regardless, basement flooding and road closures impacted almost everyone. I learned firsthand the difficulties of pumping out a basement and the need to quickly get rid of wet sheetrock, insulation, and damaged property. Lakefront property owners may find storm debris when they return. This is because when the water recedes, it pulls tree limbs, leaves, and other floating items onto the shoreline.

I want to thank the Board for its efforts in keeping LAA activities moving forward during the winter season. Many lake organizations would be inactive during the “off season.”

On the following page is a summary of some of those activities:

*For future reference, Lake Days and LAA Annual Meeting are generally held the second full weekend in August.*

### Call for Raffle Donations

The Lake Days Committee is looking for prizes for our annual fundraising raffle to be held on Saturday, August 10. If you would like to donate gift cards, items, fruits, vegetables, meats, flowers, gift baskets, etc., please e-mail [board@lakeanasagunticook.org](mailto:board@lakeanasagunticook.org) for pickup. Examples are below.



### Letter from the LAA President (cont'd from page 1)

- At the Annual Meeting in August, LAA members expressed their desire for the Board to pursue a second grant to minimize erosion and unhealthy chemicals entering the watershed. With the previous grant funds, we worked with the towns of Hartford and Canton to significantly reduce harmful impacts in the watershed. But because Mother Nature will continue to present challenges, the Board is working to obtain some financial and technical assistance through the next round of grants from the State of Maine. These grants require us to obtain cash or in-kind contributions. The Board is soliciting contributions from area businesses, but we will also require contributions from individuals. Please consider making a personal donation designated for this project. To do so, please see page 4.

- The LakeSmart program that provides voluntary on-site property evaluations continues. Suggestions are made to property owners about how to improve harmful runoff, although implementation is optional. In some cases, volunteers may be available to help with the recommended changes. Here's a link to a video about LakeSmart: <https://vimeo.com/145947843>. To schedule a LakeSmart review of your property, please reach out to Diane Ray at [dianeraypfi@gmail.com](mailto:dianeraypfi@gmail.com) or 717-314-7778.

- The Membership Committee has been working to expand the membership base and raise awareness of the work that is being done to benefit our members and the lake. If you are not a member, please consider joining using one of the methods explained on page 6.

- Thanks go to board member Wes Barry who obtained a grant from Microsoft resulting in new e-mail accounts and access to multiple copies of MS Office!

- Water quality monitoring continues on a regular basis and was expanded recently to include readings in the winter.

- By-laws and strategic plan reviews are underway to ensure the documents meet the association's current needs and requirements.

- The association provides social means for members to stay connected with their neighbors as well as make the acquaintance of people they have not yet met. Lake Days are held in August and feature games, raffles, and other activities geared to making life around the lake more enjoyable.

I thank you for your support.

Mike McCluskey, LAA President, [board@lakeanasagunticook.org](mailto:board@lakeanasagunticook.org)

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

### Who Are We?

We are the Lake Anasagunticook Association (LAA). The 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 a source of drinking water. The LAA is concerned with the preservation and protection of the lake as a natural resource and 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 and newsletters, and holds an annual Lake Days celebration.

### Where Can You Find Us?

**LAA Website:**

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

**Friends of Lake Anasagunticook Facebook Group:**

[www.facebook.com/groups/271189350112/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/271189350112/)

**LAA Newsletters:** To receive the newsletters, join the association.

Click here for past issues: <https://www.lakeanasagunticook.org/meeting-minutes-newsletters>

**LAA Board Email Address:**

[board@lakeanasagunticook.org](mailto:board@lakeanasagunticook.org)

## Save the Date for a History Hour & Spaghetti Dinner

The LAA and the Canton Historical Society team up for an event!

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, June 15** for a joint event hosted by two local organizations—our Lake Anasagunticook Association and the Canton Historical Society. Together, we will be hosting a History Hour and Spaghetti Dinner. Those in attendance will hear about the history of Lake Anasagunticook and enjoy a spaghetti dinner and dessert.

The event will take place at the Society's building at 25 Turner Street in Canton, which is handicap accessible. The program starts at 3:00 p.m. (free!) and the spaghetti dinner is 4:00-6:00 p.m. (suggested donations \$5 per adult, \$3 per child).

### Looking for speakers for the History Hour

If you are interested in speaking for 10-15 minutes on a topic related to Lake Anasagunticook's history (tourism; the camps; the lake association; sports and activities on the lake; etc.), please e-mail [cantonmehistorical@gmail.com](mailto:cantonmehistorical@gmail.com). The building has audio-visual capability, so you may project PowerPoint slides, photos, etc.



Learn about the history of Lake Anasagunticook  
....and enjoy a spaghetti dinner!

*Spend the afternoon with members and friends of the Canton Historical Society and the Lake Anasagunticook Association who will share with you historical information about the lake.*

**Canton Historical Society**

**Saturday, June 15th**

Program 3 PM

Free!

Dinner 4-6 PM

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

**25 TURNER STREET**

(Building is handicap accessible.)



The Country Store Gift Shop will be open for business!

## **It Went So Well, Let's Do It Again!**

### **The LAA is applying for additional erosion control funds**

Fresh off the success of the erosion control grant that ended last year, LAA and the Androscoggin River Watershed Council (ARWC) plan to apply for another erosion control grant this spring. If awarded, this new grant will begin in January 2025, and run for two years.

In the previous grant, LAA was the key local partner in a coalition that reduced soil loading to the lake from its surrounding watershed by 44 tons annually. Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) studies show soil erosion is the primary threat to lakes in the Pine Tree State. Too much soil erosion entering a lake unleashes a disastrous chain of events that can result in a bloom of algae that ruins water quality, recreation, and even shoreline property values.

Lake Anasagunticook is right on the edge, having experienced brief, localized algae blooms in recent decades. There is even more at stake for Lake Anasagunticook since it is the drinking water source for 230 households. An algae bloom would impact water quality to such an extent that it would likely increase treatment costs at the Canton Water District in order to continue producing potable drinking water.

These grants allow for the sharing of costs, usually on a 50-50 basis, to implement erosion control with the towns, private road associations, and property owners. The grant project that ended in 2023 tackled many, but not all, of the most significant erosion sites in the Lake Anasagunticook Watershed. Thus, the need for another grant to finish the job. Continuing erosion control efforts is a high priority of the LAA board and membership.

Funds come from Section 319 of the Clean Water Act, which deals with nonpoint source pollution – also known as erosion. Runoff from a hillside is an example of this diffuse type of pollution, as opposed to the more familiar point source pollution that comes from a discrete pipe at the tail end of, say, a factory. Maine's share of these federal 319 funds is disbursed to the DEP, which then awards them annually in a competitive grant application process.

We are very glad to again have Jeff Stern guiding us through the grant application process!

### **Want to know how you can help ensure we get the funds?**

What we need is a financial commitment from YOU!

The funds the Lake Association raises are matched by Federal funds (to a certain point). LAA board members have been approaching businesses, and the towns of both Hartford and Canton have contributed.

What we need are individuals to commit to specific dollar contributions over the next 2 years – but the pledge needs to be made NOW! (cont'd on page 5)

(cont'd from page 4) We also need individuals to pledge “in-kind” matching – which is time or equipment.

Again, these pledges will be matched by federal funds, so the more we raise, the better off will be. Keep in mind that households that tackle approved mitigation projects on their property are eligible to receive up to \$300 in cash matches, so you will see direct results of your donation in our community. Of course, if needed, the LAA can rally friends and neighbors to help tackle projects you can't take on alone!

To indicate what type of support you will pledge over the next 2 years, you may either click here [www.lakeanasagunticook.org/grant](http://www.lakeanasagunticook.org/grant) OR use the hardcopy form below—but we need to know your level of commitment by April 15 of this year, so please don't delay!

319 Grant Match Pledge – April 15 Deadline

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

|                  |       |       |
|------------------|-------|-------|
|                  | 2024  | 2025  |
| \$ commitment    | _____ | _____ |
| Time/Labor (hrs) | _____ | _____ |

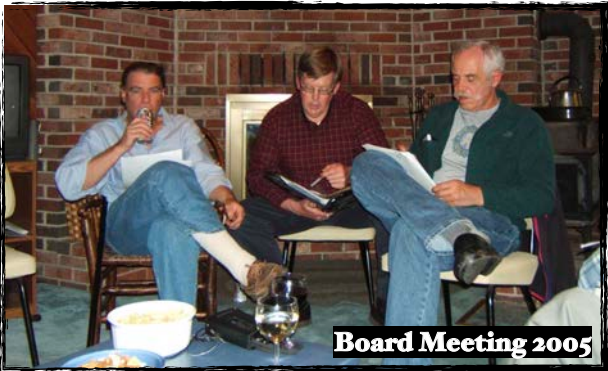
Equipment (please specify what type/size equipment) \_\_\_\_\_

I would like a property review/technical assistance to see if I can improve my property:    Y    N

Mail this form to: PO Box 411, Canton, ME 04221  
OR  
Scan and email it to: [board@lakeanasagunticook.org](mailto:board@lakeanasagunticook.org)

**Wanted: Vintage Photos!**

If you have photos taken at LAA events or photos of friends and family having fun at or on the lake, we'd love to make copies of them. The Canton Historical Society has agreed to house the photos in their archives. If you can lend these items to be scanned, please email [board@lakeanasagunticook.org](mailto:board@lakeanasagunticook.org). Thank you.



**Also wanted: LAA Board Meeting Minutes!**

If you have any LAA Board Meeting minutes from meetings prior to August 2014 or Annual Meeting minutes from meetings prior to 2013, we would like to borrow them to make copies. Again, email [board@lakeanasagunticook.org](mailto:board@lakeanasagunticook.org). Thanks, again.

To become a 2024 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)

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <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  |

I stay informed about the LAA and its activities by (please check all that apply):

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.*



Lake Anasagunticook Association  
PO Box 411  
Canton, ME 04221