



Lake Anasagunticook Association Newsletter

Volume 7: October 2001

President's Corner

This is the last subject I ever thought I would mention in the newsletter. As most of us wrote our articles by the September deadline, it's impossible not to be thinking about the terrorist attacks of September 11th. Although not the job of this newsletter, it seems out of touch with reality not to at least mention it. Gisele and I were sitting on our camp porch on a beautifully quiet morning, overlooking Lake Anasagunticook, finishing breakfast, when the first report came through. The peacefulness of the lake can be reassuring during times of disaster. Let's hope we never see anything like this again in our lifetimes.

With fall officially here, it's a good time to look back over the summer and think about what our association has accomplished.

Our erosion control project, while experiencing some delays, made progress this summer (see "Lake Project in High Gear" p. 2). Time will tell whether the kind of road improvements being made will reduce future maintenance expenses and (our main concern) reduce erosion. I am optimistic that it will demonstrate some good lessons that can be used even when there are no federal funds available. I also expect there may be mistakes to avoid in the future, but we learn from these too. I think we need to remind ourselves that the point of the project is to demonstrate how to control erosion, not just receive financial help on a one-time basis. The hope is that these sites will be instructive and stimulate appropriate future roadwork at other sites.

and a sailing regatta that we voted during the annual meeting to name after Priscilla Brown who passed away last summer. Priscilla enthusiastically helped plan and supported Lake Days and initiated several boating events in the past. Keep these events in mind; next year we'll be looking for a much larger turnout. Thanks to the Lake Days Committee (Margaret Taylor, Ruth Martin and Tim Kirwan) for a great day.

In June, the state legislature passed a strong anti-"milfoil" bill providing for public education about the problem of invasive plants. This bill requires registration stickers to generate funds, inspections at some locations near the state line and at some boat launches, fines for violations, and certain other controls. Let's remember, however, that while the state is charged with education, we all need to help educate anyone who is still unaware of the destructive nature of non-native, invasive plants.

An email distribution list was established by Judy Hamilton for the exchange of ideas and information among our members. The milfoil legislation and a current pollution threat (see "What is that Smell? Pollution?" page 4) have been covered by email notices before anything has been published. If you want to be included, send Judy (jhamilton@andover.edu) your email address.

I'd like to welcome our new Directors: Biff Atwater, Buzz Croston, and Tim Kirwan. They replace George Hinkley and Tom Ryan who have served the association for several years. Thank you George and Tom.

Keep in mind, membership is extremely important. The larger our paid membership list, the more our "clout". Dues are nominal (\$10 a year) but they make this newsletter and funding worthy efforts possible. An increase of \$1,000 in our financial net worth allowed the membership at the annual meeting to vote to support three organizations: the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program, Save Maine Lakes (the political action committee that was put together to push the milfoil bill through), and the Maine Lakes Conservancy Institute, an organization to preserve Maine Lakes, strongly dedicated to education. Don't be afraid to ask friends and neighbors whether they belong to the lake association yet and suggest to



Two new additions to Lake Days activities (thanks to Tim Kirwan) were a golf competition

anyone that they join us. Use the membership form in this Newsletter and join today.

I have been thinking about future projects the lake association might consider. Please read "Thoughts for the Future" on page 5. May we all have a good fall, winter, and spring until we meet again at our favorite lake.

Jack Atwater, President of L.A.A.

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.nacdn.net.

Lake Project in High Gear

This is a busy time for the Lake Anasagunticook Watershed BMP Demonstration Project. As I write this article, erosion control efforts that were in the pipeline for a long time have been, or soon will be, completed. It's great to see conservation measures installed on the landscape! As our grant project nears the close of its second field season, we are making big strides in placing a good mix of erosion control practices around Lake Anasagunticook. This helps protect water quality in the lake by reducing non-point source pollution. Of equal or even greater importance, the watershed community sees how erosion control techniques can be applied. This knowledge will serve people long after the grant ends in 2002.

Of course, demonstration projects don't suddenly spring up like toadstools after a drenching rain. Lots of planning goes into each one before the first soil is turned. I'd like to thank the property owners, Hartford and Canton Selectmen, Lake Anasagunticook Association, technical experts and volunteers who have made our progress possible.

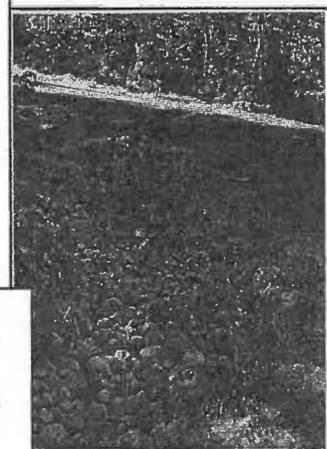
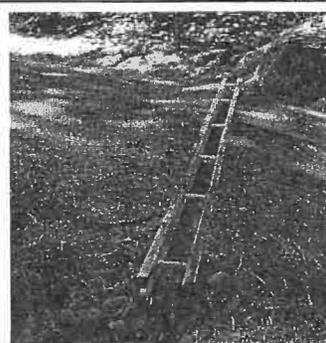
Before we get to what's been done, a quick review is in order. The Lake Anasagunticook Watershed BMP Demonstration Project is a 2-year effort that began in April 2000. It's funded in part by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection through a U.S.E.P.A. grant under Section 319 of the federal Clean Water Act. The purpose is to demonstrate how to control non-point source

pollution (erosion) at a number of sites that were identified in a citizen-led survey in the late 1990s. Eroding soil that washes into the lake can carry phosphorus with it and lead to algae blooms that choke out fish and spoil water quality and recreational activities. The grant is being administered by the Oxford County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD).

Okay...lesson over (there'll be a quiz later!). Now we can get to the fun stuff - reporting on what's happening in the field.

Camp Road and adjacent driveways accounted for several of the problem areas in the 1998 watershed survey. Working with the Town of Hartford, we recently completed an effort, which started a year ago, to stabilize 800 feet of ditch along the road. This effort included reshaping ditch banks, seeding and mulching exposed soil, and lining steep ditch sections with rocks. This site has proved difficult to stabilize. I want to thank the hearty band of volunteers (John and Beth Convey, Ray Bussiere) who helped Pete Marcinuk and myself spread additional grass seed, mulch and geo-textile fabric on Sept. 13! Hopefully, this will reinforce the site as we head into winter.

Toward the southern end of Camp Road, a steep driveway that serves five families was eroding badly. With each passing storm, the ruts in the unpaved surface grew deeper, becoming a streambed, channeling sediment to the lake. In early September, the driveway was reshaped to shed water and surfaced with reclaimed asphalt to better withstand storms.



Reshaped and rock-lined ditching, open top culvert and reclaimed asphalt surface to control erosion of driveway

Two open top culverts were installed on the steepest part to intercept water flowing down the driveway and divert it into rock-lined settling basins or ditches. There, soil and sediment settle out before clean water flows into the lake.

On the Canton side of the watershed, the Bonney Road has presented problems for a long time. Erosion from this site contributed to the formation of a sediment delta in the lake at the Canton beach area. Building upon work done at Bonney Road several years ago, the Town of Canton and Oxford County SWCD came up with a plan to reinforce slumping ditch banks. This involves removing leaning trees that threaten to tear out huge chunks of bank should they fall and lining the ditch and banks with rock in strategic places.

In the Pine Shores Subdivision, an eroding driveway threatens water quality. The plan here is to install several "rubber razor blades" to divert storm water off the driveway and into a forested buffer area where it can sink into the ground before it carries sediment to the lake. Work should be completed later this fall.

BMP Steering Committee Mtg.

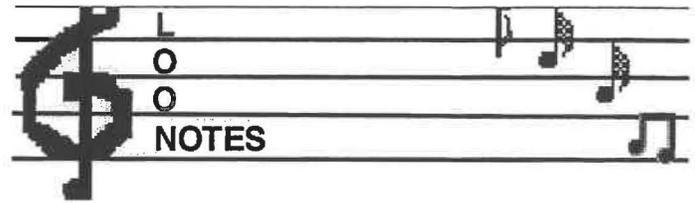
October 25th 6:30 p.m.

VFW Hall Canton

Everyone welcome!

The Oxford County SWCD shares the cost of installing these demonstration projects with the town or landowner/s. Grant funds for construction are limited; however, there's another way you, too, can benefit from the grant. It's called technical assistance (T.A). If you request T.A., you'll receive at least one visit from our technical staff and a detailed report full of suggestions about how to fix your non-point source pollution problem/s. It's voluntary; you are not obligated to correct problems that have been identified in the T.A. report. However, if you've got a nagging erosion problem that keeps coming back year after year, we may be able to recommend a more permanent solution. Sometimes, a one-time fix (coupled with periodic maintenance in future years) can solve a perpetual headache. We have additional openings for technical assistance, so please contact me if you would like to enroll.

Submitted by Jeff Stern, Project Manager



Loons in Mourning

I wish the title was a misprint and it read loons in morning. The distressed and repetitive wailing of loons awoke me on July 11th. It lasted a couple hours. That morning I discovered the reason for the outburst. Two large green-speckled eggs, each twice the size of a jumbo chicken egg, lay on the nest. This was the fourth and final week before those eggs were due to hatch. On the night of the 11th, the nesting loon made the difficult decision to "save" the eggs by abandoning them. If the loon had remained on the nest, his or her weight (about 20#s) would have spelled doom for the eggs surely sinking with the nest. The mournful wails I had heard for several hours the night before now made sense to me.

For those of you who weren't at the lake, you should know that there had been two rainstorms in three days, each of which dumped an amount of water that normally is only associated with hurricanes. Total rainfall measured in the double digits. The lake began rising on July 9 and continued rising until July 12th. As docks were submerged and boats floated away, concern around the lake mounted; still, the gates of the dam remained closed. Headlines carried news of the unusual weather pattern. When the gates were finally opened, boats were retrieved and docks reappeared. Things returned to normal for people as well as for the loons or so it seemed.

After being off the eggs for about twenty-four hours, one of the loons returned to the nest when the water receded. The days dragged on into August and still the loon pair persevered with single-minded purpose ... hatching those eggs. What the loons didn't know was that as of July 12, the eggs had lost their "viability" (ability to be hatched.) Eggs must be kept warm and can only survive for a half-hour if the loon leaves the nest. The eggs were abandoned a second time (on August 1) followed by the same mournful wails I heard in July. When nesting has been interrupted, scientists have observed loons that have made four attempts in one season. The loon pair on Lake Anasagunticook did not re-nest. People were amazed to see groups of up to six loons on the lake throughout the month of August. Indeed, this is unusual on our lake but is a direct result of the nesting

failure. Lake Anasagunticook supports only one pair of nesting loons and because of their strong territorial instinct, they will drive other loons off the lake. However, that only occurs during nesting season.

The gates were opened on July 12th by the dam owner. This action was too little too late for the loons. That is too bad because the lake level was otherwise very well maintained throughout the season. To avoid this happening again, I suggest that those who want to see the loons nest successfully in the future call Dana Murch, Dams & Hydro Supervisor, at 1-800-452-1942. A concerned citizen did call Dana Murch in July and the dam owner was told to open the gates. Dana Murch is the person who helped develop the dam management plan for Lake Anasagunticook and is able to contact the dam owner who is not a resident of the area. Next time I hope that I don't sit on my hands and I hope that others won't either.

Submitted by Margaret Taylor, Loon Protection

What is that Smell? Pollution?

As lakefront properties are developed, built upon, cultivated and used, the lake is at greater and greater risk of pollution. I do believe that we all must be vigilant to conditions around the lake and in the watershed. Lake Anasagunticook is on the state of Maine's list of lakes "Most at Risk" from development.

Early in September, a beachfront-property owner at Pine Shores reported an awful smell coming from an ugly sludge-like material that washed up on the Pine Shores shoreline. While taking in the buoy lines at the Hartford Beach, Arlene Nason (Hartford Recreation Committee) was told that the smell, which was quite apparent, was believed to be the result of "septic tank pollution". Kay Hawkins, Code Enforcement Officer for the town of Hartford, observed a black sludge and algae mass with dark spots with a putrid smell that made her think of septic pollution. After several calls to the Maine DEP and other authorities, Kay was successful in getting DEP investigators to visit the site to take samples of sludge, algae and water for testing.

Two weeks later the following findings were faxed to Kay Hawkins by Judy Potvin (DEP):

The samples taken for bacteria were in the normal ranges for lakes. The highest reading was 10 colonies. Most of the samples only contained 2 or less. It is normal to find up to 60 colonies in freshwater. Chlamydomonas is the alga that was

growing on the shoreline that made the sand appear green. It is a blue-green flagellate that, in large numbers, can smell like septage. Which explains the foul odor of the sand. The insect, which was observed in great numbers, was a caddisfly. It is normal for them to hatch in great numbers, lay their eggs and then die. The dead insects may have caused enough nutrient enrichment to cause the chyamydomonas to grow. I can't be sure. Caddisfly are very common in Maine lakes and are important as food for fish. There was not enough evidence to document problems with septic systems. Maintaining and improving old systems is in the best interest of the lake. DEP has a brochure that explains the standard system and how to properly maintain them."

Kay Hawkins strongly believes that there may be old steel tanks or 55 gallons drums being used for septic tanks within the shore land zone (250' from the high water line of the lake and tributaries). She believes that this situation at Canton Lake is a wake up call and she encourages property owners around the pond to consider getting new holding tanks that have alarm systems to detect overflow problems. She would like to work with property owners to insure that septic systems are in proper working condition and not polluting the lake. She also reminds us that plumbing permits are required to change, improve or add to internal plumbing in our camps or homes. This includes adding a washing machine or additional toilet, as well as, any changes to a septic system.

There is a grant (on a sliding income scale) available to help people with malfunctioning systems; landowners with an income of \$30,001 to \$40,000 pay 75% of total cost while those with incomes between \$20,001 and \$30,000 pay 50%. Kay Hawkins encourages property owners to contact her for assistance. She will get copies of septic system brochures to leave in the Hartford Town Office for interested landowners.

Currently, inspection of septic systems beyond the initial installations is voluntary. However, if approved at town meeting (possibly in November), a shore-land zoning ordinance would permit the town's licensed plumbing inspector access to property to check these systems.

I am asking for your feedback on this issue on the Membership Form on the back of this newsletter. If you are not a voting resident of the town, this is one way to voice your suggestions and concerns. I will see that your comments are heard by the Hartford Selectmen.
Submitted by: Judy Hamilton, Editor

Thoughts for the Future

Next summer, our "Best Management Practices" Project will come to an end. No more erosion areas will be corrected with the help of federal matching funds. From then on it will be up to "us", "us" being the lake association, the towns of Hartford and Canton, and private property owners. That means we will have to foot the bill too, unless someone can come up with some easy money. It might be good to start thinking about this. Here is one idea: a "project of the year"? There are plenty of sites that were reported in the Watershed Survey that are not being handled by our current project. We can still get technical advice from Oxford County SWCD, free, I believe. Once we identify a site for the year, we could get a design and a cost estimate, then decide whether to go ahead. It could involve a work session or two, perhaps some fund-raising, and maybe contributions of equipment and/or time as well. Let me know what you think.

Bear Pond Improvement Association (BPIA) is doing a watershed survey. I don't know what will follow. Should we contact BPIA about publishing a brochure on erosion? Since both Bear Pond and Canton Lake are partly in Hartford, showing what each association has done and what can be done to control erosion might be useful to landowners who are clearing land, building or working on roads. Let me know your thoughts (see the Membership Form).
Jack Atwater, President

Annual Meeting Minutes

Lake Anasagticook Association; Aug. 5, 2001

In attendance: Biff Atwater, Jeff Stern, Dick Powers, Tom & Judy Hamilton, Margaret Taylor, Rick Dwyer, Dick & Jean Williams, Ann Poland, Buzz Croston, Carroll Ferguson, John & Beth Convey, Mike Swanick, Virginia & Norman Kelly, Jack Atwater, Mitzie Turnbull, Polly Bussiere, Ruth Martin, Rob Atwater, Pete McClusky, Tim Kirwan, Gayton Bartlett.

The meeting was called to order by President, Jack Atwater, who opened with words of gratitude on behalf of the association for continued efforts by Ray Bussiere in keeping the roadshore beach area clean of trash and Judy Hamilton for keeping us informed through the Newsletter and email networking. Minutes

from the 2000 Annual Meeting and current Treasurer's report were given and accepted. Jack Atwater thanked everyone for coming and expressed his hope for greater attendance at upcoming meetings. The postponement of the golf match to Sunday morning was believed to affect attendance at this meeting.

Jack introduced Jeff Stern of the Oxford County Soil & Water Conservation District who brought us up to date on the Erosion BMP Project. Jeff began with a brief history of the project and an expression of gratitude for the support of the steering committee, the two towns and the lake association for the progress that has been made to date. He explained how each of the demonstration sites was improved and gave a description of upcoming projects. The buffer planting by the lake planned for that afternoon was postponed. Volunteers will be needed for this project and reseeding of some areas on Camp Road. Jeff reminded us that technical assistance is still available for personal property sites and anyone interested should call him at 1-207-743-5789 extension 3.

Another workshop was announced for August 8th in Augusta (cost \$ 5.00)for the purpose of analyzing your camp road for erosion control. Anyone interested in going should talk with Jack.

Jack Atwater talked about the growing problem of invasive plants in Maine lakes and the bill which was passed this summer by the Maine legislature which will attempt to control the spread of milfoil in the state. A training program for volunteers who are willing to supervise boat ramps on their lakes has been proposed. Vice President, Polly Bussiere, informed us of a situation in Gray on Crystal Lake where a person was warned to wash the grasses hanging from the prop of his boat, looked the other way and went into lake without cleaning his boat. Tim Kirwan and Carolyn Gray have expressed interest in this training. Anyone else who is interested should contact Tim Kirwan.

Polly Bussiere is looking into getting watershed signs large enough for people to read from the road. Also more invasive plant signs need to be purchased and put up. She also brought us up to date on the portable toilet situation at the Canton beach. Because of the vandalism last year, Nickersons has refused to rent us a portable toilet but will sell us a used toilet and service it. Polly will check on the price. Motion was made and passed to appropriate up to \$300 for this purpose and to enlist the support of the town

of Canton in this effort. Polly also gave us an update on the steps for the Canton beach. She has found a donation of granite from a local state policeman and an offer from Dan Dolloff of Canton to install them.

Margaret Taylor thanked her loon rangers and those who reported seeing a swan and bald eagle at the lake. She gave an account of the loons nesting on the lake this summer and the reasons for their failure. She reported that it was still possible that they would try to nest again by mid-August. Again the fluctuating water levels of the early summer were blamed.

Lake Days Committee (Ruth Martin, Margaret Taylor and Tim Kirwan) was thanked for their successful planning. Margaret's original games and her ability to make up the rules as we go added to the fun. The Raffle generated \$77 proceeds. A boat race and golf tournament were added features to this year's Lake Days. A motion was made and carried to officially name the annual boat race "The Pricilla Brown Regatta" in memory of this long time supporter of Lake Days who had a strong interest in boating events on the lake.

Tom Hamilton gave us a report on water monitoring of the lake and revised his earlier intent to buy a dissolved oxygen meter. He did not feel it was cost effective so he will continue to use the old method with chemicals.

The Water Monitoring Fund will be used to purchase a digital thermometer which should make temperature readings easier and possibly more accurate. Tom was asked where and how deep the deepest spot in the lake is. The deepest spot is about 14 meters deep (42-45') which is near the Hutchinsons' beach front and 500 yards from Pine Shores.

Three new Directors were elected: Biff Atwater, Buzz Croston, and Tim Kirwan. Jack will check the association by-laws for specific terms and duties of all officers and directors.

A motion was made and accepted to donate funds to three organizations that work for the health of Maine Lakes: \$250 to Save Maine Lakes, \$50 to Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program, and \$35 to Maine Lakes Conservancy Institute.

Jack Atwater reported that Judy Hamilton regularly attends Hartford Selectmen Meetings during the summer to keep town officials aware of our concerns for the lake. He encouraged others to attend Canton and Hartford Selectmen and town meetings even if we are not voting residents.

Judy Hamilton thanked Jack for a very well run meeting and finishing before noon. The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully yours,
Mitzie A Turnbull, Secretary

Lake Anasagunticook Association Treasurer's Report
August 5, 2001 (updated since Annual Meeting Report)

INCOME

Dues	1,080.00
Donations	949.51
Unencumbered	471.78
Fish Screen	57.00
Water Monitoring	420.73
Interest & Dividends	237.05
T-shirt sales	340.00
Calendar sales	20.00
COLA subscriptions	22.00

Total Income 2,648.56
NET GAIN FOR '00-'01 1,038.88

FUND BALANCES

Unencumbered Funds	4,087.18
Fish Screen Fund	1,338.96
Water Monitoring Fund	591.12

Footnote:

\$1,000 voted for erosion project 8/00 has not yet been paid	
\$335 voted 8/01 for Save Maine's Lakes	250.00
Maine Lakes Conservancy Institute	35.00
Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program	50.00

EXPENSES

Newsletter (3)	-363.88
L.A.A. membership in COLA	-160.00
COLA subscriptions	-40.00
Annual Report/Sec of State	-25.00
Maine Audubon	-37.00
Insurance	-250.00
Water monitoring chemicals	-285.85
COLA Lakes Conference (2 reg)	-50.00
T-shirts	-387.95
Community Bldg. rental	-10.00

Total Expenses -1,609.68

ACCOUNT BALANCES

Checking Account	749.65
Savings Account	2,963.02
CD Balance	2,304.59