



Lake Anasagunticook Association Newsletter

Volume 9: October 2003

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Since this is my first column as President of Lake Anasagunticook Association ("LAA"), I would like to thank both current and past officers and directors of LAA for their hard work and achievements in protecting and preserving the lake. In particular, I would like to thank Jack Atwater who just concluded three years as President of LAA. During Jack's tenure, the first ever watershed survey was undertaken, and the major projects identified in the survey were completed or are scheduled for completion in the coming year. Collectively, the study and related projects will greatly reduce the non-point pollution that has been threatening our lake. With your help, we can continue the pace that Jack set each year for protecting the lake!

On a personal note, my family and I have been vacationing at Lake Anasagunticook since the summer of 1990. At that time, the family was looking for a peaceful and scenic lake where we could relax and enjoy the surroundings for two weeks each summer. Upon arrival, we knew that we found such a spot at Lake Anasagunticook! Amazed at how scenic and relaxing the lake appeared, we thought it was too good to be true. Over the coming summers, we explored the lake and much of the Oxford hills area of Maine. In doing so, we had the pleasure of meeting many families around the lake area in both Canton and Hartford. The people we have met impress us with their friendliness and neighborliness, factors that influence why we enjoy and return to the lake.

Thanks to our good neighbors on Lake Shore Drive, I have become involved in learning more about what we can do to protect this precious natural resource. Most recently, in helping to establish the informal "Lake Alliance", I have had the pleasure of working with a group of very knowledgeable and dedicated people that includes, Sue Gammon, Scott Swain and John Cronin. Sue, Scott and John, respectively represent the Towns of Canton, Hartford and the Canton Water District. Along with other local public servants, they continuously demonstrate their commitment to serving the best interests

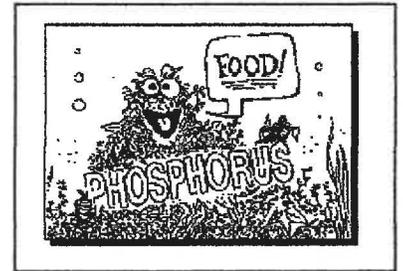
of their constituents, while making sure that other group members feel welcome and at home.

Looking ahead, and based on my experience, I believe that education is an important role of the LAA. We all need to continue working together to increase our collective understanding of how individual actions, however small, will determine the future quality of our lake. Education is one area I plan to focus on in the coming year. If anyone has a similar interest, feel free to contact me via email, <joecloonan@yahoo.com>.

In closing, I will leave you with an ancient Native American proverb I like: "Treat the earth well: it was not given to you by your parents, it was loaned to you by your children.

We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children." By continuing to work together for the benefit of all, we can ensure the vitality of the lake for many generations to come.

Submitted by Joe Cloonan, LAA President



LOOKING BACK AND FORWARD

How many of you remember what was going on in the summer of 2000? Without checking an old calendar or files on the lake association, it might not be so easy. But there have been many changes in the world since then and even quite a few right on our lake. I think we had finished the watershed survey and were about to start the Best Management Practices (BMP) Project (erosion control project). Now it's over. I hope the promised help from the DOT on the parking area along Rt. 140 will come to pass and perhaps some assistance will be available for Staples Hill/Church St. where Thompson Brook crosses. Now what happens? This project was a demonstration project. So now that we've had demonstrations of how to control erosion, what can we do on our own to continue dealing with erosion problems in our watershed?

We have heard a lot about invasive plants in the last few years; some have established themselves in Maine. Will the signs (informing boaters about the need to clean aquatic vegetation from their boats) at our boat launch be enough to protect our lake? Are we doing enough to educate the users of our lake about this issue? Not an easy question to answer.

Thanks to the efforts of dedicated individuals in the LAA, we have 1) cleaned the beach area at the north end of the lake; 2) installed granite steps; 3) installed signs to let the public know where the Lake Anasagunticook Watershed begins and ends; 4) persistently, done everything possible to get a handle on controlling the lake's water level; and 5) taken steps to modernize our organization's by-laws. Thanks to Joe Cloonan, Judy Hamilton, and others, we have established a "Lake Alliance" to deal with water-level control and other matters critical to the well being of the lake.

Along the way, we've had fun at Lake Days, our annual regatta, golf tournament, as well as working with great folks in and outside of our association.

Thank you all for your hard work in the last few years. It was a great experience serving as President. I look forward to working with the lake association for many years to come.

Jack Atwater, Director

SURVEY QUESTION

The July LAA Newsletter contained color photos on heavy weight paper. We received many favorable comments on the change. Mailing costs, however, were more than normal and high enough that we can't afford to do it again. But the newsletter could have a color format if it were emailed instead. We would like your feedback. Please answer the survey question on the Membership Form and return it with your 2003/2004 dues.

Biff Atwater, Director

LETTER FROM HARTFORD SELECTMEN

To all taxpayers of Hartford,

As you read this, the Comprehensive Planning Committee is putting the finishing touches on a very important survey. All taxpayers will receive the survey whether a voting resident or not. This is your opportunity to have your voice heard. Please let us know what you feel about the way the Town is providing services and the direction you want us to go in the future.

This survey will be the basis that the Comprehensive Planning Board uses to plan the next ten years for the Town. All of us serving you in Town government want your opinions and will listen carefully as we plan for the future. We want this plan to reflect the desires and needs of the majority of the taxpayers.

Please take the time to fill out the entire survey and return it to the Town office. I can not stress enough, how important this survey is. Thank you for taking the time to fill it out and doing your part in helping to make Hartford the best Town around to live in.

Scott Swain, Hartford Selectman

Tales of the Appalachian Trail

On September 17th, MaFinch (Judy Hamilton, the editor of this newsletter) and I climbed to the summit of Mt. Katahdin. I had walked 2,176 miles to get there and MaFinch had driven hundreds of miles on many backcountry roads to support me. This was a long sojourn through 14 states, a strange trip in many ways. Well-meaning friends asked: Why walk all that distance? What do you hope to find? Why go alone? Good questions that I could not answer before nor after this trek through the woods. In some ways it was a strange journey. I met many people: carpenters, military officers and bankers, lawyers, teachers, government bureaucrat, clergy, hobos, and seekers looking for answers to eternal questions. All along the Trail I met open, friendly, generous, positive people who were filled with good will and greatly renewed my faith in the genuine goodness of humanity. Although I am not a particularly religious person, my journey was a spiritual one indeed and filled with joy. I learned much about myself and I had a chance to slow down to look at my life and to try to see a path for me for the remainder of the time I have left on this planet. I can't say that I found many answers, but the chance to think about important questions was part of the answer. Unlike Paul, I had no great epiphany when I reached Damascus, but I saw some awesome vistas, numerous wildflowers, magnificent old trees, bears, deer, snakes, mice, squirrels, fox and squirrels. I found joy on this journey almost every day. That wonderful day at the summit of Katahdin was magnificent. We could see to the horizon in every direction and the strong, gusty wind added a degree of excitement. This was, indeed, an emotional time for me.

It was an old dream that had finally been fulfilled; a great effort that culminated with success. There is no way to describe my feelings when I finally was able to stand beside that old, weather-beaten sign proclaiming the northern terminus of the Appalachian Trail.

I am grateful to many people for their help, good wishes and prayers. I could not have stood on the summit of Katahdin without the help of MaFinch, my wife of 38 years, who is always tolerant and supportive of her eccentric husband. And I am thankful that my daughters, sons-in-law, and grandchildren who were able to meet me on the Trail and remind me that the journey is more important than the destination. I am grateful to all the Trail Angels who helped me between Springer Mountain in Georgia and Baxter State Park in Maine. They are dear, good friends who fed me, gave me rides to towns in order to resupply, and encouraged this old geezer to keep on walking. And, I owe a debt of gratitude to the numerous volunteers who gave of their time, effort, and funds to make the Appalachian Trail a reality.

I am grateful to the good Lord and my mother who were with me every step of the way in the days of rain, snow, hail, wind, thunder, lightening and bright sun. They were with me the times that I lost the trail, climbed precipitous cliffs and walked too close to a rattlesnake. Although there were a few times when I was lonely, I was never alone and was confident everything would be okay. I was never afraid of the things "that go bump in the night".

If you have nothing important to do during the cold winter nights that are sure to follow this newsletter, read my journal and see photographs of my trek by going to

www.trailjournals.com/finch.

Submitted by Tom Hamilton, LAA Director

GOT SOMETHING TO SELL?

Over the years, several of our members have asked about sharing information on Lakefront vendors ie; electricians, firewood sources, boat supplies, etc. Also the idea of having a section of the newsletter dedicated to "For Sale" items has been considered. Therefore, we are going to make available to anyone, small ads in the newsletter where vendors could, for a fee, advertise their products if recommended by a member. It would require a note from the member to contact the "xyz

company" for copy and a logo. Each ad for the issue would cost \$25.00.

A "Mini Uncle Henry's" section for personal items would simply require a short description, contact information and price and must be submitted for each issue free to LAA members and \$5.00 to all others. Items must be submitted to Judy Hamilton for inclusion by the end of the month previous to printing (by end of March, June and September). LAA assumes no responsibility for the accuracy or specifics of any item or transaction terms and is simply operating as the conduit.

Submitted by Tim Kirwan, Director

SUNFISH SAILBOAT

Approx. 1975 vintage

2 year old sail, white w/ yellow and orange stripes

Steal for \$499

Call 207-597-2480

2 COMPUTERS FOR SALE

iMac - \$250

G3 processor-233MHz

4GB Hard disk drive

8.6 OS - 24x CD Rom

64 MB SDRAM

Internet ready/Ethernet card

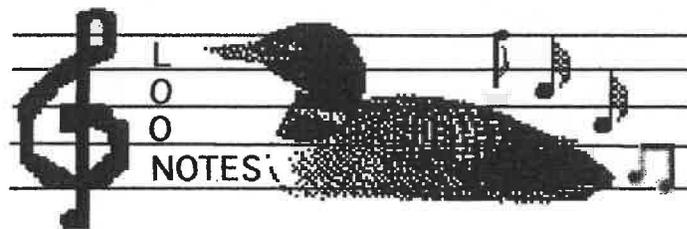
Performa 6200 Power PC - Free

75 MHz - 603 processor

1GB Hard drive, 1.4 MB floppy

Both loaded with software,

Call 207-597-2604



Summer 2003 was most unusual in terms of loon behavior. Although the Lake Anasagunticook water level was consistent all summer, there was no nesting nor sign of nest building. Most of the time there were two loons in residence with a third present. So why didn't the pair nest? My only guess is based on a questionnaire I received in September from Maine Audubon. Apparently, there was an oil spill off the coast at the time that loons were migrating. Many died but others continued to their summer nesting grounds. The questionnaire asked if I had seen any unusual behavior such as excessive preening or listing to one side while floating

on the water. My response was that yes, in retrospect, I had seen unusual behavior.

While in a canoe on a fine summer day in August, I approached a loon that was preening. This is not noteworthy, however, the loon never stopped even when I was a few feet away. Normally this loon lover wouldn't approach that close but the loon never changed its behavior nor swam away. It was only after receiving the questionnaire that my memory was jogged and I recalled that loon encounter clearly. I had a visitor in the canoe with me who was from Hong Kong and I wanted to give him a good look at a loon. I was able to give him a close up but the behavior of that loon had puzzled me. The study is trying to discover the extent of the oil spill's impact on loons that migrated along the east coast at the time of the spill. Please contact me if you observed unusual behavior. Thank you.

Margaret Taylor <TaylorMargaret@msn.com> or write
700 Route 22, Pawling, NY 12564



LAKE DAYS 2003

As always, Lake Days was a great success this year. We missed Tim Kirwan as auctioneer, but Biff Atwater did a fine job as his replacement. Thanks to Meg Powers for organizing the games that were enjoyed by all the young at heart. Thanks as well to the local merchants who donated very generously: Canton Variety, Ralph's Market, and Big Apple in Canton, and Kwik Stop, Brettun's Variety, and Ace Hardware on Route 4. And finally, thanks to the members who donated some very nice prizes. This added to the fun and

financial success of the auction. We made \$140 that always helps pump up our treasury. Unfortunately, the Priscilla Brown Regatta had to be cancelled because of a shortage of contestants and the absence of wind.

However, all present seem to enjoy themselves. I encourage those of you who have yet to attend a Lake Days picnic and raffle to circle the date on your calendars for 2004 - August 7 (always the second Saturday of August). See you there!

Jack Atwater, Director

Treasurer's Report

Income (8/4/02 - 8/10/03)

Dues	1,500.00
Donations	805.59
COLA subscriptions	16.00
Interest & dividends	121.55
T-shirt sales	54.00
Lake Days Proceeds	140.00
Total Income	2,637.14

Expenses (8/4/02 - 8/10/03)

Newsletters (3 issues)	-615.90
COLA dues for L.A.A.	-212.00
COLA subscriptions	-16.00
Annual Report	-20.00
Maine Audubon dues	-40.00
Maine lakes Conservancy	-35.00
VLMP	-50.00
Watershed demo project	-500.00
Trash bags	-18.00
Porta Potty	-150.00
Watershed signs	-200.00
Golf tourney trophy	-58.28
Hach Chemicals	-60.45
Total Expenses	1,975.63

Balance of Funds 8/10/03

Unencumbered	4,219.86
Fish Screen	1,476.96
Water Quality Monitoring	636.62
Dam	420.00
Checking Account	18.71
Savings Account	2,130.98
CDs	4,563.75
Petty Cash	40.00
Total Assets of the LAA	6,753.44

Proposed Budget for 2003-2004

Income from dues, donations, Lake Days and fund raising	2,000
Expenses	-2,000
Newsletters	500
COLA dues	225
Annual Report	20
Assn Memberships	125
Special Projects	1,130

Submitted by Judy Hamilton, LAA Treasurer

LAA Annual Meeting MINUTES

August 10, 2003

Meeting was called to order at 10:10 AM. Jack Atwater who acknowledged and thanked those who donated raffle items on Lake Days; Conrad and Regina Hutchinson, who resigned as Directors, for past service; and the VFW for allowing us to use their hall. Jack asked members to review the display made by the Oxford County Soil and Water Conservation District showing what can be accomplished through conservation practices.

No copies of last year's minutes were available and therefore could not be read nor approved.

Committee reports were made. Polly Bussiere reported that trash barrels at the Rt. 140 beach were emptied by Ray Bussiere twice a week. They will also clean up trash thrown in the woods. Tom Hamilton reported that he took a reading on August 9 and the Secchi Disk showed water clarity of 6.8 meters (20 feet). No other readings were made during the summer. Polly Bussiere mentioned that the loons had no chicks but other loons have visited the lake.

Joe Cloonan reported that he spoke with State agents who thought that the loss of fish is minimal when water levels are managed and that fish screens may be a problem due to high maintenance. However, a simple fish screen (series of metal rods set in concrete in front of the dam) could be easily maintained with brushes to remove debris and leaves. Jack Atwater suggested that contributions given for the fish screen be used for other dam-related projects because a fish screen may not be possible. Biff Atwater will continue to research this matter.



Jack Atwater said Lake Days benefited from nice weather and thanked Meg Powers for organizing the games, Judy Hamilton and others for prize donations and those who participated in the raffle. The sailboat race was canceled due to the lack of wind and participants.

Polly Bussiere said that although ready, no steps have been added at the "Roadshore" due to the lack of granite. Eight more pieces of granite are needed for two sets of steps.

Judy Hamilton is planning to upgrade the e-mail list and address changes for the Newsletter. She also thanked Biff Atwater for the very elegant July newsletter.

Judy Hamilton gave the Treasurer's report and indicated this report would be published in the next newsletter. She also stated that in December she mailed 70 letters to those who had paid dues in the past but had not paid the current year's dues. Of those 70, 26 forwarded dues and donations for a total of \$720. The Treasurer's Report was accepted.

Judy Hamilton suggested changes to the By-laws. The restructuring of the By-laws better defines the responsibilities of the Officers and Directors.

Jack Atwater gave an update on the BMP grant project. Joe Cloonan summarized the erosion control project planned for the parking area adjacent to the Rt. 140 beach. Volunteers will be needed for the buffer planting this fall even though the paving portion of the project may not happen until spring.

The Lake Alliance (Canton and Hartford selectmen, Water District and the lake association) was formed last fall to find both short and long-term solutions to the ongoing water level and dam safety issues. DEP and Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) require an emergency action plan (EAP) from the dam owner and possibly some minor repairs to the dam.

Joe Cloonan suggested we consider having a laminated lake map produced by an outside organization to sell. A minimum of 100 maps must be ordered and the lake depths, rock dangers, property lines, along with other information would be printed. Those interested in such a map were to indicate their interest on a sign up sheet. It was approved to appropriate up to \$700 to produce and purchase the 100 maps minimum. Volunteers are also needed to help provide the publisher with the needed information. While property lines were acceptable to publish the names of owners was not.

Appropriation of \$500 to assist Oxford County Soil and Water Conservation District for erosion control demonstration project on Church St. where Thompson Brook crosses was approved. OCS&W District would add \$700 to the total would be matched by the town of Hartford. Ditching and riprap to direct water runoff into the forested area before the stream would be the main focus. If more funds are available more might be done later. It was suggested that OCS&W seek other bids and that the owners of the orchard be contacted for participation.

Joe also suggested that we arrange for a Boat Tour of the lake as part of Lake Days. There are party boats on the lake and we could ask the owners if they could volunteer their use to provide an educational tour of the lake. The tour would point out characteristics that are unique to the lake, as well as, show what work has been done and what could be done for the prevention of erosion. The Maine Lakes Conservancy also has educational boat tours we might consider.

Joe also offered booklets on buffer plantings of native plants, shrubs, etc. These plants would help the ecology and the protection of the lake from erosion.



Jack Atwater suggested that an article appear in the Newsletter regarding the Fish Screen so that people may be made aware. There was some discussion about the funds for the Fish Screen - there should be an investigation (1yr. evaluation) into Fish Screen. Should funds be spent on something more important? What alternative does the Association have and what recommendations?

Because the LAA is growing, a motion was made to amend our by-laws to define the number of directors and set term lengths for officers and directors as well as basic responsibilities of this governing board. The amendment to the bylaws passed.

The following slate of officers and the Directors was accepted. Joe Cloonan, President, John Convey, Vice President, Beth Convey, Secretary, and Judy Hamilton, Treasurer. Directors: 1 Yr. term - Mitzie Turnbull, Tom Hamilton, Ruth Martin; 2 Yr. term - Buzz Croston, Tim Kirwan, Polly Bussiere; and 3 yr. term - Biff Atwater, Jack Atwater, Mike Ranhoff.

Joe Cloonan believes we have a very strong group and he looks forward to being involved and said that we have the potential of doing great things particularly if we can get even more members involved.

Judy Hamilton thanked Jack Atwater on behalf of the Association for his years of dedication and hard work as President. Meeting concluded at 12:12.

Submitted by: Beth Convey, LAA Secretary