

# Lake Anasagunticook Association Newsletter

Volume 7: April 2001

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It's a strange feeling, wanting to write about our lake without having been there for five months. But speaking for those who do not live close enough to see the lake throughout the year, it's never too far from our minds and finally the weather is telling us it won't be too long before we'll be back.

There are at least two important topics for all of us "lake lovers" for the coming season. One, "invasive plants" (read "Invasive Water Plants on page \_\_\_\_") and the other, the Lake Anasagunticook Best Management Practices Project (read Jeff Stern's update in "Lake Water Quality Project Enters Second Year" on this page). Jeff has a very ambitious series of tasks planned for this season, possibly the biggest project ever undertaken to protect the water of our lake. Please read this article, consider how you might participate in these activities and encourage your town officials (whether Hartford or Canton) to continue their patronage of this project.

I want to publicly thank Arlene Nason, editor of the Hartford News, for publishing a publicity notice for our association in every issue of the town newsletter. It was also very encouraging to read Chuck Kraske's Planning Board report in the Winter 2001 issue of the Hartford News. As chairperson of the Hartford Planning Board, he included this important reminder:

"When conducting any building or clearing activities in the shore land zone, or even near small streams or brooks, remember to control erosion from your site. This is vitally important in maintaining the water quality of our streams, rivers, and lakes. Erosion of soils into water bodies can increase the potential for algal blooms in lakes, and reduce the ability of streams and rivers to support native fish populations. Improper construction of roads or driveways near a small stream can result in loss of large amounts of soil into that stream during heavy rainstorms. This soil can then quickly end up in one

of our ponds or lakes. Please take the time to use hay bales and silt fence to reduce the potential of soil erosion from any project site. If you have questions on what could be done to reduce soil erosion and minimize damage to our lakes and streams, please contact the Selectmen or the Planning Board."

Thank you, Chuck!

I'm looking forward to seeing a lot of you this summer. Let's hope for good weather, and let's make it a good year for Lake Anasagunticook!

Jack Atwater, President



## LAKE WATER QUALITY PROJECT ENTERS 2nd YEAR

After its successful debut in 2000, the Lake Anasagunticook Watershed Best Management Project Demonstration Project is gearing up for even greater achievements this year. The project's title is a long one, but not nearly as long as the list of partners who helped us gain considerable momentum over the past 12 months.

I'm grateful for the many volunteer hours logged last year by members of the Lake Anasagunticook Association. We've had lots of help from residents of Pine Shores and other watershed landowners, the Towns of Hartford and Canton, and the Maine Department of Transportation. We have received technical guidance from the Maine Department of

Environmental Protection, U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service, the State Lakes Program and others.

This project is sponsored by the Oxford County Soil & Water Conservation District as a follow-up to the Lake Anasagunticook Association watershed survey, conducted in the late 1990s that identified sources of sediment to the lake. In early 2000, Oxford County S&WCD received funds to demonstrate methods for fixing a variety of identified problem sites. This grant is funded in part by the Maine DEP through money from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act. The goal of this project is to give the people of this lake community the knowledge it needs to protect the watershed long after the project ends in 2002.

Why is the runoff of soil and sediment into the lake a big deal? Phosphorus, a plant nutrient, can hitchhike on soil particles. Too much phosphorus in a lake gives algae the food it needs to rapidly grow resulting in an algal bloom that creates an unsightly mess and impacts swimming, boating and fishing.

In 1980, Lake Anasagunticook experienced an algal bloom that reduced water clarity to less than six feet. Soil erosion poses a particular threat here because of the watershed's steep slopes and erosive soils. The lake did not meet state water standards due to oxygen depletion late in the summer of 1996. These considerations led the Maine DEP to place Lake Anasagunticook on its list of lakes most at risk from development.

Last year, two erosion control demonstration projects were installed. (The grant can share the cost of constructing demonstration projects.) One was at the boat ramp along Route 140, a troublesome site identified in the watershed survey. For years, boaters had maneuvered their trailers down the steep, bumpy ramp. That was tricky enough, but the real challenge was to get back to Route 140. Tires would spin on the dirt surface, slinging soil directly into the lake. In addition, storm runoff raced down the ramp and carried sediment into the lake.



Boat Ramp on Rt. 140, Hartford, Maine

The boat ramp looks different now! Volunteers and technical staff placed concrete "lock blocks" on the lower third and sides of the ramp, while the Maine Department of Transportation paved the upper portion. A big source of sediment loading to the lake has been eliminated.

Camp Road was the other demonstration site in 2000. Here, inadequate ditching along approximately 800 feet of road led to a serious erosion problem that impacts the lake. Working with the Town of Hartford, plans were drawn up to reshape ditches, and, in steep sections, line them with rock. Culverts under the road were stabilized. Exposed areas were seeded and mulched.

The work at Camp Road was started late in the season. Rock work and culvert stabilization still need to be completed. We'll keep a close eye on ditch banks to make sure that the seeding took hold. The Lake Anasagunticook Association and the Oxford County SWCD are contributing funds to match the town's expenses for fixing this nasty site.

Also in 2000, we promoted the project in the lake association and town newsletters, Canton Cable Access and even on the Canton web



Boat ramp is the first Lake Anasagunticook Watershed Best Management Project Demonstration Project site

site. We provided technical assistance to several watershed residents concerned about eroding driveways. Technical assistance differs from demonstration projects in that funds are not available to share the costs of fixing problems for technical assistance. However, we provide a design, at least one site visit and make recommendations to take care of problems.

So what's on tap for 2001? We have a good opportunity to work with the Town of Canton to install demonstration projects on several town roads. I'd like to see us work with one or more lakeshore property owners to demonstrate how to fix an eroding driveway. We'll continue to offer technical assistance and spread the word through news articles and by speaking at meetings.

Hopefully, we can arrange a workshop and tour of our demonstration and technical assistance sites this summer. Remember, the point of the project is to educate the public about erosion control. There's a lot to do, but we've got a dedicated steering committee to direct our efforts, plenty of enthusiastic partners and one successful year already under our belts. Stay tuned!

Submitted by: Jeff Stern

(Jeff Stern coordinates the Lake Anasagunticook Watershed BMP Demonstration Project for the Oxford County Soil & Water Conservation District. He can be reached at 207-743-5789, ext. 3 or email

**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](mailto:jeffstern@me.nacdn.net).**

### Lake Days and Annual Meeting

Remember Lake Days on Saturday, August 4<sup>th</sup> at the Hartford Town Beach and the Annual Meeting on Sunday, August 5<sup>th</sup> at the Canton Community Building.

Watch for news of another summer event planned by the Steering Committee of the Watershed BMP Project.



### Loon Addresses on the Worldwide Web

Read on to find internet addresses of organizations along with their phone numbers that may be of interest to "loony" people.

Over the past few months various L.A.A. members have suggested web sites relating to the ongoing watershed improvement project. These addresses have been sent out to members who are on the L.A.A. e-mail distribution list maintained by Judy Hamilton at [jhamilton@andover.edu](mailto:jhamilton@andover.edu). I encourage you to get your name on that list for timely information. Adopt Your Watershed web site is a place you can go to see a map of your own watershed and learn about protecting ponds, lakes, marshes and streams before they become uninhabitable. The address is <http://epa.gov/surf/adopt/index.html>. I appreciated receiving suggestions for watershed web sites and thought people might find a list of "loon" sites of interest. A list of a few of my favorites follows:

#### [www.maineaudubon.org](http://www.maineaudubon.org)

Maine Audubon Society publishes The Loon News twice a year, and focuses on activities of the Maine Loon Project as well as other loon conservation issues in Maine and around the world. Summer 2000 was the 17th annual loon count organized by the Society. As a member of Maine Audubon, Lake Anasagunticook Association participates in the count providing important statistical information about loons. Located in Falmouth, Maine, it's a spot well worth the visit. Phone number is 207-781-2330.

#### [www.briloon.org](http://www.briloon.org)

The BioDiversity Research Institute (BRI) specializes in avian (bird) studies and aquatic toxicology. Since loons are high on the food chain, they serve as an "indicator" species in respect to the health of their aquatic environment. BRI has a capture and release program to measure mercury levels in loons and have found that loons in New England have higher mercury levels than those in other northern states and Canada. This program is ongoing and quantifies the toxic effects of mercury on loons. Also located in Falmouth, Maine, the phone number is 207-781-3324.

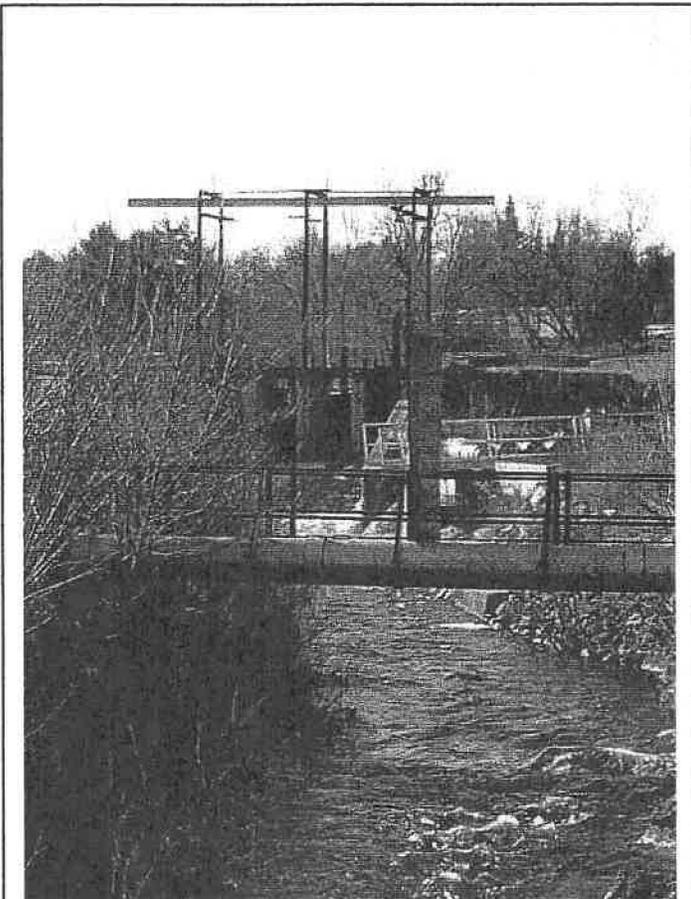
[www.briloon.org/adopt-a-loon.html](http://www.briloon.org/adopt-a-loon.html)

The BioDiversity Research Institute mentioned above and the Loon Preservation Committee run an Adopt-A-Loon program through which individuals can become directly involved with the preservation and restoration of loons and their habitats. If interested, call Becca at 207-781-6180.

[www.gmnphotography.com](http://www.gmnphotography.com)

This is Greg Nelson's web site. He is a loon conservationist and a photographer. Go here for loon photographs, loon recordings, and information about loon biology and behavior. There is a list of links to other loon conservation organizations such as North American Loon Fund, Common Loon and Loon Watch.

I hope that this information will be useful to you. Send loon news to me at: [TaylorMargaret@msn.com](mailto:TaylorMargaret@msn.com) Happy surfing!!  
Submitted by: Margaret Taylor, L. A. A. Director



Hard to believe that summer will soon be here particularly while there is still several feet of snow on the ground in many places.

## More Lake Stats...

Q: At what Fahrenheit temperature is water the most dense?

A: 39F

Q: Why is that temperature important in the nutrient cycle of a lake?

A: In the spring and the fall, when the surface temperature reaches 39F the surface water "falls" to the bottom of the lake, stirring up nutrients from the bottom to feed the living organisms in the water column.

Q: What is Maine's largest lake?

A: Moosehead Lake

Q: How much money do Maine lakes pump into the Maine economy each year?

A: Directly \$1.2 billion with an economic multiplier for an effect of \$2.8 billion.

Q: What can be the dollar value range (Example: \$1 to \$1,000), per foot of lake frontage, that a one meter diminishment in water clarity has on Maine's lake front property owners? (The range reflects the location of the community where the lake is located.)

A: \$11-\$200 per foot frontage

(Taken from "Ripple Effect" Volume 1, Issue 2; The Newsletter of the Maine Lakes Conservancy Institute)

## Invasive Aquatic Plants

That title is the term used by the professionals concerned with Maine lakes. For us, "lake weeds" might do just as well. But suddenly (well, within a few years) it seems that a monster problem has come to Maine Lakes, and ours could be next. Like many new problems, we're inclined to hope "it won't happen here". But that was probably said somewhere, sometime, about the lakes in other states that are now infested with thick, unmanageable weeds for the first time.

For those who are familiar with this problem, feel free to skip down a few paragraphs. For those who aren't, here's the situation briefly: there is a group of weeds that have come into lakes in New England over recent decades. Until recently they hadn't reached Maine. Now we've gone from "maybe we can keep them out" to "maybe we can control their spread". They ARE here in Maine.

These plants have some similarities to the algae we've been talking about for several

years. Once they get a foothold, there is no known way to get rid of them. Many states, including New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Vermont are spending hundreds of thousands of dollars per year to prevent and control them. They look awful, foul up boat motors and swimmers, and rob oxygen from fish. The most devilish part of the whole problem is that they can be brought in so easily and can come in unnoticed. A small piece of a plant is all that it takes for one of them to get started. [jeffstern@me.nacdn.net](mailto:jeffstern@me.nacdn.net). Scott Williams, writing in the newsletter of the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program, said, "One way or the other, you will learn about invasive aquatic species, because they are at your doorstep." Ominous words.

Typically they are brought in on boats, boat trailers, or personal watercraft that have been in lakes where these plants already exist. It's possible that they can be in the internal system of a watercraft and not even be visible.

True, there is not a lot of use of our lake by a large number of boats or jetskis from other lakes, but all it takes is one.

The problem is considered so serious that the Maine state legislature has passed laws against bringing in these weeds. But once it happens, fining the person responsible will do nothing to get rid of the weeds.

Possibly some of us can't do much about preventing this disaster. But if you yourself do bring a boat, trailer, or jetski from another lake, even if you don't know whether it contains these plants, please do the following: hose down everything and rinse out the internal water channels BEFORE ENTERING OUR WATERSHED. If you wait until arriving at a boat launch at Lake Anasagunticook, just a small piece of a leaf or stem can get onto the shore here and be washed into the lake. Beyond that, as they say, "Spread the word, not the weed." Somehow we need to inform anyone who might bring any watercraft to our lake. Education is the best and really the only weapon we have to keep these weeds from taking a permanent foothold in our lake. Speak up now; next year may be too late!

Submitted by Jack Atwater, I. A. A. President

**Consider Joining the Maine Lakes Conservancy and Institute (MLCI)**

The Maine lakes conservancy and Institute will be the preeminent place of human focus on the preservation of the fresh water watersheds of Maine. It seeks to achieve an international reputation for excellence in education, scientific research, policy formulation, public discourse, and

**Lake Anasagunticook Association Membership 2001**

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

**Feedback:**

I/We are interested in helping with Publicity

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I'll/We'll make a donation to the Water Monitoring Fund

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I/We would like to help with Lake Days or the Annual Meeting

I/We would like to serve as an Officer, Director, or Committee person for the LAA

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

Dues: \$10/2001

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 St.  
 Andover, MA 01810

human expression of Main's impact on the watersheds and lakes of our region. Through the development of a lakeside campus to support its programs and aggressive educational outreach programs MLCI seeks to establish itself as the expert organization on these issues.

By joining the Maine Lakes Conservancy Institute you will be supporting our educational programs to sustain and protect the health and well-being of Maine's lakes and the communities in their watersheds. Your tax-deductible donation will be used to help underwrite the costs of (their) programs. Individual memberships are \$35 per year; Non-profit organization memberships are \$40 per year; and Corporate members have three levels of support to choose from.

As a member you will receive (their) newsletter as well as a decal. Members will receive special invitations to MLCI events in advance of public notice.

Check or money order can be mailed to:  
 MLCI Membership  
 P.O. Box 55  
 Nobleboro, ME 04555

Or you can make your donation online via (their) secure server at: [www.mlci.org](http://www.mlci.org)  
 Your gift will help sustain and preserve a special Maine way of life. ...  
 (Taken from "Ripple Effect" MLCI Newsletter) I think this organization is worth your looking into. Judy Hamilton, Editor LAA Newsletter

*"A touching, compelling story told with beautiful prose."*  
 Writer's Digest



**SOUL LIKE A RIVER**  
 by Jeff Stern

This summer... travel to a "foreign" land in southwestern Colorado without leaving Maine! Read Jeff Stern's novel Soul Like A River.

Available at  
 Books 'N' Things, Oxford, Maine  
 or from [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).



**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**

John Convey  
 Bob Doucette, Water District  
 Tom Hamilton, Water Quality Monitor  
 George Hinkley, at large  
 Carroll Howes, Water Level Monitoring  
 Regina Hutchinson, Fund Raisers  
 Hutch Hutchinson, at large  
 Ruth Martin, Lake Days  
 Tom Ryan, Pine Shores Association  
 Larry Savarese, at large  
 Margaret Taylor, Loon Protection

**Lake Days -**  
 Saturday, August 4, 2001  
**Annual Meeting -**  
 Sunday, August 5, 2001

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