

# LAA Newsletter

The latest news from the  
Lake Anasagunticook  
Association.

April 2016



## Upcoming Events

- 9:30 a.m.  
Saturday  
August 13**  
*(note time change  
from previous  
announcements)*
- Annual Meeting.** This meeting is for the entire membership. You will find out about the state of our association; vote on a slate of officers; express your concerns; etc.
- 11 a.m.  
Saturday  
August 13**
- Owl Talk.** Immediately following the Annual Meeting, Emma Balaza will give a talk on owls in our region—and introduce us to four live ones!
- 1 p.m.  
Saturday  
August 20**
- Lake Days.** This annual celebration includes food, fun, and prizes—plus an opportunity to visit with your neighbors.



## What is LAA?

The Lake Anasagunticook Association (LAA)—also known as the “Lake Association”—is a public, non-profit organization founded to bring together property owners who care about Lake Anasagunticook. Lake Anasagunticook is the 600-acre, 50-foot deep lake located in the towns of Canton and Hartford, Maine. The lake is used for recreation purposes, including boating, swimming, and fishing, and is a source of drinking water.

The LAA addresses topics related to preserving and protecting the lake as a natural resource. Membership donations and fundraisers primarily fund its work. The organization distributes a newsletter to its members, friends, and interested parties; holds periodic board meetings; celebrates Lake Days every summer; and holds an annual meeting. Members collect data on water quality and check the lake for invasive plants, and they played a large role in fundraising for the 2012 Dam Project. The LAA participates in the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (MVLMP) and board members are active in the Maine Lakes Environmental Association:

<http://mainelakes.org/>

## Want to know more?

For more information on LAA, go to <http://lakeanasagunticook.org/> or the Friends of Lake Anasagunticook Facebook page. To join the LAA, simply pay your dues! (See Page 4.)

*Did you know? The LAA Board meets several times a year. Members and friends are welcome to attend the board meetings to share their views—although only board members may vote on the issues at hand. The next meeting is scheduled for 5 p.m. on Wednesday, June 1, 2016. Please call LAA President Biff Atwater on 508-361-0750 for details.*

# Letter from the LAA President

## Greetings from the Road

Dear Members and Friends,

You'll notice some changes in the newsletter format, which I hope you like. The organization will be making changes too as we become more active in our efforts to preserve our lake for the use of all the constituents. Hopefully we can rally friends and members to hear the clarion call to volunteer.

Last year we surveyed about a quarter of the lake shoreline for invasive plants. Two alert people requested we check plants they

observed thinking they might be "invasives." Luckily they were native plants AND we appreciate the call for inspections.

We may also want to do another watershed survey to try to ferret out pollution points such as eroded ditches, poorly maintained culverts or camp roads. Each of these can be major sources of phosphate pollution. (see article Page 4)

Another concern is the age of septic systems (or lack of) around the lake. There is

evidence that they are not as functional as we've been led to believe so there may be undetected seepage causing harm.

We are trying to be vigilant protectors of our valuable "playground." Please contact us if you have a suggestion or will help inspecting boats, catching Mystery Snails or another project.

*Biff Atwater, President LAA*

*It is spring again. The earth is like a child that knows poems by heart.  
--Rainer Maria Rilke*

## Announcements

### Put Me In, Coach!

If you'd like to volunteer with the LAA this summer, please let us know. We need help with boat inspections at the boat ramp, searching for invasive plants, removing snails from our lake, etc. Simply contact Liz Rothrock at 207-754-7692 or [eliza.rothrock@gmail.com](mailto:eliza.rothrock@gmail.com), and we'll be in touch.

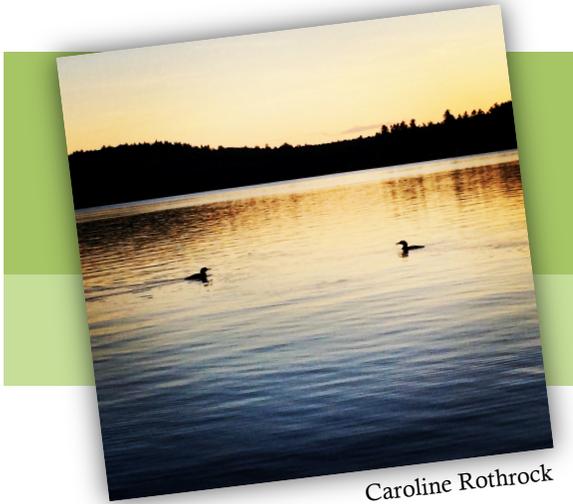
### Spread the Word

If you have an article you would like printed or a topic you would like covered in a future issue of this newsletter, or if you are aware of an upcoming event you think our members and friends would be interested in, please send the info to PO Box 411, Canton, ME, or [eliza.rothrock@gmail.com](mailto:eliza.rothrock@gmail.com).

### You've Got Mail

If you're not receiving this newsletter or other LAA correspondence via e-mail, but would like to, please e-mail Liz Rothrock at [eliza.rothrock@gmail.com](mailto:eliza.rothrock@gmail.com). (You may also contact her if you or if you would like to be removed from the LAA mailing list.)

# Results of the First Ever LAA Photo Contest!



Caroline Rothrock



Maryanne Todd

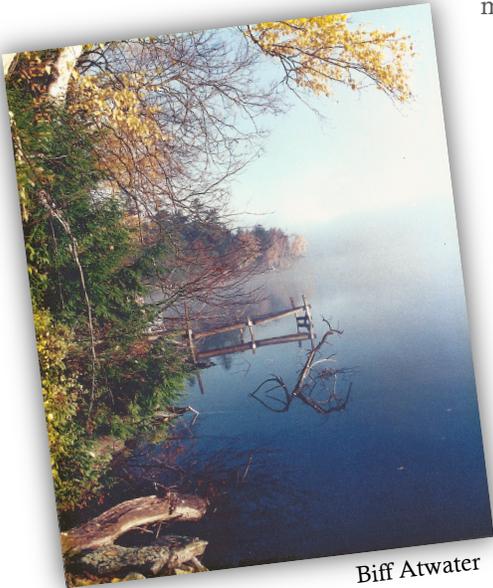
In 2015, the LAA held a photo contest. Members and friends submitted photos via e-mail and our PO Box.

Thank you to all who submitted photos.

We received close to 100 entries!

Many thanks, too, to our judges, Leslie Boness of Hartford, Kathy Walker and Scotty Kilbreth from the Canton Town Office, and photographer/woodworker Bob Runes of Sumner. It was a “blind judging,” meaning the names of the photo submitters were concealed from the judges. The photos were lovely and the judges had their work cut out for them!

The five winning photos (with the winners’ names below them) are shown here. Each winner has received a gift basket courtesy of the LAA board members. The winning photos and others received will be used in upcoming LAA correspondence and publicity, as well as on our LAA website, [www.lakeanasagunticook.com](http://www.lakeanasagunticook.com), and the Friends of Lake Anasagunticook Facebook page



Biff Atwater



Mary Atwater



Peg McCluskey

## Be Kind to the Lake

Isn't it wonderful to see the beautiful panorama of our lake, hear the call of the loon, or spend an endless summer day boating? The LAA urges you to keep the water clear and clean so our children and grandchildren can experience the same delight.

### What can harm our lake?

PHOSPHORUS! It is not just in fertilizer. It's in detergents, pesticides, drain cleaner, paint thinner, motor oil, pet waste, eroded soil, etc. In fact, eroded soil from yards—and particularly from roads—is the number one water pollutant! Phosphorus in soil and fertilizer promotes plant growth in your garden and in our lake. In lakes, however, the crop is algae rather than garden vegetables. Algal blooms smell terrible, turn the water green, and use up oxygen. Lower oxygen levels in the water “choke” fish. You may think that just a little pet waste or extra fertilizer won't make a difference; but a little pollution from you, your neighbor, and others around the watershed, year after year, adds up to a polluted lake. As a result, swimming, fishing, and lakeside living lose their appeal and the value of your property goes down.

When we alter the landscape to build houses and roads, we expose bare soil that can get washed downhill during a rainstorm. Any activity in the lake's watershed (*i.e.*, everything uphill from a lake...even on properties that don't abut the lake) can influence the lake. When it rains, water flows by gravity over land, in streams, and in ground water to the lake. In undeveloped watersheds, natural vegetation and duff slow the flow of rainwater and filters out nutrients that can pollute lakes.

When we plant lawns and remove trees and shrubs, we eliminate the natural filtration process. Rain turns into polluted stormwater as it flows over impervious surfaces that are created when we alter the natural landscape. Impervious surfaces include roofs, driveways, parking areas, patios, and most lawns. Yards and lawns become so compacted that 40-70% of stormwater runs off and carries pollutants into our lakes.

### How can you make a difference?

During a rainstorm, observe where the stormwater flows. Next, direct the stormwater flow to a vegetated area called a “buffer.” A buffer is a

landscape with an abundance of trees, shrubs, ground cover, and “duff.” Duff is all the twigs, leaves, and pine needles that our culture believes is messy and needs to be raked up. Please leave it alone. Duff is nature's mulch; it nourishes the vegetation and holds moisture during a dry spell. When stormwater enters a buffer, it slows and seeps into the ground where soil particles bind phosphorus and hold it for use by plants.

Lakes like less lawn, so determine what parts of the land you actually use for recreation and stop mowing the rarely used areas. You can supplement the no-mow areas with beautiful native shrubs and flowering plant that enhance visual appeal and property value. Also consider framing your view of the lake with native plants that attract wildlife and provide privacy for your family. A lush, wide ribbon of trees and shrubs is the number one lake protection tool.

*Excerpted from “Be LakeSmart for the Sake of Your Lake,” published by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection*

## Pay Your Dues...Please

We hope you enjoy this newsletter. To ensure you continue to receive future LAA newsletters and correspondence, have a voice at the Annual Meeting, and vote to select the officers and board of directors (and thereby influence the direction of the organization and its projects), please pay your dues. The 2016 annual dues are **\$10 per person**.

Please mail the money along with this form (or a reasonable facsimile) to:

LAA  
PO Box 411  
Canton, ME 04221

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Local Address (if different): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have questions about whether or not you have paid your 2016 dues, please contact our treasurer, Gary Dougherty (207-597-2033 or [gdougherty8@aol.com](mailto:gdougherty8@aol.com)).



Check out  
www.  
lakeanasagunticook  
.com

Thanks to the hard work of Terri Swanick, our webpage has a new look. It's a work in progress with more changes to come. We welcome your feedback on it.



Be  
"LakeSmart"

The LAA is a proud sponsor of LakeSmart. We urge you to "Be LakeSmart"—that is, take the lake into consideration while beautifying your property and enhancing its value. To find out more about being LakeSmart or to arrange for a LakeSmart evaluation, please contact LAA President Biff Atwater at 508-361-0750 or [williamatwater1@mac.com](mailto:williamatwater1@mac.com).

## Androscoggin River Watershed Council

Your Lake Association is a member of the Androscoggin River Watershed Council, an organization whose primary function is to improve the condition of the Androscoggin River. Efforts are being directed toward improving water quality, encouraging landscape conservation, working toward improving fish passage and Stream Smart design.

A recent conference, held December 9, 2015, at the Bethel Hotel, delved into ongoing efforts that involve encouraging youth to participate in meaningful community service improving the watershed by planting trees and maintaining trails. Another improvement effort is directed toward stocking, in appropriate streams, Brook trout raised in a classroom. Tanks have to be purchased and the fish eggs are provided by the State.

The Chewonki Foundation put on a very enjoyable session, which involved the presentation of three owl species common to Maine; The Great Horned Owl, the Barred Owl and the Eastern Screech-owl. Each of the owls was handicapped so they could not survive in the wild. We learned that since they cannot move their eyes in the sockets, they turn their heads 270

degrees (not in a full circle). They have special feathers so they can fly without making noise and their ears are asymmetrical to help them pinpoint the noise a small rodent makes while foraging. They all are beautiful birds.

There was a lot of useful information that may help your Lake Association members plan for their future projects.

*Biff Atwater*

### Landowner Resource

Are you aware of the Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine (<http://www.swoam.org>)? If not, you may be interested to know that the association, formed in 1975, has been working to help, support, and represent the interest of small woodland owners. Educational information is available on their website on topics such as insects, forest management, forest threats, land trusts, legislation, succession planning, wildlife, etc. The basic annual membership is \$35 per person.

*In the spring, at the end of the day,  
you should smell like dirt.  
—Margaret Atwood*



*“The owl...is one of the most curious creatures. A bird that stays awake when the rest of the world sleeps. They can see in the dark. I find that so interesting, to be mired in reality when the rest of the world is dreaming. What does he see and what does he know that the rest of the world is missing?”—M.J. Rose*

Immediately following the 9:30 a.m. LAA Annual Meeting on Saturday, August 13, Emma Balaza of the Chewonki Foundation in Wiscasset, ME (<http://www.chewonki.org>) will give a presentation on owls in our region. She will have three live owls with her. Please join us what is certain to be an exciting presentation!



**Lake Anasagunticook Association**

**PO Box 411**

**Canton, ME 04221**