

OCTOBER 2016

LAA Newsletter

The latest news from the Lake Anasagunticook Association.



Whooooo was at the LAA Annual Meeting?

Following the LAA Annual Meeting on August 13, Sarah Daniels, from Chewonki of Wiscasset, ME (www.chewonki.org), gave a wonderful presentation on owls in our region. Her talk was both informative and entertaining, and the audience had an opportunity to meet four live owls. Pictured above is Sarah holding a saw-whet owl--the smallest owl in her parliament. Also pictured is the great horned she brought along.

Save the Date!

Annual Meeting Sat, Aug 12, 2017

Meeting re: state of the association, officer selection, and lake health.

Wildlife Talk Sat, Aug 12, 2017

The LAA will host a guest speaker on wildlife in our region.

Lake Days Sat, Aug 19, 2017

Annual celebration with boat rides, ice cream sundaes, and fundraising raffle.

What is LAA?

The Lake Anasagunticook Association (LAA)—also known as the “Lake Association”—is a public, non-profit organization founded to bring together individuals 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. They also 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/>.



Letter from the LAA President

In Canton and Hartford, most of the summer birds, loons in particular, have departed. The ones that hang around—Chickadees, Winter Wren, Kinglets, Barred Owls, Great Horned Owls, a few Robins, Nuthatch, Tufted Titmice and others—are getting ready for winter, as are we.

Closing camp is a priority. And if not done properly, it may cause harm to the health of our lake. Please refer to the “End of Summer Checklist” on page 5 of this newsletter for suggestions to help.

On another note, I recently had a phone call from a concerned lakeshore property owner who had some aquatic plants growing off their dock that appeared suspicious. They asked for someone to come look at the samples they had gathered and maybe check out the growing plants, which was done. The samples were submitted to the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (MVLMP) in Auburn. The four different species of plants analyzed were found to be various types of Pondweed indigenous to Maine. One was a hybrid, another rare in Maine, the other two more common. Thanks very much to the concerned citizen for caring enough to call and get an answer.

One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, **Brown Trout!**

FYI, on September 29, Lake Anasagunticook was stocked with the following fish:

- Brown trout 25 (18")
- Brown trout 500 (11")

If you are curious about invasive plants and would like to help, the LAA is planning a fun training session in early summer 2017. Employees from the MVLMP will lead a canoe/kayak paddle to gather plant samples for us to inspect when we get back to shore. Watch for the announcement and sign-up sheet.

The lake will be frozen soon and the winter birds may be looking for some handouts. One can enjoy their antics in the winter, maybe more than in the summer, as they are easier to see.

If you are interested learning more about the summer birds, then watch for another sign-up sheet for an early morning springtime bird walk.

Biff Atwater, Pres. LAA. 508-361-0750

New Signs at Boat Launch

The State of Maine’s Bureau of Parks and Lands has provided the LAA with two signs to post at the Canton Boat Launch. The signs will caution boaters that there are shallow rocks in Whitney Brook, the waterway that leads from the boat launch to the lake.

WARNING!
**RIVER CHANNEL
SHALLOW
USE CAUTION**



Annual Lake Days Celebration included Anasagunticook Lighthouse Tour

On the afternoon of Saturday, August 20, the LAA held its annual Lake Days celebration at the lakefront home of Polly and Ray Bussiere. The many in attendance enjoyed a breezy, sunny day; created their own ice cream sundaes; and mingled with neighbors and friends. Everyone at the celebration received an LAA wristband and both children and adults were seen sporting the LAA's other freebie: insect tattoos! Many of those who purchased raffle tickets left with prizes such as gift certificates, school supplies, themed baskets, flower arrangements, beach toys, fresh blueberries, and more.

A highlight of this year's celebration was the tour of the Lake Anasagunticook lighthouse provided by owner Paul Bernier (center photo above). Ray Bussiere, and his crew of family members, shuttled the attendees to and from the lighthouse. Mr. Bernier gave a walking tour around the lighthouse, then invited everyone inside. He gave a brief history of the house, talked about different aspects of owning and staying at the lighthouse, and answered questions. Mr. Bernier also had a number of historic documents related to the lighthouse on display. The visit was a memorable one for

all involved.

Again this year, the LAA held a kayak race. The water was a bit choppy, so the race around the lighthouse and back was a good workout. A prize was given to the winner.

New to this year's celebration was an Invasive Snail Collecting Contest. The participants collected close to 900 snails. A cash prize was awarded to the winner. Other participants also received prizes.

Please mark your calendar for next year's Lake Days celebration: Saturday, August 19, 2017. It won't be the same without you!

Photos courtesy of Peg McCluskey and Carolyn Gray.

LAA Sunset Gathering

What a wonderful time we had at the Sunset gathering hosted by Bill and Carolyn Gray at their hillside home on the eve of the LAA Annual Meeting! Although the sun was masked by clouds, those in attendance got a tour of the Gray's beautifully renovated home, had a chance to talk with fellow LAA members, and enjoyed a delicious potluck of appetizers and wine. Many thanks to the Grays!

Bits and Pieces

Put me in, Coach!

If you'd like to volunteer with the LAA next 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 eliza.rothrock@gmail.com or 207-754-7692, and we'll be in touch.

Photo by Tim Kirwan.



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 LAA, PO Box 411, Canton, ME, or eliza.rothrock@gmail.com.

Photo by Peg McCluskey.

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. (You may also contact her if you would like to be removed from the LAA mailing list.)

Photo by Helen Goding.



Don't Miss Out

There are lots of ways to find out about LAA activities. Go to www.lakeanasagunticook.org or the *Friends of Lake Anasagunticook* Facebook page. Other community resources are the *Town of Canton, Maine* and *You know you are from Canton, Maine if....* Facebook pages, and the *Sun Journal* and the *Country Courier* newspapers.

Photo by Dale Bilhmeyer.

End of Summer Checklist

It's that time of year when the summer season has come to an end, and we begin to enjoy the fall foliage. People are pulling in their docks, putting their boats away, taking their kayaks out for one last spin, etc. As you get ready for the change of seasons and possibly closing down a camp, here are some things to consider (courtesy of the state of Maine);

- **Drain Pipes** - Winterizing a cottage requires preventing pipes from freezing. Drain the water system to ensure that it won't freeze, **do not** use antifreeze to protect plumbing. Antifreeze is toxic and it poses a threat to ground and surface waters, not to mention the danger of it being ingested by pets. Adding *antifreeze to plumbing fixtures is not necessary* provided all the fixtures are completely drained.
- **Protect from rodents** - Damage from rodents, such as mice and squirrels, is also a concern for cottage owners. Refrain from using pesticides or poisons. To prevent these unwanted guests, inspect the cottage inside and out to make sure there are no openings for rodents to enter. Remove all food sources from the cottage before you close it.
- **Check for erosion** - To make sure that shorefront areas will not succumb to ice or wave damage, inspect the shoreline thoroughly. Stabilize any eroding areas with plants or rock riprap if necessary. If using riprap, patching a retaining wall, or doing anything more than minor maintenance and repair, state and local permits are required, so plan accordingly. This is also a good time to inspect parking and landscaped areas for signs of erosion.
- **Remove dock** - When removing docks and boats from the water try to store them in an area that will not kill vegetation. A stable shoreline and healthy vegetation are important in keeping eroding soil from harming water quality.
- **Boats** - Do not try to drain gasoline from fuel tanks of outboard motors or other power equipment. Instead, use fuel stabilizer (available from your dealer or auto parts store) to keep fuel fresh for next season. Winterize your engine(s) away from the water. When changing lubricating oils, collect the oil and bring it to your dealer or a recycling facility for proper disposal. Wash boats away from the water, preferably at a commercial car wash. Many detergents and motor oils contain chemicals that can pollute the lake and harm fish.

You may also want to consider a trash haul-away day. You will enjoy your property more, and removing debris from your land will improve the health of the lake—plus your neighbors will appreciate it! Please remember to include scrap metal in your haul as metal can leach toxins into the lake.

Source: *Shorefront Property Owner Information*, Maine Department of Environmental Protection.

If you haven't paid your **2016** dues, they are due by December 31, 2016.

Then, beginning in January 2017, you may pay your **2017** dues.

Please mail your dues (\$10 per person) 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).

Coming in June: LAA Invasive Snail Removal Day

Invasive “Chinese Mystery” Snails have found their way into our lake. It’s unclear how they arrived (probably because someone emptied an aquarium into a waterway—a “no-no!”). These snails multiply rapidly and may transmit diseases and parasites. Additionally, they compete with native snails for food and habitat and clog screens on water-intake pipes. The snails are prevalent on Canton Beach and are making their way onto beaches around the lake. But you can do your part to remove them! Get your bucket and wade into the lake to retrieve them. We suggest you wear gloves. Read here for information about the snails and what to do with the ones you retrieve:

www.lakegeorgeassociation.org/what-we-do/Invasive-Species/ChineseMysterySnail.asp

<http://rule-303.blogspot.com/2012/06/one-at-time-how-you-will-stop-chinese.html>

www.mainevlmp.org/programs/other-programs/chinese-mystery-snails/



Lake Anasagunticook Association

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