



LAA NEWSLETTER

The latest news from the
Lake Anasagunticook
Association



What is LAA?

The Lake Anasagunticook Association (LAA) is a public, non-profit organization founded to bring together individuals who care about Lake Anasagunticook.

The LAA addresses topics related to preserving and protecting the lake as a natural resource. Member donations and fundraisers primarily fund its work.

See Page 6 for information on how to join the LAA.

Snailed It!

In July, the LAA sponsored an Invasive Snail Removal Day on Canton's beach. Twenty-four of our members and friends participated and removed close to 3000 snails.

These snails are very pervasive. According to research at the University of Washington, the female snails reproduce approximately 100 snails per year! Due to the notable increase of these snails in our lake, the LAA recommends that we continue our snail removal efforts individually.

Simply wade into the lake with a bag or bucket, look for a snail (pictured above) in the sand, then reach down to retrieve it. Some people prefer to wear gloves when they do snail removal.

After you collect the snails, put them in a bag and take them to your transfer station—or bury them in your yard. Please note that the snails have a terrible smell. Also, they may cause problems if ingested by your pets.

Having each of us work on this problem may be the best way to control this invasive snail and maintain the health of our lake.



Let's Give a Dam Together!

In 2012, after years of coping with a dam that was in dire need of repair, a new dam was erected using funds from the Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments, the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund, and the towns of Canton and Hartford. The remaining funds came from donor contributions in a drive sponsored by the LAA.

On July 26 of this year, a plaque was installed at the Canton Boat Launch to recognize the generosity of the donors.

The rock on which the plaque is mounted was kindly donated by Canton resident Randy Gammon.

Letter from the LAA President

Dear LAA Members and Friends,

I hope you've read The Lorax by Dr. Seuss. It's a wonderful story that brings to mind the phrase, "I am the Lorax, I speak for the trees." We are the Lake Association and we speak for the lake, Lake Anasagunticook.

Each spring we get energized to "clean up" our little corner. We rake leaves; mow grass and weeds; cut down shrubs and trees. Each one of these actions affects the lake in some degree. The further from the shoreline, the less impact you may cause. Trees catch raindrops, slow their descent, and prevent erosion. Small bushes and hedges along the shoreline also impede rainwater. Erosion brings phosphates into the lake, which is a main cause of an algae bloom. Bad news for swimming and property values.

Removing trees from the Shoreland Zone can cause the most detrimental effect and should be done sparingly. Perhaps only dead trees or those in danger of harming a neighbor's property should be removed. And you need to get approval from your town's CEO (Code Enforcement Officer). It is also recommended that a new tree be planted for each one removed.



Photo by Zoot Dwyer

So please, consider the lake if you want or need to remove trees from your property. You may contact the LAA LakeSmart Rep Diane Ray or me if you have a question. We can direct you to the correct resource.

We speak for the Lake.

Biff Atwater, LAA President

You may reach Biff at biff142hm@gmail.com or 508-361-0750. You may reach Diane on dianeraypfi@gmail.com or 717-314-7778.

Pinewood Camps: A History

Pinewood Camps. Rest and Recreation Camps for Adults and Families. Motor boat passenger service. Rowboats to let. Cottages to let. So read the ad for three family resorts—aka camps—on Lake Anasagunticook. The resorts drew guests from New York and Boston in the early- to mid-1900s.

The three resorts were Lakefield, Pinewood, and Pinehaven. The first two camps were located on the west side of the lake near the Hartford/Canton line—Lakefield (on what is now Pinewood Road) and Pinewood (on what is now Lakeview Drive). A road connected the two camps. Pinehaven was located south of the other two, just off Camp Road. All three camps had a main lodge, a dining room, and individual cabins.

The owners of the resorts were Henry F. “Frank” Richardson and his wife Wilma. (Frank was the grandson of well-known Canton violinmaker Franklin Richardson.) Frank was known as a real go-getter. In addition to the camps, he owned a local printing business called Pinewood Press, as well as a couple camps in other locations.

Guests arrived in Canton by train and could travel across the lake to the camps via a ferry. The ferry also delivered mail and supplies to the camps.



Over time, a motorized vehicle with bench seating, referred to as a “camp wagon,” was added. Later, guests began arriving by bus and car. The guests had access to the lake, a dock, a boathouse, boats, and canoes. There were hiking trails, trails for riding horses, and a nine-hole golf course. Fishing guides were available, and guests were invited to enjoy lobster picnics.

Unfortunately, all three resorts closed by the end of the 1970s, with Lakefield being the last to be sold. But several of our current neighbors have a connection to the old properties:

A portion of Lakefield was sold to Suzy and Gale Johnsen’s father, Frederick, in the 1940s. The transaction took place because Frank Richardson had hoped Frederick might marry Frank’s daughter Frances. Instead, Frederick’s friend Dudley Clemence married Frances—but Frederick and his future wife Barbara, remained lifelong friends with Dudley and Frances. Suzy Johnsen currently lives on the property purchas-

ed by her father.

Pinewood was sold to Michael and Jane Mickeriz who renamed it Lakefield Heights. They paved the road and subdivided the 40 acres into eight lots—several of which are still on the market. The subdivision has beach access on the lake.

Pinehaven was purchased by Judy Hamilton’s father in 1965. He sold some of the property, but retained much of it for his family’s vacations. Today, Judy and her husband Tom live in a house they built on the property. They also repurchased three of the cabins her father sold previously. Currently, ten of the 20’ x 20’ cabins and the cabins and the original dining hall and recreation room are still in existence.

Sources: “What Was Ain’t What Is: A Picture History of Canton, Maine,” by Norman A. Vashaw: and conversations with Suzy Johnsen, Judy Hamilton, Leslie Boness, and others.

Monitoring Lake Anasagunticook

LAA Member Dr. Tom Hamilton of Hartford has written an article for next month's special LAA newsletter on the health of our lake. Here are a few words from Dr. Hamilton regarding his upcoming article.

As I write this on October 1, 2017, I am sitting on my porch on a bright clear day, with a gentle wind from the north bringing wonderfully clean, dry air. Although the air temperature is 67°F, I still look forward to a late afternoon dip in the lake. Life is indeed good!

Often when I have returned to the shore after doing my bi-monthly water monitoring it is not unusual to be asked: "Well, how's the lake?" The question strikes me as the kind of greeting commonly used when we first meet a person: "Hello, how are you?" We usually answer with a simple "Fine" or "I'm good"...followed by "Yourself?" We all know that the question is simply a courtesy and not a request to know all about the pains or minor ailments that afflict us through living.

But to answer the question: "Well, how's the lake?" begs a more nuanced answer than simply "fine" because there are many things happening in and around the lake, most of which are unseen, and subtle with long-term consequences. For that reason, I have spent more than 25 years monitoring four important attributes of Lake Anasagunticook: Clarity, Dissolved Oxygen, Temperature, and Total Phosphate. For detailed information on each of these attributes, please read the special LAA newsletter due out next month.—*Tom Hamilton*



Keep Calm and Paddle On!

In August, we got some good news about Lake Anasagunticook when nine LAA members collected plant samples in Whitney Brook from their kayaks. Aquatic Ecologist Roberta Hill of the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (MVLMP) led the plant collection. The purpose of the activity was to determine what types of plant life are in the lake and if any of them are invasive. Each of the kayakers carefully collected plants from the water. Several dozen plants were collected and sorted into defined plant categories. A half-dozen onlookers joined the kayakers as Ms. Hill guided and confirmed the plant identification.

Thanks to Ms. Hill's expertise, 23 different plant species were identified. This number of plant species is unusually high for a lake like ours as the average number of aquatic plants in Maine lakes is 25--and we only surveyed Mill Pond, Whitney Brook. The LAA members also found a baby mussel and a nematode worm; both of which can only survive in a clean lake. No invasive plants were found. These findings indicate a healthy lake, which is good news for residents of Canton and Hartford.



Photo by Peg McCluskey



2018 Dates to Remember

LAA Annual Meeting – August 11
Lake Days Celebration – August 18

LAA's Annual Events

Every August, the LAA holds two events—the **LAA Annual Meeting** and the **Lake Days Celebration**.

The **LAA Annual Meeting** was held on Saturday, August 12, at the Canton Town Office. The meeting started with a coffee and was followed with a business meeting. President Biff Atwater and Treasurer Gary Dougherty indicated that the state of the association is good. Member Tom Hamilton reported on the health of the lake and gave a generally positive report on the lake's clarity, dissolved oxygen, temperatures, and total phosphate. Mr. Dougherty, Dr. Hamilton, and Rusty Knight were presented with Volunteer Awards. A motion was made from the floor to raise the LAA dues to \$15 per person beginning in 2018; this was passed by unanimous vote. The meeting was followed by an enlightening presentation on sustainable farming by Hartford resident Lee Holman (pictured above). See the Whippoorwill Hill Farm Facebook page for more about Lee.

The annual **Lake Days** celebration was held on Saturday, August 19, at Polly and Ray Bussiere's camp. Attendees enjoyed boat rides around the lake, snacks, ice cream sundaes, souvenirs of the day, and raffle prizes. A highlight of the event was a visit from Hartford resident Janet Nickerson and her miniature horses (also pictured above).

Suggested Websites/Apps/Facebook Pages

For listing or locating lake rentals:

www.vrbo.com
www.homeaway.com
www.airbnb

For weather alerts:

www.weather.com
www.noaa.com
www.weatherbug.com

For LAA news:

www.lakeanasagunticook.org
Friends of Lake Anasagunticook
Facebook page



Photo by Joe Cloonan

If you haven't paid your 2017 dues, please mail your dues (\$10 per person) and this form to:

**LAA
PO Box 411
Canton, ME 04221**

Name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Local Address (if different): _____

E-mail Address: _____

For questions re: dues, please contact our treasurer, Gary Dougherty, at 207-597-2033 or gdougherty8@aol.com.

Lake Anasagunticook Association

PO Box 411
Canton, ME 04221