

A P R I L 2 0 1 8

LAA Newsletter

The latest news from the Lake Anasagunticook Association

LakeSmart

**“Saving Our Lakes,
One Shore at a Time.”**

The LAA is putting together a team to do LakeSmart property reviews. The reviews are free and available to anyone who lives on or near the lake and requests one. (The property owners are under no obligation to implement the recommendations provided by the LakeSmart Team and the LakeSmart Team has no regulatory authority.)

If you're looking for an activity where you can assist your community, work closely with a group of fellow lake lovers, and make a difference in the environment, this is the group for you!

Please watch this video (<https://vimeo.com/145947843>), then consider joining the LAA LakeSmart Team by e-mailing Diane Ray at dianeraypf@gmail.com.



Announcing the 2019 Calendar Contest!

The LAA's 2018 Calendar was so well received that the LAA has decided to publish a 2019 Calendar. If you have photos you would like to see in the calendar, please send up to three photos per person of our lake and/or the surrounding area to Elaine Ferland at laine321@roadrunner.com. She and Peg McCluskey will work together to select the 13 best photos for inclusion in the calendar. (Please realize that it's possible the winning photographs will be copied/photographed/disseminated by others.) Everyone, including LAA members, officers, and directors are eligible to participate. If your photo is selected for the calendar, you will receive a calendar as a gift!

Mark Your Calendars!

Annual Meeting

Sat., August 11
9:30 - 11 :00 a.m.

Meeting on the state of the association and health of the lake.

Guest Speaker

Sat., August 11
11:00 a.m. - Noon

Speaker from the Chewonki Foundation, with live animals.

Lake Days

Sat. Aug. 18,
1:00 - 5: p.m.

Celebration with ice cream, boat rides, and our first ever raft race!

Lake Anasagunticook Association

A Little History

The Lake Anasagunticook Association (LAA) was formed in 1997 from the Canton Lake Association (CLA). The CLA was organized to prevent an environmentally unsound campground from being developed on land that is now the Pine Shores Subdivision. Since then, the LAA has continued “to be good stewards of Lake Anasagunticook,” which is our mission statement.

Major Accomplishments

Some of our more major accomplishments over the years have been:

- Fundraising for the replacement dam
- Ongoing monitoring of the lake’s water quality
- Installing granite steps at Canton Beach
- Doing LakeSmart reviews
- Overseeing the installation of the Rt. 140 culvert
- Conducting a Watershed Survey

Our Members and Board

We currently have just under 100 members and are constantly striving to increase participation. More than half our members are year-round residents of Canton and Hartford—as are seven of our 12 board members. The remainder of our members are residents of other towns and states (including Alaska!). Many own property here and/or have families who have been connected to Lake Anasagunticook for generations. We even have a few members who rarely visit, but who relish the memories of their time spent here and continue to support our organization.

You might be surprised to know that not all our members have property on the lake. In fact, five of our 12 board members don’t own lakefront property. However, our members and board members recognize the value of having the lake in our towns and understand the importance of working together to keep it healthy and inviting.





Letter from the LAA President

Welcome to Spring. It will be here soon. Ice out will happen!!! It's the time of year when we think of "raking leaves," planting flowers, preparing the lawn...along with all the other odd jobs of preparing for summer enjoyment on the lake. As you prepare the lawn, protect the lake by leaving duff on the ground and refrain from using products with phosphates.

Your Lake Association has been preparing for summer work and fun. We'll be checking the plants that live in the water (looking for the kind that don't belong), doing our best to protect the loons, monitoring the shoreland, and visiting boats at the Canton Boat Launch.

A few people from Canton and Hartford have spent many Saturday mornings working

on a new Shore Land Zoning ordinance. Thanks to Diane Ray for being the leader of the effort. Please support the ordinance when it comes up for a vote. The rules will essentially be the same for both Hartford and Canton. It is another effort of the communities working together for the long-term benefit of the lake.

Noted also are two enjoyable events that were held this winter: A Mardi Gras Party at the beautiful refurbished Historical Society Building and the Fishing Frenzy on a beautiful day in February. Thanks to the Town of Canton for providing fun in the winter.

So, as we recall the winter past, please plan to enjoy the LAA events throughout the summer. We hope to meet you again.

Biff Atwater, President

Canton's Fishing Frenzy



On February 17, Canton Rec, headed by Phyllis Ouellette, held a Fishing Frenzy on frozen Lake Anasagunticook. LAA Member Mary Atwater reported that it was "a gleeful reunion of sorts for almost 100 local residents fishing and visiting—and no one complaining about 30° temperature. We thought it fascinating to see families gather for "kick ball" without skates on 36" thick ice. We enjoyed a slow walk on the ice eating a sandwich, cookies, and an excellent clam chowder. We also enjoyed watching the Canton Fire Department demonstration of a rescue should someone fall through the ice." The Atwaters and Diane Ray represented the LAA at the event, gave out fish-themed bottle openers, and sold chances for our Ice-Out Fundraiser.

Save the LAA Dates!

LAA Guest Speaker

Saturday, June 30, 10:00-11:00 a.m. at the Canton Historical Society

A talk by Dr. Matt McCourt, a cultural geographer, on how we can monitor factors that impact the health of our lake. Dr. McCourt will also provide a description modern mapping techniques. Dunkin' coffee and donuts provided!



Invasive Snail Removal

Sunday, July 8, 1:00-4:00 p.m. at the Canton Beach

An opportunity for people of all ages to improve the health of the lake by wading into the lake to retrieve the invasive Chinese Mystery Snail. Gloves and buckets provided. Ice cream served to the participants.

Invasive Plant Paddle

**Saturday, August 4, 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
(location to be announced)**

An invasive plant search in kayaks and canoes. Some extra kayaks and canoes will be available. Lunch provided by the LAA.



Sunset Gathering

Friday, August 10, 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the home of Bill and Carolyn Gray (286 Staples Hill Road, Canton)

A members-only gathering with sweet and savory snacks and beverages provided by the board members.

Towns of Canton and Hartford Consider Revisions to their SLZ Ordinances

What is a SLZ Ordinance—and why do we need it?

SLZ stands for “Shoreland Zoning.” In 1971, Maine passed legislation that requires each town in Maine to adopt an ordinance to protect the land surrounding the town’s water resources. The ordinance is designed “to protect water quality, limit erosion, conserve wildlife and vegetation, and preserve the natural beauty of Maine’s shoreland areas.” The ordinance is particularly important when towns share a water resource—as is the case with Canton and Hartford’s Lake Anasagunticook.

The Towns of Canton and Hartford recently decided to update their SLZ Ordinances. Canton Planning Board Member Diane Ray chaired Canton’s committee that met for several months to draft Canton’s updates. Canton’s updated SLZ Ordinance has since been the subject of a public hearing and is currently under review by the town’s lawyer, the DEP, and the Canton Selectmen. Registered Canton voters are scheduled to vote on their new ordinance at the Annual Town Meeting, 6 p.m. on June 14, at the Canton Town Office.

The Hartford Selectmen and citizens worked closely with Diane and Canton’s committee when revising their ordinance. Hartford Selectman Lee

Holman said she appreciated the opportunity to have intercommunity discussions on the topic. As a result of their cooperative efforts, the towns’ revised ordinances are very similar. Registered Hartford voters are scheduled to vote on their new ordinance at the Annual Town Meeting, 9 a.m. on June 16, at the Hartford Town Hall.

The revised ordinances in both towns were written based on the guidelines provided to the towns by the State of Maine. The State recommends that the guidelines serve as a minimum standard. The guidelines are also used by the state to determine if a municipality is in compliance with the Mandatory Shoreland Zoning Act. The guidelines are available on for review at <http://www.maine.gov/dep/land/slz/> (click on the “Chapter 1000” link).

Maine reports the following regarding the effectiveness of its shoreland regulations:

Today Maine’s law is recognized as a national model of responsible environmental regulation. It is clear that Maine citizens and visitors benefit enormously from clean, clear lakes and streams; a healthy fishery; tree-lined shores; and an economy fueled, in part, by a healthy environment.

LAA Raft Race

As part of the Lake Days festivities on Saturday, August 18, the LAA will sponsor a Raft Race. People of all ages are welcome to participate, although at least one person on each raft must be an adult. Our rules require that your raft be homemade and human powered—and that everyone on the raft wear a life vest. \$25 cash prizes will be awarded to winners in several categories. Details and registration forms will be available shortly. In the meantime, *start building your rafts.*

Good luck, mates!!



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