



REGION ASSOCIATION

Mousam Lake Region Association

P.O. BOX 333 SPRINGVALE, ME 04083
WWW.MOUSAMLAKE.ORG

Fall 2017 Newsletter

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Starting in 2018, the MLRA newsletter will switch to a semi-annual printing schedule with mailings in the spring and fall.

You can check out our website and our Facebook page for updates, postings by members, and other information regarding the MLRA.

Please put up your MLRA membership stickers before you leave for the season so we can identify who needs winter camp inspections. Don't have your stickers? Please verify you have paid your membership dues! You can pay online at www.mousamlake.org

Joe and Rena Parent's Story

The year was 1938, Joe Parent was a young man of 20 living in South Berwick Maine. He heard about Mousam Lake and he decided to buy a lot, the lot was on 33rd Street on lower Mousam. Joe paid \$35.00 for the lot. He was dating Rena Morgridge, and they were married in 1940.

The two of them first put up a small one room camp, then World War 2 started and Joe was sent to the Pacific for over five years. When he returned, they started a family and began to work on their camp on Mousam Lake.

Through the years they had a lot of good times with family and friends. Like a lot of us, they started small and then added on to the camp,



turning it into a summer lake home.

Joe passed away in 1992 at their summer home on Mousam Lake. Rena turned 96 this August, and she still comes to her summer home on Mousam Lake. She has lots of stories about the

lake after spending over 75 years there. She tells us about the dance hall on the corner of Tattle Street and 33rd Street back in the 1940s, and about when 32rd Street was just a foot path, how they used to sit on the reserve lot on 32rd Street and watch the cows grazing on 34th Street, across the channel. How they drained lower Mousam in the mid-1950s, how it looked like a big sand pit with a river running through it.

We love looking at all her pictures and see how the Lake has changed through the years. Rena made a lot of memories on Mousam Lake through the years. She is a very interesting lady!

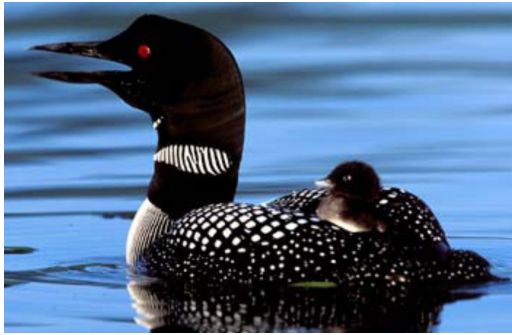
Welcome New Members

Jeff & Jennifer McLeod

Support the MLRA when you shop at Amazon.com! Use this [Amazon Smile](https://smile.amazon.com) link to select MLRA as your charity to support, 0.5% of each eligible purchase will be donated to the MLRA when you use smile.amazon.com. If you receive your newsletter via US Mail, the link is: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/22-2510524>

Directors	Contact Number	Position
Mark Rousseau	(978) 835-2277	President
Skip Bartosch	(207) 636-2751	Vice President
James (Jamie) Verity	(617) 901-5212	Treasurer
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Glenn Baxter	(617) 285-3111	Director
Jack Kelley	(207) 636-3252	Director
David Landry	(207) 692-3361	Director
James Gilbert	(978) 2843621	Director
VACANT	VOLUNTEERS	NEEDED!
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Fishing Tackle and Loons



resident on Square Pond for advice on how to handle a loon found there. The loon was wrapped in fishing line with the hook from a lure embedded just above the loon's eye. Pat took the loon to a wildlife vet who used anesthesia to quiet the loon and remove the line and hook.

For anyone who spends time on Maine Lakes loons are part of the magical experience. Their haunting calls in the evening are beautiful and unforgettable. Loons have made a resurgence especially here on Mousam Lake in recent years. While there were loons on the lake up to the 50's they disappeared for a number of decade reappearing in the last decade. Presently there are between 6-8 loons on the lake. Tragically 2 of these loons died this summer

Longtime lake resident Karen Mitchell Pierce reports that her son Adam was kayaking with his family on the north end of the main part of Mousam near Pearl Island rocks the evening of July 4th. Adam and family were watching 2 loons intermittently dive for fish when one of the loons surfaced in obvious distress, struggling and flailing in the water. Adam raced towards the loon to see if he could somehow assist. In the short time it took Adam to paddle over, the loon had died. The loon's beak, head and neck were tightly wrapped in monofilament fishing line strangling the bird.

Pat Balwin, Mousam Lake resident and wildlife advocate, reports a similar episode a number of years ago. Pat was called by a

The loon was successfully returned to Square Pond.

In addition to the loon death due to fishing line, Karen Pierce reports another adult loon was found dead along the Shapleigh shoreline on June 7th. The bird appeared to be an adult and the cause of death was uncertain.

A call to Doug Hitchcox of the Maine Audubon Society in Falmouth provided some important information on how we can protect the loons here on Mousam Lake. Entrapment in fishing line and gear is a common problem in these fishing birds and can result in their death as Adam Pierce observed. Loons will also actively strike fishing lures which can result in serious injury or death to the bird. As far as to why the second loon might have died, Doug surmised that it might have been a case of lead poisoning which is a common cause of death in loons. Lead fishing tackle, weights and jig heads, are deadly to loons. The loons eat fish with a lead weight in it or scoop a lead jig head off the bottom and ingest it. A single small lead weight is enough to kill

an adult loon. As of October of 2016 lead weights, jigs, and other fishing gear were outlawed in Maine waters in an effort to reduce the incidence of lead poisoning in water fowl. **Unfortunately**, many of us still have poisonous lead weights in our tackle boxes. Doug also reports loons face threats from other fronts. Bald eagles frequently prey upon loon chicks.

While loons have made a re-appearance on Mousam Lake their long term survival is by no means assured. Vigilance on the part of lake users is needed to prevent the senseless and preventable death of our loons.

You can help by:

- picking up discarded fishing line and avoid leaving line in the lake.
- go through your tackle box and discard all old lead containing tackle. Then, make a visit to a nearby tackle shop and buy modern nonleaded containing weights and jig heads.
- If you are fishing and a loon is nearby pull in your fishing gear to avoid an accidental loon strike.



By doing our part we can help insure a healthy loon population on Mousam Lake for years to come.

ASYCC Update

The Erosion Control Crew finished the season with a total of 20 completed projects. This season 6 projects occurred on Mousam Lake, 12 on Square Pond and 2 on Loon Pond. Technical Assistance visits continue in preparation for the 2018 season. If you are having erosion problems contact the Program Director at programdirector@asycc.com. The Courtesy Boat Inspection program contin-

ues and we will man the launch until Columbus Day, October 10, 2017. As in the past, launch coverage will consist of Friday, Saturday and Sunday beginning September 4, 2017. To date, 4740 boat inspections have been completed; 1013 plant fragments found, 20 plant specimens bagged for identification, 0 invasive. 1,041 inspector hours have been spent at the Mousam Lake launch. Our 2017 golf tournament was

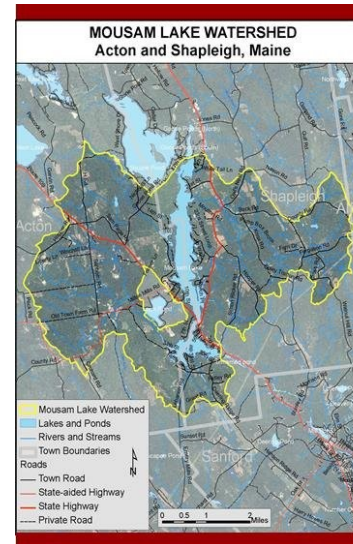
held at the Province Lake Golf Course, in Parsonsfield, ME, under warm summer skies and clouds that did not burst. The 13th Annual Event was a great success. 108 golfers and 12 volunteers gathered to help raise over \$25,000 in net proceeds! We truly appreciate our Sponsors, Donors, Golfers and Volunteers involved to help keep our important mission funded and running smoothly.

Mousam Lake Watershed Survey Update

In late March, a postcard notification was mailed to all Mousam Lake watershed landowners letting you know that the Mousam Lake Region Association in collaboration with the Acton Shapleigh Youth Conservation Corps and Maine Department of Environmental Protection would be conducting a survey to identify any erosion and polluted runoff problems. This is being done to help better focus the protection efforts in the watershed and will allow prioritization of the issues. Information collected in this survey will not be used for regulatory or enforcement purposes. Rather, it is the first step in a long term program to work the community to

correct pollution problems. With the help of many volunteers, the field portion of the watershed survey has just been completed. Thank you to everyone who participated in this important first step. The intent is to apply for grant funding in the future to remediate the most egregious sites. In total, 186 sites were identified and include State, Town and Private Roads, Right of Way's, trails, driveways, residential properties and beach and boat access. Compiling all of this data into a report format and submitting to Maine Department of Environmental Protection is the next step. Stay tuned as the process continues and the more support you provide only helps the

long term health of Mousam Lake for future generations. For more information contact Betty Smith at programdirector@asycc.com.



Volunteers Needed for the MLRA!

We are looking for volunteers to help the MLRA! Existing openings are as follows:

- MLRA Board Members. We currently have two vacancies.
- MLRA Newsletter Editor. Responsible for assembling,

- publishing and mailing newsletter.
- Contributors for the Newsletter, Facebook page and Website (as often as one would like to write and submit articles/blurbs)
- Plant Patrollers and coordina-

tors (Summer positions, a few hours every other week or so)

If you would like more information on any of these positions, please email us at: info@mousamlake.org

Summer 2017!

Boat Parade Winners:

Small Boat 1st Place:

The Genereux Family—Scrub-A-Dub

Small Boat 2nd Place:

The Haily Family—Lady Liberty

Small Boat 3rd Place:

Mary Jo Richardson—Let Freedom Ring

Large Boat 1st Place:

The Conlon Family—Mousamopoly

Large Boat 2nd Place:

The Glidden Family—American Pride

Large Boat 3rd Place:

The White Family—Stars & Stripes



Kids Fishing Derby Winners:

1st Place:

Lucas

2nd Place:

Madeline

3rd Place/ Youngest to Catch Fish:

Pierce



If you are interested in submitting a historical article, story, or anything of interest for future newsletters, email: gthib@roadrunner.com

Look for the Winter Newsletter in December!

Thank you to everyone who participated in this Summer's events! See you on the lake in the Spring!

MOUSAM LAKE REGION
ASSOCIATION

PO BOX 333
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