



REGION ASSOCIATION

# Mousam Lake Region Association

P.O. BOX 333 SPRINGVALE, ME 04083

[WWW.MOUSAMLAKE.ORG](http://WWW.MOUSAMLAKE.ORG)

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## Thank you to Past Directors by Mark Rousseau

MLRA Board of Directors wishes to recognize two former BOD members, Skip Bartosch and Jack Kelley, who recently stepped down from the Board, each after more than a decade of service to MLRA. Collectively they contributed thousands of volunteer hours to MLRA. They will be missed.

Many people on Mousam refer to **Skip Bartosch** as Mr. Mousam Lake. Skip began volunteering with MLRA in 2005 as a certified water quality tester and continues in this role today. Skip joined the BOD in 2007 and served as VP from 2008 – 2019. As a full-time resident of the lake, Skip hosted many winter BOD meetings at his residence on Carpenter’s Cove. Skip was always a vocal promoter of MLRA. He represented MLRA on the Sanford Dam Committee and regularly attended local government meetings. He was the primary MLRA contact for a seemingly endless list of lake issues including winter inspections, lake markers, and water quality sampling to name a few. Skip’s wife Claudette and their family have been very active in MLRA during Skip’s tenure on the BOD. We will miss his involvement and his endless energy.



*Skip Bartosch operating the Lakewatch boat during a lake debris removal in*

**Jack Kelley** – joined the MLRA board in 2006 and served as the assistant Treasurer from 2010 – 2019. Jack was also active in the 13<sup>th</sup> street Road association since it was established in 2006. A resident of Acton, Jack regularly attended town government meetings and was a strong voice for MLRA. Jack is a behind the scenes guy who’s legacy with MLRA will be the beach at the foot of the lake. Jack took on the beach improvement, maintenance and upkeep and was largely responsible for transforming the beach from a run down, eroded, and abused eyesore into what it is today, a beautiful, protected, family friendly recreational area. If you see Jack at his place on Hubbard’s Cove, please be sure to thank him for his service to MLRA.



*Jack Kelley delivering the beach report during the 2012 MLRA Annual meeting*

## 2019 Water Quality Report shows Excellent Results

In response to multiple concerns raised about the bacterial water quality levels at specific locations on Mousam Lake in the summer of 2018, the Mousam Lake Region Association allocated \$1,000 of funds and implemented a pilot E. coli monitoring program this summer (2019) at several locations. Nelson Analytical, a State certified water quality testing laboratory located in Kennebunk, ME provided guidance and cost estimates to help MLRA develop an appropriate sampling plan.

Several factors including sampling location, time, frequency, test affordability, and volunteer availability to collect samples were all considered. After several discussions, MLRA Directors decided testing water samples for E. coli - similar to tests taken on the lake by the State in 2018 was the most appropriate and affordable course of action. The E. coli test is commonly used throughout ME and other states as an indicator of the human health risk associated with swimming.

Samples were collected for six weeks during the peak summer season. Overall, results were very low, indicating excellent water quality in Mousam with respect to bacteriological indicators. Thanks to all that offered to assist MLRA in this effort. Special thanks to MLRA Director David Landry who spearheaded this effort and was involved in all aspects of the project from planning to weekly sampling, to delivering samples to the lab.

**Standard Sample Sites:** Hubbard’s Cove 20 feet off shore from “goat farm”; Ash Cove sand bar; Ham’s Cove off of Perch Point cottages; Inside swimmer marker’s at MLRA Beach; Sandbar in Lower Mousam

Date	Temp	Notes:	1. Hubbard’s Cove	2. Ash Cove Sandbar	3. Hamm’s Cove – inner Perch Point	4. MLRA Beach	5. Lower Mousam – off 32 <sup>nd</sup> St.
6/28 (Fri)	72	A	5	6	1	6	2
7/2 (Tue)	74/75	B	9	1	1	2	4
7/10 (Wed)	77/78		2	2	2	1	3
7/18 (Thu)	76	C	2	1	<1	1	3
7/24 (Wed)	79	D	1	<1	1	<1	3
7/29 (Mon)	80	E	1	1	<1	4	5
Results presented as most probable number (MPN) of colonies of E. coli bacteria per 100 milliliters of water sampled. See attached document for notes and additional information.							

- A. Sampling delayed 2 days due to heavy rain.
- B. When 2 temperatures, first is Upper Mousam, second is Lower Mousam
- C. Temperature drop due to wind related mixing in preceding 24 hours.
- D. With low readings through week four week, sample site locations for 1,2,5 were moved slightly.
- E. Continued to sample different spots: Site 1: Hubbard’s Cove channel; Site 2: On sand bar in Ash Cove; Site 5: Along shore midway down lower Mousam “no wake channel”

## Work on Mousam Lake Watershed Grant Progresses by David Landry

In 2018 The Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) awarded \$95,000 for work in the Mousam Lake watershed aimed at protecting and improving water quality. The grant is awarded to the District with the Acton Shapeigh Youth Conservation Corp (ASYCC) and the MLRA as partners in the grant. Funding for this project is provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act.

The aim of the Mousam Lake watershed work is to reduce what is known as *nonpoint source pollution* (NPS). Nonpoint source pollution is pollution from diffuse sources on the landscape that is picked up and carried by rainfall runoff or snow-melt into water bodies. While one might think that storm water run-off finding its way into the lake would not impact water quality quite the opposite is true. Storm water carries soil and debris which contains phosphorus. It is this phosphorus that fuels algae growth and contributes to water quality decline. Across an entire watershed a significant amount of soil and debris can be washed into a waterbody on a yearly basis. Reducing storm water run-off is a critical step in protecting water quality. Mousam Lake currently enjoys good water quality, but this is no guarantee of clear water into the future.

Slowly accumulating phosphorus can cause a dramatic decline in water quality leading to green murky algal blooms. The three organizations participating in the grant have a long history of conservation related work in the Mousam Lake Watershed. The grant allows for both small and larger projects to be done targeting drainage issues along camp roads and lakefront properties. The grant requires cash or in-kind match for each project, which allows larger high impact sites to be addressed in a cost-effective manner.

*A site visit at a project on 23rd Street.  
From left: Grant administrator Jen Harris, property owners Joann and Bob Conlon, and grant consulting engineer Chris*

The grant would never have been possible if it were not for the generous donation of \$5000 from the Harry A. Mapes Trust. The Mapes family are longtime summer residents on Mousam Lake and have been benefactors to many area organizations over the years. The money from the Mapes Family funded a comprehensive watershed survey of Mousam Lake in the fall of 2017 which in turn made the lake eligible to participate in the grant process. A copy of the *Mousam Lake Watershed Based Protection Plan* is available online at the [www.mousamlake.org](http://www.mousamlake.org) under the *Our Lake* tab.

The grant is project managed by Jennifer Harris of the York County Soil and Water Conservation District. Work began in March and has ramped up over the summer. There are two types of grants available. The first is homeowners cost share grants of \$400 per site. These tend to address smaller erosion sites that can be handled by the Youth Conservation Corp. The grant money is used to reimburse homeowners for up to 50% of material costs to a maximum of \$200. The second type of grant is for larger storm water runoff sites that typically involve public or private roads. Here the grant may pay significantly more. Sites identified in the *Watershed Survey* have been visited and design plans are being formulated. Projects in the planning stage include sites on 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Totte Road, and Goose Pond Road. While several of smaller projects have been done by the ASYCC this summer work on the larger projects most likely will not begin until next spring. There is still grant money available and property owners who have concerns about runoff into the lake from their property or camp road can contact Jen Harris by email at [jharris@yorkcswcd.org](mailto:jharris@yorkcswcd.org) or by calling 207-324-0888, ext 208.



## Invasive Plant Patrol By David Landry

Members of the MLRA have been busy establishing an Invasive Plant Patrol Team here on Mousam Lake. Invasive plants are non-native plants that become established in a lake and alter the natural ecosystem. Most importantly, from a recreational and financial standpoint, invasive plants can grow so thick that access to the lake, swimming, and boating become impossible. In lakes with serious invasive plant problems real estate values can plummet. There are 27 lakes in the State of Maine with invasive plants. Of concern to us here in Mousam and Goose Pond is three of the lakes with invasive aquatic plants are nearby; Balch Pond in Newfield, Milton Three Ponds in Milton, N.H., and Arrowhead Lake in Waterboro. Invasive most often appear to enter lakes on boats and boat trailers. That is why the Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI) programs across the state are so important. Additionally, waterfowl may transport seeds or plant fragments from one lake to another. Mousam Lake has a very comprehensive CBI Program at the Lower Mousam boat launch. This expensive and very important program is managed by the Acton Shapleigh Youth Conservation Corp group. Last year over 5000 boat were screened by CBI team members at boat launch.

Keeping invasive plants out of Mousam with the CBI program is our first line of defense. One of the big concerns is there are a number of informal boat launch sites around the lake where no pre-launch inspection is done. These informal boat launch sites can make Mousam Lake more at risk for invasive plants. If you have a boat launch site on your property consider very carefully the risks to your shorefront and property values an invasive plant infestation could pose. If prevention fails, early detection is critical since invasive plants grow and spread much more rapidly than native water plants.

*IPP screening on Hamm's Cove on Mousam Lake.  
From left: Dennis Roberge, Laurie Callahan,  
Carrie Phinney, Parker Jalbert, and Christian Reehl.*

The MLRA has contracted with Laurie Callahan, an invasive plant expert, to screen the high-risk areas of Mousam Lake. High risk areas are those areas around known boat launches and quiet sheltered coves that provide prime growing conditions for aquatic plants. Laurie has had a number of volunteers turn out to help in the project. With the majority of the sites surveyed over the last two years it is good news that no invasive plants have been detected.

Wednesday August 28<sup>th</sup> was the last scheduled survey date for this summer. Laurie plus five volunteers used kayaks and canoes to patrol the entire area of Hamm's Cove searching for invasive plants. Happily, only a healthy mix of native plants were found. The goal for the MLRA in coming years is to have our own team of trained individuals can that will continue to monitor the lake and be available to respond to reports of suspicious aquatic plants. We are fortunate to have one of the state's experts on invasive aquatic plants living here on Mousam Lake. Dennis Roberge has freely contributed his time to lake surveys on Mousam and on many other lakes in Maine and New Hampshire. He is willing to act as our resident expert for the fledgling Mousam Lake Invasive Plant Screening Team. If you would like to participate in this effort or have noticed the appearance of suspicious water plants please contact the MLRA.



## Mousam Lake History: Did you Know?

Gordon Grant displayed several hundred Mousam Lake postcards and other lake memorabilia at the 2019 MLRA Annual Meeting. Gordon is a longtime lake resident and has been collecting Mousam Lake related historical items for years. One of the questions that Gordon posed was the meaning of Mous. No one including the collector was able to answer that very basic question. Thumbing through the extensive postcard collection, it was interesting to observe that a frequent subject of the cards were the many cottages around the lake.

Pictured here in the postcard circa 1920 is the “Lynnette”. I bet many of you have cruised by this handsome cottage on the Shapleigh side of Mousam Lake opposite Beef Island. The cottage was built in 1902 by Mrs. Georgie Stevens of Lynn, Massachusetts. Mrs. Stevens was widowed at a young age, had four small daughters, and decided to build the cottage on the shore of Mousam Lake in order to spend summers close to her late husband’s family who was from Shapleigh. The cottage was named by a sign painter also from Lynn, Massachusetts who stayed in the cottage during a fall fishing trip and repaid Mrs. Stevens by designing and painting the sign. The name derived from the family’s hometown of Lynn.

Today the camp is the summer home of Marilynn Hinterleiter the 89 year old granddaughter of Georgie Stevens. Marilynn relates her grandmother and four daughters would take a train from Boston to Sanford where they would be met by family and transported to Mousam by horse drawn wagon. Marilynn’s mother, Frances Stevens, met her future

husband, who hailed from the Bronx, when he was camped in the cove next to the Steven’s cottage. Marilynn relates when the Lynnette was constructed it was the last cottage on the Shapleigh side of the lake shore heading north. Marilynn spent her youth on the lake and often collected frogs to sell to local fishermen. Marilynn has one of the best sunset views on the lake. If you pass by in a boat please wave; chances are Marilynn will be on the porch looking out over the lake.



*Roland Legere (L.) points to one of the postcards in Gordon Grant's (R.) extensive collection of Mousam*



*“The Lynette”*

## A Message From the Shapleigh Planning Board

The Shapleigh Zoning Ordinance regulates the removal of trees in the Shoreland Zone in section 105-51.1 because trees use water, filter water, and hold soil in place. Therefore, trees are a valuable protector of lake water quality. Anyone wanting to cut down trees in the SZ needs to speak to Shapleigh’s Code Officer, Mike Demers. Mike has just developed a Tree Permit Application to make the process more formal and to create a paper trail for the Town files. Mike and the Shapleigh Planning Board are hoping that through this MLRA newsletter shoreland owners who are not familiar with the regulation will contact Mike Demers before cutting trees.

## Welcome New Members!

Aldee Poulin 1<sup>st</sup> St., Shapleigh  
Sharon Herbert 29<sup>th</sup> St., Shapleigh  
Patricia Donahue & Bryan Craven Meaders Lane, Shapleigh  
Sandra Power & James Power 16<sup>th</sup> St., Shapleigh (2<sup>nd</sup> camp membership)  
Gary & Deborah Pepka 13<sup>th</sup> St., Acton  
Nancy Wakefield 31<sup>st</sup> St., Shapleigh  
Christie & Jamie Mucha 10<sup>th</sup> St, Acton  
Marietta McNeil 30<sup>th</sup> St, Shapleigh  
Ross & Tina Eberhart Cattail Loop, Shapleigh  
Debra Oliver & Family 30<sup>th</sup> St, Shapleigh  
Daniel Frasier 16<sup>th</sup> St. Loop, Shapleigh  
Linda Haley 1<sup>st</sup> St., Shapleigh  
Rob & Cassie Waldner 13<sup>th</sup> St., Acton  
Genna Hill  
Jill Bonina Ave F, Acton (2 camp memberships)  
Norine Purcell 13<sup>th</sup> St, Acton  
Ronald Giorgetti Old Loop Rd., Shapleigh  
Mary & Money Grimmer Perch Point, Shapleigh  
Steve & Diane Ossinger 16<sup>th</sup> St., Shapleigh  
Stan Folsom & Paul Brown Ave. F Acton  
Elizabeth & Peter Glenshaw Buccaneer Way, Shapleigh  
Brian & Sandy Perry 13<sup>th</sup> St, Acton  
Craig & Melissa Cohen Point Rd, Shapleigh  
Christine Ellis Ave C, Acton  
Karen McCafferty 11<sup>th</sup> St., Acton  
Diane Beaudoin 26<sup>th</sup> St., Shapleigh

*If you are interested in submitting a historical article, story, or anything of interest for future newsletters, email: [mlranewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:mlranewsletter@gmail.com)*

*Look for the Spring Newsletter in March!*

PO BOX 333  
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## A Message From Membership

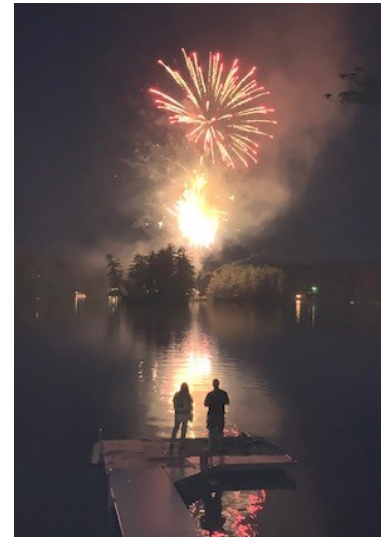
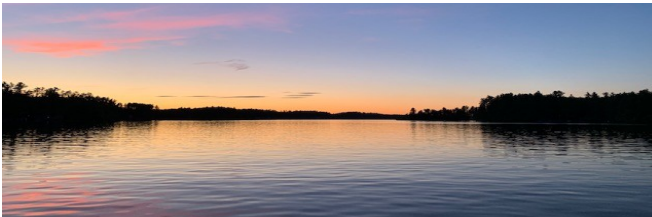
It is time to place your 2019 MLRA Membership Stickers! To receive your sticker, please respond to the dues notice sent back in April. When returning dues, help us keep our members database current by indicating any changes to mailing address, email, and/or phone number. Note membership number on your payment/ check. Please notify membership if you are no longer on the lake.

If you have not received your dues notice or 2019 sticker, please contact membership as soon as possible, Thank you!

Patti Baxter/ MLRA Membership  
[membership@mousamlake.org](mailto:membership@mousamlake.org)

## Summer of 2019: Fun times on the Lake!

We had a great summer this year on the lake! Light Up The Lake was a good time at many cabins, the Fourth of July parade was a success, the Kid's Fishing Derby was a hit and the annual golf tournament raised money for a great cause. Here are some pictures from our summer events...



## 2019– 2020 MLRA Board of Directors

Directors	Contact Number	Position
Mark Rousseau	(978) 374-3771	President
Gary Thibodeaux	(207) 841-1575	Vice President
James (Jamie) Verity	(617) 901-5212	Treasurer Secretary
Dick Jagger	(207) 636– 2751	Director
Rich Eagleston	(978) 985-3243	Director
Glenn Baxter	(617) 285-3111	Director
Gary Brown		Director
David Landry	(207) 692-3361	Director
James Gilbert		Director
Rebecca Talley		Director



August 2019 Board Meeting

### Meet a BOD Member

As a fairly new Mousam Laker, I am pleased to have recently been elected to the Mousam Lake Region Association Board of Directors. My wife, Ann, and I moved to the lake three years ago after raising our family in nearby Berwick, Maine. Shortly after moving to 1<sup>st</sup> Street in Shapleigh we began to get an education about Mousam Lake and the importance of caring for it from our then new, and now greatly missed, neighbor, Pat Baldwin. After talking to Pat and looking into how we could help preserve her passion, it didn't take us long to decide that we should become members of the MRLA.

I like what I have seen since joining the MRLA (i.e.: water quality commitment, invasive plant patrol and organized events like the boat parade and fishing derby). Since joining the Board, I have participated in a few very productive meetings. Being an officer and board member of two other clubs in the area, I feel that I can be a positive, effective member of the group.

I am excited to be the only current member of the Board to reside on Lower Mousam and look forward to representing this end of the lake going forward. Whether on my fishing boat or drilling holes in the ice, I am on the lake all the time and look forward to meeting more folks while out there enjoying the outdoors.

Finally, I would encourage any members reading this to look to your neighbors and friends on the lake and ask that they too become members of the MRLA if they are not already. Let us take care of our lake together.

See you out there.  
Gary Bown





## Preparing for the Winter From Cabinlife.com author Christy Heitger-Ewing

### Outside Duties

- Clean & store boats, dock, ladder, life jackets and ski equipment
- Mow the lawn one last time
- Clean and winterize gas-powered yard equipment.
- Rake and remove leaves within 30 feet from your cabin.
- Store fire pit decorations, emptied flower pots, drained hoses and sprinklers, and deflated water toys.
- Look for air leaks around electrical wiring, dryer vents, pipes, windows and doors; then seal leaks with caulk or insulation to keep out cold air and pests.
- Insulate pipes in crawl spaces by wrapping them with heat tape or thermostatically- controlled heat cables; also open cabinet doors to allow heat to get to un-insulated pipes under sinks and appliances near exterior walls.
- Clean out gutters, and inspect roof for shingles that are raised or cracked; leaking roofs and clogged gutters can lead to significant water damage.
- Turn off outside pump breaker, hoist motor breaker, dock light breaker.
- Store outdoor furniture, picnic tables and hammocks.
- Make sure your winter sports gear is ready to go. Snowmobile and ATV tuned up? Skis waxed?



*A winter view from 17th street property.*

### Inside Duties

- Ensure that the power and water are in the proper mode for vacancy.
- If you heat your place in the winter, set the thermostat no lower than 55 degrees.
- Clean furnace filter to maintain an efficient heating and cooling system and reduce the risk of fire.
- If you're shutting off the refrigerator, leave the door cracked open to prevent musty smells from developing. Also, unplug computers and major appliances.
- Pull shades, or cover furniture to keep it from being bleached by the sun.
- Put mothballs or dryer sheets near linens.
- Restock and store first-aid kit.
- Take out all perishable foods; store those that remain in air-tight/critter tight containers. If you don't heat the cabin in winter, carry out canned goods so they don't freeze.
- Turn off dehumidifier and hot water heater.
- Close damper for fireplace. Seal box to prevent critters from entering cabin.
- If you don't heat in winter, drain the pipes by attaching a hose to the lowest point in the plumbing, then blow out all water with an air compressor.
- Winterize washing machine; kitchen appliances.