



REGION ASSOCIATION

Mousam Lake Region Association

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

Winter 2017/Spring 2018 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.

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>

A Letter from the MLRA President

Greetings MLRA Members,

As we head into the 2018 season its worth highlighting several MLRA undertakings that have occurred over the last year. Major accomplishments include collaborating with ASYCC to complete a comprehensive watershed survey and report for the Mousam Lake watershed, working with a local dive club to remove several hundred pounds of trash from the bottom of the lake, and bringing the MLRA membership database into the 21st century.

Building off these efforts, the MLRA Board of Directors is expecting a busy and productive 2018. In addition to coordinating the usual summer activities such as the MLRA annual meeting, boat parade, and

kids fishing derby, several other efforts are in planning or underway. We are working with ASYCC to address erosion issues identified in the watershed survey. We have partnered with the ME VLMP to conduct a comprehensive aquatic plant survey of Lower Mousam and Mousam Lake this summer. Planning is underway to clean more trash and debris from the lake bottom around the Acton Trading Post using a volunteer dive club. We are discussing options with the State of Maine to make the beach area at the foot of the lake safer for swimmers and boaters.

Our website (<http://mousam-lake.mylaketown.com/>) and

social media pages (<https://www.facebook.com/MousamLakeRegionAssociation/>) provide timely updates on Association activities. I encourage our members to visit these sites for additional information on MLRA events and accomplishments.

All this great work would not be possible without the support from our membership. Thank you! MLRA is always looking for volunteers to help support Association activities. If you want to make a difference consider volunteering!

Enjoy your spring, and I hope to see you at the 2018 MLRA Annual Meeting on June 30th .

Mark

Upcoming Events:

MLRA Annual Meeting

Saturday, June 30
9am at Acton Fairgrounds

Light up the Lake

Tuesday, July 3
Sunset

Annual Boat Parade

Wednesday, July 4
Register in Carpenter's Cove at 11am
Parade on Shapleigh side of lake

Kids Fishing Derby

Saturday, July 14
Register at Baxter dock at 8am

ASYCC Annual Golf Tournament

Friday, August 3

Directors	Contact Number	Position
Mark Rousseau	(978) 835-2277	President
Skip Bartosch	(207) 636-2751	Vice President
James (Jamie) Verity	(617) 901-5212	Treasurer
Gary Thibodeaux	(207) 841-1575	Secretary
Rich Eagleston	(978) 985-3243	Director
Glenn Baxter	(617) 285-3111	Director
Jack Kelley	(207) 636-3252	Director
Jane Carmichael	(207) 636-1724	Director
David Landry	(207) 692-3361	Director
James Gilbert	(978) 284-3621	Director
VACANT	VOLUNTEERS	NEEDED!

Maine Fishing Laws to Know



Here are some of the Maine fishing laws that apply to Mousam Lake and other lakes, ponds and rivers around the area. This is not a complete list but highlights some of the typical laws that you may have questions on.

Fly Fishing: No more than 3 unbaited artificial flies individually attached to a line may be used. (Title 12, §12654-A).

Note: It is unlawful to troll a fly in waters restricted to fly fishing only (Title 12, §12658).

Free Family Fishing Days: Will take place on February 17-18, 2018 and June 2-3, 2018. On these days, any person (except those whose license has been suspended or revoked) may fish without a license. All other laws and regulations apply on these days (Title 12, §12503).

Illegal Fishing: Except as otherwise provided, it is unlawful to fish other than with a single baited hook and line, artificial flies or artificial lures and spinners. **Exception:** This does not apply to hook and line smelt fishing (Title 12, §12654). All other rules and regulations governing the taking of smelt apply. Use of gaff is unlawful (Title 12, §12656).

Illegal Use of Antifreeze: Adding substances containing ethylene glycol or other antifreeze agents to waters of this State is illegal (Title 38, §413).

Illegal Use of Implements:

A. Except as otherwise provided, it is unlawful to possess any grapnel, trawl, weir, seine, gill net, trap, set line or drop net on or adjacent to any of the inland waters of this State.

Importation of Fish: It is unlawful to import any live freshwater fish or eggs into this State without written permission from the Commissioner (Title 12, §12509 & Title 12, §12556).

Lead Sinkers: It is unlawful to sell, offer for sale, or use a lead sinker that weighs 1 ounce or less or measures 2.5 inches or less.

Line Restrictions: Unless otherwise provided by rule, the number of lines an angler may fish at any one time is limited to two lines while open water fishing (Title 12, §12652) and five lines while ice fishing (Title 12, §12659-A). At no time may an angler fish with more than five lines.

Litter: It is unlawful to dispose of litter (including abandoned ice fishing shacks) anywhere in this State, except in areas or receptacles designed for that purpose. Convicted violators face fines up to \$500 for the first offense and up to \$2,000 for subsequent offenses (Title 17, §2264-A).

Marking Fish: It is unlawful to tag, fin clip, or otherwise mark any fish to be released alive into the inland waters of the State without the written consent of the Commissioner (Title 12, §12601).

Night Fishing: Except as otherwise provided by rule, all waters open to fishing are open to fishing 24 hours a day. All lines must be under the immediate supervision of the person who set them (Open Water Fishing - Title 12, §12652, Ice Fishing - Title 12, §12659-A). Exception: All lines

set through the ice at night for cusk must be checked at least once every hour by the person who set them (Title 12, §12659-A-4).

Removal of Bag Limits on

Bass: In waters where the bag limit on bass has been removed by special rule, the season on bass and the method of fishing for them is the same as for trout and landlocked salmon (Title 12, §12601).

Removal of Heads and Tails:

It is unlawful to alter the length of landlocked salmon, trout, togue, lake whitefish, and bass unless the fish are being prepared for immediate cooking. It is unlawful to possess or transport fish dressed in such a manner that the species of fish cannot be identified; unless the fish are being prepared for immediate cooking (smoking does not constitute cooking) (Title 12, §12601).

Sale of Certain Fish Prohibited:

It is unlawful to buy or sell, directly or indirectly, trout, togue, landlocked salmon, bass, white perch, or pickerel (except fish which have been lawfully produced by commercial producers and skins of fish which have been preserved by taxidermy) (Title 12, §12609-A).

Salmon Eggs As Bait: Commercially prepared eggs from species that do not naturally occur in this State may be used for bait (Title 12, §12553).

Season Dates: All dates are inclusive.

Smelting: Unless closed by rule as indicated within the Special

Maine Fishing Laws to know (continued)



Regulations Section a person holding a valid Maine fishing license may take smelts for recreational purposes only from the inland waters or portions of inland waters that naturally free of ice with a dip net in the usual and ordinary way from noon to 2:00 a.m. in accordance with bag limits established by rule. Bag limits established by rule under this paragraph are for a 24-hour period, beginning at noon on a given day and ending at 11:59 a.m. the following day. A person may not take smelts with a dip net unless it meets the requirements listed under the dip net definition (Title 12, §12456). A dip net when used to take smelts in a tributary or within 100 feet of the mouth of a tributary must contain a rigid circular frame that is not more than 24 inches in diameter as measured at any point on the hoop and manually operated by a single person (Title 12, §10001-12-A).

Note: An unlimited number of baited hooks may be used on your line while fishing for smelts.

Snagging: It is unlawful to fish for any fish, except suckers, by snagging (Title 12, §12651 & Title 12, §12602).

Special Bag Limit: Whenever any waters have a special bag limit, no person shall possess more than one day's bag limit taken from those waters.

Species Identification: It is unlawful to possess or transport fish dressed in such a manner that the species of the fish cannot be identified unless the fish are being pre-

pared for immediate cooking. (Smoking does not constitute cooking.) (Title 12, §12601)

Suckers: Persons licensed, or otherwise entitled to fish, may take suckers for their own use between April 1st and June 30th from all rivers, streams and brooks open to fishing by use of a hand spear, bow and arrow or by snagging.

Note: If suckers are taken by bow and arrow, the arrow must have a barbed or pronged point and must be attached to the bow with a line (Title 12, §12506-7).

Supervision of Lines: All lines must be under the immediate supervision of the person who set them.

Exception: All lines set through the ice at night for cusk must be checked at least once every hour by the person who set them (Open Water Fishing - Title 12, - §12652, Ice Fishing - Title 12, §12659-A, Cusk Fishing - Title 12, §12659-A).

Ten-Acre Ponds: All ponds of 10 acres or less, whether the pond is natural or artificial, formed on rivers, streams and brooks are governed by the same fishing laws that apply to the river, stream, or brook where the pond is situated (Title 12, §12451).

Note: This does not apply to private ponds.

Exception: If a lake or pond is in the alphabetical waterbody list of the Special Fishing Laws section then lake and pond general and special laws apply.

Use of Explosive, Poisonous or Stupefying Substance: It is unlawful to take or destroy any fish by use of an explosive, poisonous or stupefying substance (Title 12, §12653).

Use of Fish (live or dead) as

Bait:

It is unlawful to import any live bait-fish or smelts into Maine.

Special laws applicable to Mousam Lake

S-2: Closed to the taking of smelts, except by hook and line.

S-3: Direct tributaries closed to the taking of smelts.

For October 1-December 31:

S-7: All trout, landlocked salmon, and togue caught must be released alive at once.

ALO: Artificial lures only.

Special laws applicable to Goose Pond:

S-4: Use or possession of live fish as bait is prohibited. (The use of dead fish, salmon eggs, or worms is permitted.)

S-17: Daily bag limit on brook trout (includes splake and Arctic charr): 2 fish; minimum length limit: 10 inches, only 1 may exceed 12 inches.

October 1-December 31: Closed to all fishing.

For more information on Maine's fishing laws, please visit the Maine IFW website at <http://www.maine.gov/ifw/index.html>



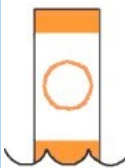
Boater Safety Tips

Boater Safety is a huge concern on Mousam Lake due to the narrow width in many parts of the lake. Please review these tips and regulations to make your boating season an enjoyable and safe one!

Navigation and markers- The “Rules of the Road” is one of the most misunderstood parts of boating for most weekend boaters. It is important to know basic navigation laws and the type of navigation markers you might see out in waterways.

- When meeting another vessel head-on, keep to the right (starboard). A non-motorized vessel always has the right of way.
- When crossing paths, the vessel to the right (starboard) has the right of way. If one of the vessels is non-motorized, they have the right of way no matter what side they are on.
- When overtaking another vessel, the one that is being passed has the right of way.
- Within 200 feet of shore is designated as “No Wake”

Markers:



- Controlled area—Used for speed limits and no-wake zones



- Danger—Warns of navigational hazards such as rocks, dams or stumps



- Exclusion Zone—All vessels keep out. Usually used for swim areas and dams



- Information— directions or location of food, fuel, etc.



- Obstruction— do not pass between marker and nearest shore. If two markers present, do not pass between



- Diver below— divers in the water nearby

Life Jackets and Personal Floatation Devices (PFDs)- There are 5 types of life jackets and PFDs, depending on activity:

- Wearable Type I—Offshore life jacket
- Wearable Type II—Near Shore vests. These are the orange vests that most of us have on our boats.
- Wearable Type III—Flotation Aids. These are most commonly used for water-sports and PWCs
- Throwable Type IV—Throw cushions and life rings
- Wearable type V—Special Use devices such as for kayaking, water skiing, etc.

ALL watercraft MUST have at

least one wearable PFD for each passenger. In addition, all boats 16 feet and longer must have one type IV throwable PFD. This applies to most of our boats on the lake.

Children 10 and under must wear a life jacket at all times unless the boat is docked or anchored.

Navigation Lighting

When a vessel is underway:

- Powered vessels less than 40 feet long must have red and green side lights and a white stern light
- Unpowered vessels less than 23 feet long should have a lantern or flashlight shining a white light at a minimum.

When not underway, all vessels are required to display a white light. If manually propelled (canoe or kayak) a white light should be ready to be displayed

Fire Extinguishers

It is always a good idea to carry a fire extinguisher onboard any motorboat or PWC. Maine law states that if a vessel has a permanently installed fuel tank, a USCG approved Type B fire extinguisher must be onboard

Personal Watercraft (PWCs)

The following rules apply specifically to PWC:

- Everyone riding a PWC must



Boater Safety Tips (continued)



wear a non-inflatable life jacket at all times

- PWCs may not be operated between sunset and sunrise
- No one under the age of 16 may operate a PWC
- Operators 16 and 17 years of age must complete a safety course and have proof on the PWC or be accompanied by a person 18 or older

Paddleboards

The use of paddleboards is growing in popularity in Maine. When using a paddleboard, certain rules apply.

- Paddleboard users must comply with all recreational boating laws and rules
- Paddleboards must have a life jacket for each person on board, a sound-producing device such as a whistle, a white flashlight or headlamp when used between sunset and sunrise, and a visual distress signal when used between sunset and sunrise.

Skiing and Tubing

Vessels towing a skier, tube or other device have additional laws

- All persons being towed be-

hind a recreational vessel on any device must wear a non-inflatable life jacket

- It is illegal to tow a person on any device one half hour after sunset or one half hour before sunrise. If towing with a PWC,

it may tow between sunrise and sunset only

- Every vessel towing a person on any device must have a responsible person other than the driver at least 12 years old on board to observe the persons being towed continuously
- It is illegal to operate a vessel towing any device within 200 feet of shore
- A vessel towing a person must not exceed the total capacity for the vessel (i.e. a PWC rated for 3 passengers can carry a driver, a spotter and one person being towed)

To see the complete list of tips and regulations, visit the Maine IFW website and download the booklet at https://www.boat-ed.com/assets/pdf/handbook/me_handbook_entire.pdf



ASYCC Welcomes New CBI Director

Hello All;

My name is Dave Burns and I will be assuming the role of CBI Director for the 2018 season. Also Doug Ridley will be assuming the ECC Director role for this year as well, We are very excited as well as looking forward to this year. Betty Smith will continue to serve the organization as an advisor to the BOD and Kent Haake was voted in as the new President of the



Organization we hope that you will join us in wishing them the best in their new roles.

The 2018 ASYCC Courtesy Boat Inspection team will work from late April until Columbus Day weekend, conducting inspections at the boat launches on Mousam Lake and Square Pond. We are currently seeking inspectors of all ages (from High School to retired).

All applications are due by March 31, 2018 and can be found at www.asycc.com/jobs.html

Applications can be emailed to Dave Burns at cbileader@asycc.com or mailed to Dave Burns, ASYCC, P.O. Box 47, Springvale, Maine 04083.

The ASYCC Erosion Control Crew will work from late June through

mid-August, completing erosion control projects for landowners on Mousam Lake, Square Pond, Loon Pond and Goose Pond. We are currently seeking high school students for crew members and a more experienced crew leader for the ECC team.

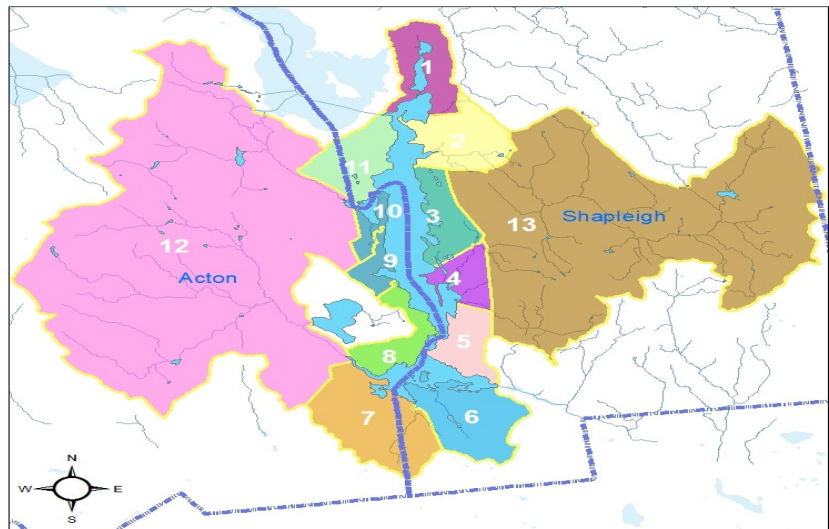
If you are interested, please download an application. All applications are due by March 31, 2018 and interviews will take place in mid April. Applications can be emailed to Doug Ridley at ecclleader@asycc.com or mailed to Doug Ridley, ASYCC, P.O. Box 47, Springvale, Maine 04083.

Dave Burns
CBI Director, ASYCC
cbileader@asycc.com
207-651-2604

Mousam Lake Watershed Survey Update

The purpose of this survey was to identify and prioritize existing sources of polluted runoff, particularly soil erosion sites, while making general recommendations to landowners for fixing erosion problems on their properties. This survey identified 189 sites within the Mousam Lake Watershed that are impacting or have the potential to impact water quality. Most of the identified sites can be addressed with little time and cost. Is your property on this list?

To view the full survey please visit the MLRA website www.Mousamlake.org and click on the "Our Lake" tab.



0 0.3 0.6 1.2 1.8 2.4 Miles

Survey Sectors	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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ASYCC Update

The Acton Shapleigh Youth Conservation Corps (ASYCC) is a community based non-profit organization whose goal is to protect the lakes and water quality in the Mousam Lake - Square Pond Watershed through the application of effective erosion control measures, technical assistance, public outreach, education and courtesy boat inspections.

The ASYCC works closely with town code enforcement officers, town officials, the York County Soil & Water District, local lake associations and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. We are proud to staff our program with youths and adults with direct ties to the towns we serve. During 2017, the Erosion Control Crew (ECC) completed 20 erosion control projects. Since 2001, the Erosion Control Crew has completed 367 erosion control projects within the Mousam Lake-Square Pond Watershed. The demand for the Erosion Control Crew continues to remain constant; with fewer than 30 percent of the property owners within the watershed having used the services of the ECC, there is still more work to be done. Education continues to be a major focus of our program. During the 2017 season the ASYCC conducted 48 technical visits to prop-

erty owners, for a total of 688 since 2001, and the demand continues to rise.

The second program under the AYSCC umbrella is the Courtesy Boat Inspection Program (CBI). The CBI program works to prevent the introduction of invasive aquatic plants from entering the Mousam Lake-Square Pond Watershed. During the 2017 CBI season, 6650 boats were inspected. All plant fragment collections tagged and submitted by our inspectors were determined to be native/non-invasive finds.

As the number of boaters visiting the clean waters of the Mousam Lake-Square Pond Watershed continues to increase, so do the chances of an invasive plant or organism being entered into our important waters. With the constant and consistent presence of the CBIs on the Mousam Lake and Square Pond Boat Launches, the public continues to be favorable and better educated about the risks of these invasive and their potential hazards to our beautiful waterways. The ASYCC CBI program is an important line of defense for our lakes.

On behalf of the ASYCC organization, we would like to thank the MLRA for your continued support and look forward to another suc-

cessful year of working together for the good of our nearby towns, residents and businesses, the lake and pond property owners and the visitors of our great water resources. Though we have done great things together to date, there is much work that remains to protect our most valuable resources. If you would like to learn more about the ASYCC or to view past ASYCC Annual reports please visit www.asycc.com.

All of this would not be possible without our dedicated volunteer Board members who provide time, knowledge and support. Our members include Kent Haake- President, Joe Borst-Treasurer, Jane Thomas-Secretary, Scott & Debbie Lansberry-Directors. And we are happy to announce two new members sharing a Director's position - Craig & Annmarie McMurray. The ASYCC has open board member positions available and we encourage anyone who may be interested, to contact us via our web site link mentioned above. Help us to continue this important work.

Lastly, SAVE THE DATE for the Annual ASYCC Golf Tournament planned for August 3, 2018! Be on the lookout for more information coming soon.

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 news-

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

Welcome New Members!

2017: Gary & Ann Brown
William & Jennifer Gramzow
Jeff & Jennifer McLeod
Michael & Ann Roche
Peter Regan
Bruce & Holli Haines
Daniel Chabot
Brad & Mary Parcher
Dave & Sara Lundquist
Bradford Waterworth
Nancy & Michael Keane
Melvin & Linda Leger
Gordon Waterman
Bob Sirois
John DiPietropolo
Kathy & Don Labrecque
Ann LeGere
Kevin & Kin Lapierre
Nicole Sampson & Peter Tonge

1st St, Shapleigh
Shapleigh Corner Rd, Acton
Avenue A, Acton
Fairlane Dr, Acton
32nd St, Shapleigh
16th St Loop, Shapleigh
7th St, Acton
30th St, Shapleigh
Meador Ln, Shapleigh
7th St, Acton
Totte Rd, Shapleigh
Tanzella Dr, Acton
10th St, Acton
30th St, Shapleigh
Shapleigh
7th St, Acton
30th St, Shapleigh
Hollen Way, Shapleigh
Point Rd, Shapleigh

2018: Brenda Quinn & Larry James
Darren & Liz Teasck
Pam & Nils Oulundsen
Sharon Herbert
Yoli & Eric Gallagher
Dan & Laura Lajeunesse
The Jones Family
George & Jackie Earley
John & Lori Black
Pat & Lee Menocoboni
Alan & Joanne Fessenden
Robert Tassone

34th St., Acton
13th St., Acton
Stern Way, Shapleigh
29th St., Shapleigh
Crook Neck, Shapleigh
24th St., Shapleigh
Avenue D, Acton
13th St., Acton
32nd St. Shapleigh
Cattail Loop, Shapleigh
Covewood Dr., Acton
Hemlock Lane, Acton

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!

**MOUSAM LAKE REGION
ASSOCIATION**

PO BOX 333
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WW.MOUSAMLAKE.ORG



REGION ASSOCIATION