



Mousam Lake Region Association

P.O. BOX 333 SPRINGVALE, ME 04083

WWW.MOUSAMLAKE.ORG

Spring 2019 Newsletter

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Please visit the Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and get your copy of the 2019 boating laws and 2019 fishing laws!
Boating: <https://www.maine.gov/ifw/docs/boat-ed.com-maine-handbook.pdf>

Fishing: https://www.maine.gov/ifw/docs/2019_MaineFishingLaws.pdf

Support the MLRA when you shop at Amazon.com! Use this [Amazon Smile](#) 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 Note from the MLRA President

Greetings MLRA members, The weather is slowly starting to swing into spring, leaving us with only memories of this past winter. For me, the 2018/19 winter will be remembered as the year the Patriots won the Super Bowl. Again, I can hardly wait to count the number of Patriot themed pontoon boats that enter into this summer's MLRA boat parade (Thursday, July 4, Acton Side).

The Board of Director's have been busy. 2019 Membership Dues letters will be sent out April 1. (If you do not receive you letter, please contact us at: membership@mousamlake.org).

We have finalized plans for all the popular summer activities including the boat parade and kids fishing derby. You can expect to see the Lake Watch boat out collecting water quality data this summer at one of the five

sampling stations on the Lake. Laurie Callahan and her crew from the York County Invasive Aquatic Species Project will be patrolling the shoreline looking for invasive plant. Make sure to say hello if you see them.

Long-standing initiatives including the maintenance of the lake markers and winter camp inspections continue. MLRA will be involved in all of this and more this year! Look for updates to our website and an active presence on Facebook in the upcoming year.

All this great work would not be possible without the



support from our membership. Thank you! Please feel free to share any feedback or ideas you may have with the MLRA Board. If you are interested in making even more of a difference, please consider volunteering with MLRA!

Enjoy your spring, and I hope to see you at YOUR 2019 MLRA Annual Meeting on June 29th.

Mark

Plant Buffer Zones!

Spring is a great time to evaluate your plant buffer zone! Please help prevent erosion and runoff from entering our lake by planting some greenery.

Welcome New Members!

Carol & Gordie Clark **Goose Pond Road, Shapleigh**
Janet Hamlin **Ave C, Acton**
Robert & Valerie Taylor **12th St, Acton**

Directors	Contact Number	Position
Mark Rousseau	(978) 374-3771	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
David Landry	(207) 692-3361	Director
James Gilbert	(978) 284-3621	Director
Rebecca Talley	(210) 789-8969	Director
Roger Gutner	(603) 387-1151	Director

Keeping your Septic System (and You) Happy

Did you know that as a homeowner you're responsible for maintaining your septic system? Did you know that maintaining your septic system protects your investment in your home? Did you know that you should periodically inspect your system and pump out your septic tank?

If properly designed, constructed and maintained, your septic system can provide long-term, effective treatment of household wastewater. If your septic system isn't maintained, you might need to replace it, costing you thousands of dollars. A malfunctioning system can contaminate groundwater that might be a source of drinking water. And if you sell your home, your septic system must be in good working order.

This guide will help you care for your septic system. It will help you understand how your system works and what steps you can take as a homeowner to ensure your system will work properly. To help you learn more, consult the resources listed at the back of this booklet. A helpful checklist is also included at the end of the booklet to help you keep track of your septic system maintenance.

Components

A typical septic system has four main components: a pipe from the home, a septic tank, a drainfield, and the soil. Microbes in the soil digest or remove most contaminants from wastewater before it eventually reaches groundwater.

- **Pipe from the home** All of your household wastewater exits your home through a pipe to the septic tank.
- **Septic tank** The septic tank is a buried, watertight container typically made of concrete, fiberglass, or polyethylene. It holds the wastewater long enough to allow solids to settle out (forming sludge) and oil and grease to float to the surface (as scum). It also allows partial decomposition of the solid materials. Newer tanks generally have risers with lids at the ground surface to allow easy location, inspection, and pumping of the tank.
- **Drainfield** The wastewater exits the septic tank and is discharged into the drainfield for further treatment by the soil. The partially treated wastewater

is pushed along into the drainfield for further treatment every time new wastewater enters the tank. If the drainfield is overloaded with too much liquid, it will flood, causing sewage to flow to the ground surface or create backups in plumbing fixtures and prevent treatment of all wastewater.

- **Soil** Septic tank wastewater flows to the drainfield, where it percolates into the soil, which provides final treatment by removing harmful bacteria, viruses, and nutrients. Suitable soil is necessary for successful wastewater treatment.

Alternative systems

Because many areas don't have soils suitable for typical septic systems, you might have or need an alternative system. You might also have or need an alternative system if there are too many typical septic systems in one area or the systems are too close to groundwater or surface waters. Alternative septic systems use new technology to improve treatment processes and might need special care and maintenance. Some alternative systems use sand, peat, or plastic media instead of soil to promote wastewater treatment. Other systems might use wetlands, lagoons, aerators, or disinfection devices. Float switches, pumps, and other electrical or mechanical components are often used in alternative systems. Alternative systems should be inspected annually. Check with your local health department or installer for more information on operation and maintenance needs if you have or need an alternative system.

When septic systems are properly designed, constructed, and maintained, they effectively reduce or eliminate most human health or environmental threats posed by pollutants in household wastewater. However, they require regular maintenance or they can fail. Septic systems need to be monitored to ensure that they work properly throughout their service lives.

Saving money

A key reason to maintain your septic system is to save money! Failing septic systems are expensive to repair or replace, and poor maintenance is often the culprit. Having your septic system inspected regularly is a bargain when you consider the cost of replacing the entire system. Your system will need pumping depending on how many people live in the house and the size of the system. An unusable septic system or one in disrepair will lower your

property value and could pose a legal liability. Protecting health and the environment. Other good reasons for safe treatment of sewage include preventing the spread of infection and disease and protecting water resources. Typical pollutants in household wastewater are nitrogen, phosphorus, and disease-causing bacteria and viruses. If a septic system is working properly, it will effectively remove most of these pollutants.

Inadequately treated sewage from septic systems can be a cause of groundwater contamination. It poses a significant threat to drinking water and human health because it can contaminate drinking water wells and cause diseases and infections in people and animals. Improperly treated sewage that contaminates nearby surface waters also increases the chance of swimmers contracting a variety of infectious diseases. These range from eye and ear infections to acute gastrointestinal illness and diseases like hepatitis.

Inspect and pump frequently

You should have a typical septic system inspected at least every 3 years by a professional and your tank pumped as recommended by the inspector (generally every 3 to 5 years). Alternative systems with electrical float switches, pumps, or mechanical components need to be inspected more often, generally once a year. Your service provider should inspect for leaks and look at the scum and sludge layers in your septic tank. If the bottom of the scum layer is within 6 inches of the bottom of the outlet tee or the top of the sludge layer is within 12 inches of the outlet tee, your tank needs to be pumped. Remember to note the sludge and scum levels determined by your service provider in your operation and maintenance records. This information will help you decide how often pumping is necessary. Four major factors influence the frequency of pumping: the number of people in your household, the amount of wastewater generated (based on the number of people in the household and the amount of water used), the volume of solids in the wastewater (for example, using a garbage disposal increases the amount of solids), and septic tank size. Some makers of septic tank additives

claim that their products break down the sludge in septic tanks so the tanks never need to be pumped. Not everyone agrees on the effectiveness of additives. In fact, septic tanks already contain the microbes they need for effective treatment. Periodic pumping is a much better way to ensure that septic systems work properly and provide many years of service. Regardless, every septic tank requires periodic pumping. In the service report, the pumper should note any repairs completed and whether the tank is in good condition. If the pumper recommends additional repairs he or she can't perform, hire someone to make the repairs as soon as possible.

Use water efficiently

Average indoor water use in the typical single-family home is almost 70 gallons per person per day. Leaky toilets can waste as much as 200 gallons each day. The more water a household conserves, the less water enters the septic system. Efficient water use can improve the operation of the septic system and reduce the risk of failure.

High-efficiency toilets Toilet use accounts for 25 to 30 percent of household water use. Do you know how many gallons of water your toilet uses to empty the bowl? Most older homes have toilets with 3.5- to 5-gallon reservoirs, while newer high-efficiency toilets use 1.6 gallons of water or less per flush. If you have problems with your septic system being flooded with household water, consider reducing the volume of water in the toilet tank if you don't have a high-efficiency model or replacing your existing toilets with high-efficiency models.

Faucet aerators and high efficiency showerheads

Faucet aerators help reduce water use and the volume of water entering your septic system. High-efficiency showerheads or shower flow restrictors also reduce water use.

Water fixtures

Check to make sure your toilet's reservoir isn't leaking into the bowl. Add five drops of liquid food coloring to the reservoir before bed. If the dye is in the bowl the next morning, the reservoir is leaking and repairs are needed. A small drip from a faucet adds many gallons of unnecessary water to your system every day. To see how much a leak adds to your water usage, place a cup under the drip for 10 minutes. Multiply the amount of water in the cup by 144 (the number of minutes in 24 hours,

divided by 10). This is the total amount of clean water traveling to your septic system each day from that little leak.

Watch your drains What goes down the drain can have a major impact on how well your septic system works.

Waste disposal What shouldn't you flush down your toilet? Dental floss, feminine hygiene products, condoms, diapers, cotton swabs, cigarette butts, coffee grounds, cat litter, paper towels, and other kitchen and bathroom items that can clog and potentially damage septic system components if they become trapped. Flushing household chemicals, gasoline, oil, pesticides, antifreeze, and paint can stress or destroy the biological treatment taking place in the system or might contaminate surface waters and groundwater. If your septic tank pumper is concerned about quickly accumulating scum layers, reduce the flow of floatable materials like fats, oils, and grease into your tank or be prepared to pay for more frequent inspections and pumping.

Washing machines By selecting the proper load size, you'll reduce water waste. Washing small loads of laundry on the large-load cycle wastes precious water and energy. If you can't select load size, run only full loads of laundry. Doing all the household laundry in one day might seem like a time-saver, but it could be harmful to your septic system. Doing load after load does not allow your septic tank time to adequately treat wastes. You could be flooding your drainfield without allowing sufficient recovery time. Try to spread water usage throughout the week. A new Energy Star clothes washer uses 35 percent less energy and 50 percent less water than a standard model.

Failure symptoms The most obvious septic system failures are easy to spot. Check for pooling water or muddy soil around your septic system or in your basement. Notice whether your toilet or sink backs up when you flush or do laundry. You might also notice strips of bright green grass over the drainfield. Septic systems also fail when partially treated wastewater comes into contact with groundwater. This type of failure is not easy to detect, but it can result in the pollution of wells, nearby streams, or other bodies of water. Check with a septic system professional and the local health department if you suspect such a failure.

Failure causes Household toxics Does someone in your house use the utility sink

to clean out paint rollers or flush toxic cleaners? Oil-based paints, solvents, and large volumes of toxic cleaners should not enter your septic system. Even latex paint cleanup waste should be minimized.

Squeeze all excess paint and stain from brushes and rollers on several layers of newspaper before rinsing. Leftover paints and wood stains should be taken to your local household hazardous waste collection center. Remember that your septic system contains a living collection of organisms that digest and treat waste.

Household cleaners For the most part, your septic system's bacteria should recover quickly after small amounts of household cleaning products have entered the system. Of course, some cleaning products are less toxic to your system than others. Labels can help key you into the potential toxicity of various products. The word "Danger" or "Poison" on a label indicates that the product is highly hazardous. "Warning" tells you the product is moderately hazardous. "Caution" means the product is slightly hazardous. ("Nontoxic" and "Septic Safe" are terms created by advertisers to sell products.) Regardless of the type of product, use it only in the amounts shown on the label instructions and minimize the amount discharged into your septic system.

Water Purification Systems Some freshwater purification systems, including water softeners, unnecessarily pump water into the septic system. This can contribute hundreds of gallons of water to the septic tank, causing agitation of solids and excess flow to the drainfield. Check with your licensed plumbing professional about alternative routing for such freshwater treatment systems.

Garbage disposals Eliminating the use of a garbage disposal can reduce the amount of grease and solids entering the septic tank and possibly clogging the drainfield. A garbage disposal grinds up kitchen scraps, suspends them in water, and sends the mixture to the septic tank. Once in the septic tank, some of the materials are broken down by bacterial action, but most of the grindings have to be pumped out of the tank. Using a garbage disposal frequently can significantly increase the accumulation of sludge and scum in your septic tank, resulting in the need for more frequent pumping.

For more information on septic systems, visit the EPA website at www.epa.gov/owm/septic

Springvale Fish and Game Club Ice Fishing Derby on Mousam Lake

The Springvale Fish & Game Club held an ice fishing derby on Mousam Lake February 9, 2019. The derby was a great time for all the participants and proceeds went to a very deserving group of kids! Here are some photos of the event:



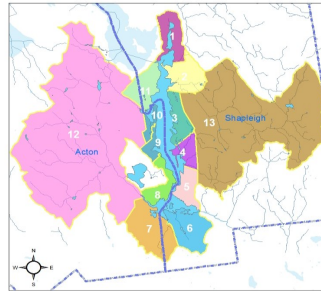


MLRA Watershed Survey and 319 Grant Update

New Watershed Grant on Mousam Lake to begin soon!

The York County Soil & Water Conservation District (YCSWCD) in collaboration with Mousam Lake Region Association (MLRA) and the Acton-Shapleigh Youth Conservation Corps (ASYCC) was recently awarded grant funds to assist the local community with the implementation of Phase I of the Mousam Lake Watershed Protection Project. This grant is funded in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act has been awarded to and aims to address the highest impact sites identified in the 2017 Mousam Lake Watershed Survey with intentions of applying for Phase II & III grants in the future. The project begins in March 2019

and wraps up in December 2020. Included are cost sharing grants for both road and residential (both private and public) erosion control projects. LakeSmart workshops and presentations are planned as well. (*LakeSmart is an education and reward program that assists lakefront homeowners manage landscapes in ways that protect water quality. LakeSmart is free, non-regulatory and voluntary and is practiced state wide in many other watersheds.*) A steering committee will guide all grant project activities and is comprised of representatives from YCSWCD, MLRA, ASYCC, Three Rivers Land Trust, the Towns of Acton and Shapleigh and



Maine Department of Environmental Protection. Save the date for the MLRA Annual Meeting on June 29th, 2019 for more news and information about this exciting project that will help protect Mousam Lake's water quality.

For more information please contact:
York County Soil & Water Conservation District at 207-324-0888 x 214
MLRA at general@mousamlake.org
Or ASYCC at

betty@asycc.com and/or president@asycc.com , (413) 695-1533

You can view the full Watershed Survey at this link:

<http://www.asycc.com/pdfs/newupload-2017DecFri0212.pdf>

MLRA 2019 Calendar of Events

Mark your calendars for these great MLRA events in 2019! They are a great way to meet other members and have some fun!

MLRA 2019 Annual Meeting

June 29, 9am—Acton Fairgrounds

Light Up The Lake

July 3, Sunset

MLRA Annual Boat Parade

July 4, Register in Carpenter's Cove at 11am, Parade Starts at 12pm. Route will be Acton

Invasive Plant Patrol Workshop

TBD (Please email general@mousamlake.org for more information)

Kids Fishing Derby

Saturday, July 20, 9am-Noon. Register at Baxter dock 8:30am

ASYCC Annual Golf Tournament

Friday, August 2 Province Lake Golf Course

ASYCC Update



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

Highlights for 2018 include 60 technical visits and 19 projects for the Erosion Control Crew (ECC) and a over 7,000+ boat inspections conducted by our Courtesy Boat Inspectors (CBIs), with all plant and animal collections being identified as native.

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 toward inspection 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.

As a new effort to protect our watersheds, we are partnering with Laurie Callahan Founder and Coordinator at the York County Invasive Aquatic Species Project (YCIASP) to start a pilot project in 2019 to carry out systematic Invasive Plant Patrols (IPP). This effort will begin on Mousam Lake and we will be training several CBI's to look for invasive plants. This will be a "win-win", providing a new way to protect Mousam Lake and generate further training for our CBI's to keep a sharper lookout for invasive plants when doing boat inspections.

We have received word that the Mousam Lake Watershed Protection Project has been conditionally awarded by DEP (319 Grant)! A separate article in this newsletter will provide further details about this grant.

We are currently in the hiring process for Erosion Control Crew members, Courtesy Boat Inspectors, and a college level Intern to work doing Erosion Control Technical Site visits/setup and be an occasional ECC leader. We have job descriptions and applications posted at www.asycc.com.

Please pass this information on to anyone who might be interested in working for the ASYCC this summer.

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 and John Chamberlain - Directors. 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 2, 2019! Be on the lookout for more information coming soon. Our 2018 golf tournament was again held at the Province Lake Golf Course, in Parsonsfield, ME, even though the golf course endured a devastating fire the previous winter. The 14th Annual Event was a great success. 105 golfers and 14 volunteers gathered to help raise over \$20,000 in net proceeds! We truly appreciate our Sponsors, Donors, Golfers and Volunteers involved to help keep our important mission funded and running smoothly.

For more information on the Acton-Shapleigh Youth Conservation Corps, please visit their website at

<http://www.asycc.com>

A Message From Membership

Spring is just around the corner and we'll all be back on the lakes. Keep an eye out for the 2019 Dues Letters that will be mailed on April 1st. We ask that you please remit your dues with the 1st notice. We currently have 450 active members and 20% require multiple mailings before

they send in their dues. We are all volunteers, your delayed remittance is a drain on MLRA funds and volunteers time. Lets aim for 100% cooperation and have all dues in before the Annual meeting on June 29th. It would be wonderful to see more of you at the Annual meeting. How about it? It's

short, informative and your opportunity to meet and speak with the board.

Patti- Membership Manager
membership@mousamlake.org

Goin' Retro!

G.A.R. Camps on Mousam Lake



These well-known and popular camps were originally built by Asa Lerner, a Civil War veteran from Lawrence, Massachusetts. In 1896, Mr. Lerner built what was the store, ice house, boat-house and the two cottages on the southern end of the property. In the next few years he built 7 more cottages, two stables, a bandstand and a dance hall. These camps were named G.A.R. camps, or Grand American Republic. Mr. Lerner named the camps after Civil War generals, except the first one, which he called "Admiral Dewey". The others were named Generals Miles, Sheridan, Needham, Grant, Hooker, Anderson, Banks and But-

ler. Each camp had a picture of the officer for which

In 1917, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Meader, who had worked for Mr. Lerner, bought the camps and ran them, as well as dances at the dance hall, for many years. Their son, Waldo, was the last to operate them. Many people remember past days at "Meader's Casino" on the water.

A cottage with 4 spring beds, complete, cost \$1.25 per day. Milk and Ice were free. The cottages were furnished with furniture, cook stove, dishes, silver knives and forks, spoons and lamps. Fuel and lights were also furnished. One row boat per cottage. Parties renting cottages had to furnish sheets, pillow slips, towels and napkins.

The stage left Springvale at 12 o'clock every day for the Lake and G.A.R. Camp. Early advertisements toted "the Lake is surrounded by splendid scenery and mountains, is five miles long and one mile wide and good fishing and bathing is one of its best features. A steamer on the lake carries passengers ten miles for 10 cents. Groceries, ice, etc., delivered at the cottages every day. Take stage marked G.A.R. Camp. Fare from Springvale to the camp (five miles), 50 cents. Children half price. Good black bass, lake trout, horn pout, pickerel, brook trout and land-locked salmon fishing." In the picture below, the largest of the buildings (with the American Flag) is the Dance Hall.

(Information and picture courtesy of Acton-Shapleigh Historical Society)

If you are interested in submitting a historical article, story, or anything of interest for future newsletters, email: gcthib@comcast.net

Look for the Fall
Newsletter in September!

MOUSAM LAKE REGION ASSOCIATION

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REGION ASSOCIATION