



REGION ASSOCIATION

# Mousam Lake Region Association

P.O. BOX 333 SPRINGVALE, ME 04083

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Visit the MLRA Website:  
[www.mousamlake.org](http://www.mousamlake.org)

Greetings MLRA Members,

I would like to provide you with a quick update on the status of MLRA activities this past year. Despite some significant challenges during the pandemic, the business of the Association continued on with limited disruptions thanks to a very dedicated group of volunteers constantly adapting and adjusting to make sure the core Association issues were addressed. The Board of Directors maintained their schedule, meeting virtually almost every month since March 2020. Newsletters and dues letter mailings have remained on schedule throughout and are on track for 2021. Maintenance and upkeep of the beach at the foot of the lake and camp inspections have continued on schedule without disruption. The lake watch boat was out and about all summer patrolling, distributing boater safety information, and collecting Secci readings at all of our water quality monitoring sites. And our active member numbers have continued to increase thanks to the proactive efforts of Patti Baxter, our membership point person.

More people seeking safe outdoor activities generated significantly more activity on our lake last summer, and we have numbers to confirm this. Our partners at ASYCC documented more than 7,700 courtesy boat inspections, a more than 10% increase over 2019 and the most of any year since the start of the program. Navigation aids were installed earlier and stayed in later in response to member requests due to increased boat traffic.



Photo used with permission from Grant Corso

With restrictions being lifted, MLRA Board is coordinating the usual summer activities including the boat parade and kids fishing derby. Space at the Acton Fairgrounds has been confirmed for the 2021 MLRA Annual Meeting on June 26<sup>th</sup>. More information on MLRA events can be found in this newsletter and on the MLRA website. MLRA is always looking for volunteers to help support Association activities. If you would like to make a difference, please consider volunteering.

See you around the lake.

Mark

## Join us for the MLRA Annual Meeting

We are excited to be able to hold the MLRA Annual Meeting again this year. Please join us **Saturday, June 26th from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm** at the **Acton Fairgrounds** for our 65th Annual Meeting.

The meeting provides members an opportunity to hear the results of the prior year efforts by the MLRA, current year initiatives and relevant guest speakers discussing lake associated topics. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend. There are interactive educational materials and information present for members to view. And of course raffle prizes and a 50/50! We hope to see you there!!

## GAR Camps

By Chris Leupold

Captain Asa Lerner from Lawrence Massachusetts built the first of the G.A.R. Camps on Mousam Lake in about 1896. He eventually built ten camps, a store, pavilion, band stand and stable. The camps were named for civil war generals: Admiral Sampson, Admiral Dewey, General Miles, General Sheridan, General Needham, General Grant, General Hooker, General Anderson, General Banks, General Butler. The area was known as "Cap'n Lerner's Row" according to newspaper accounts. G.A.R. stood for Grand Army Review and later Grand American Republic.

The camps were advertised by the Lawrence Ice Cream Co. Lawrence, Mass at the time as follows –

*"G. A. R. Camp – Cottages to let. A.J. Lerner, Proprietor. Emery Mills, Maine*

*G.A.R. Camp is situated on Mousam Lake (fresh water) in Shapleigh, Maine, five miles from Springvale Depot, P&R R.R. Post Office address, Emery Mills, Maine. Stage leaves Springvale at 12 O'clock every day for the lake and G.A.R. Camp. 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 10 miles for ten cents. Groceries, Ice, etc. delivered to the cottages every day. Take stage marked G.A.R. Camp. Fare from Springvale to the camp (five miles) is 50 cents. Children half price. Good black bass, lake trout, horn pout, perch, pickerel, brook trout, white perch and land-locked salmon fishing. These cottages are furnished, a kitchen and dining room downstairs, three beds in one room upstairs, one bed in another room are partitioned off by curtains, are furnished with cook stoves, dishes, silver knives and forks, lamps, chairs and tables, are furnished with wood and oil, ice and three quarts of milk a day, one row boat. All for \$1.25 a day."*



## GAR Camps

By Chris Leupold

A.J. Lerner ran the camps until 1908 when he leased the camps to Strout and Remick for five years. Charlie Meader purchased the camps from A.J. Lerner in 1917 after having worked for Lerner. Meader sold the General Sampson to Augustus Gauthier in 1919. This camp still stands at the far northern edge of the property. Meader also tore down the pavilion and rebuilt it further away from the lake, and tore down the General Miles, using the lumber to enlarge the store. Charlie and his wife Alice ran the camps until the 1960's. The pavilion became known as Meader's Casino where dances were held Wednesday's and Saturday's. Bands including drummer Buddy Rich performed. Eventually the bands were replaced with a jukebox. The store sold Coca-Cola, penny candy, newspapers and hot dogs. The Meader's picked up the mail at the post office in Emery Mills for people on the lake. The store was a hangout for kids all over the lake.



Eventually Charlie and Alice's son Waldo and his wife Beatrice took over running the camps. Waldo built a camp just north of the store in the early 1970's that he and Beatrice lived in. Waldo continued to run the camps until the 1980's when he finally sold them. Since that time, the property has been subdivided. The store and dance hall having long since closed. The dance hall was moved up and away from the lake and put a foundation under it. It still stands and very much resembles its old self. The camps are all now privately owned.

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## Support the MLRA with Amazon Smile

We all know how easy it is to shop Amazon, but did you know your purchases could support the MLRA? Use [Amazon Smile](#) to shop and Amazon will donate to your favorite charitable organization... at no additional cost to you! Click [here](#) to access the [link](#) to Amazon Smile. Select MLRA as your charity and 0.5% of each eligible purchase will be donated back to the MLRA.

If you receive your newsletter via US Mail, the link is: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/22-2510524>

***All funds raised will help us to continue our mission to improve and enhance the quality of the lake and watershed.***

We thank you for your support!

## Additional Grant Money for Mousam Lake Watershed



**“Storm water runoff is the most significant source of pollution and the biggest threat to water quality in Maine Lakes.”**

Although Covid-19 delayed many things last year, work on the 319-grant moved forward despite the challenges. The MLRA learned last fall that an additional \$65,994 was made available for work on the Mousam Lake Watershed. This additional money called a Phase II Grant was awarded due to the progress made in the initial phase of the grant, the commitment of the stakeholder, Towns of Acton and Shapleigh, watershed property owners, the Mousam Region Lake Association, Acton-Shapleigh Youth Conservation Corps (ASYCC), and the strength of the projects proposed.

Watershed projects completed to date include 10 projects performed by the ASYCC and 3 larger projects including work done on 23<sup>rd</sup> Street Loop and Tattle Street on Lower Mousam. Projects pending for this coming season include 5 more ASYCC projects, potential projects on Starboard Lane, as well as work on Goose Pond Road and the area around the Goose Pond boat launch.

What is the aim of the projects in the Mousam Lake Watershed? Reducing storm water erosion and sediment deposition into the lake is the goal of all the projects done under the 319-grant program. Storm water runoff is the most significant source of pollution and the biggest threat to water quality in Maine Lakes.

There is still time to see if you qualify for having work done on your property sometimes with much of the expense of the work covered by the grant. There are two types of projects that can be done under the grant. First are smaller projects done for individual property owners. Here homeowners are eligible for up to \$400 to offset the cost of materials with the labor being provided free of charge by the ASYCC. The second type of work done under the grant are larger projects that are typically camp road work for individuals or road associations. In this instance the grant can provided significantly more funding. Property owners who would like to learn more are urged to contact Mindee Goodrum, local grant supervisor, at the York County Soil and Water Conservation District by email: [mgoodrum@yorkswcd.org](mailto:mgoodrum@yorkswcd.org) or by calling 207-432-3516.

Funding for the Mousam Lake grants are provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under Section 319(h) of the Clean Water Act. The funding is administered by the Maine DEP in partnership with the EPA. The EPA does not endorse any commercial products or services. The grant encourages local organizations, primarily volunteer groups, to work collaboratively in addressing watershed issues.



For detailed information on the Watershed Report, Survey List and Maps, visit the MLRA website at: <https://mousamlake.org/education/default.asp>

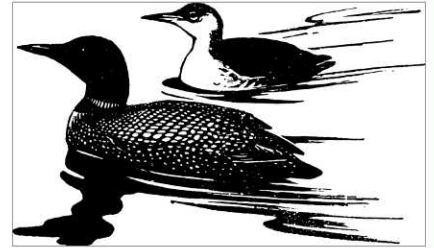
Educational Video produced on Mousam Lake:  
[https://mousamlake.org/education/quality\\_education.asp](https://mousamlake.org/education/quality_education.asp)

“Storm Water Runoff...a Threat to Water Quality in Maine Lakes”  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2TaaWqYeVls&feature=youtu.be>

## BE LOON AWARE

A Mousam Lake treasure is the Loon with its beautiful plumage and haunting calls. Loons make many Maine lakes their summer home and nesting area. Mousam Lake is fortunate to be one of those lakes! We must remember and respect that we share the lake with the Loons and all wildlife. Loon chicks hatch in late June, which coincides with the start of the busy boating season. Loon awareness and responsible watercraft use will help reduce the conflicts that can occur between boaters and loons.

There are many ways that watercraft can have a negative effect of loons: Power boats can send waves crashing into shorelines and loon platforms, drowning nests. Jet skis can speed in shallow water or near a loon nest and run over chicks. Boats pulling water skiers and tubers may speed near the loon nest or shorelines where baby loons may be swimming and run over chicks. Don't forget that the long rope attached to a tube or water skier has the potential to get close to a loon nest, tipping it over, soaking the babies or knocking the babies out of the nest. **KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE!**



**LISTEN TO LOONS** ~ If you approach a loon and hear it start to call, it is distressed or scared and means you are too close. **MOVE AWAY IMMEDIATELY!** If the danger is still present after the parents have called a few times, the adults will sink into the water and swim away. They'll pop up far away and call to their babies to follow them, but it may be too late. Young chicks don't dive! Eagles and gulls that heard the distress call (tremolo call) often fly over in hopes of finding an unprotected baby loon. During the time the little loons are scrambling to find their parents again, they can get eaten.

**WATCH WHAT LOONS DO** ~ If you see a loon "dancing" straight up out of the water and slapping with its wings, sometimes also making the distinctive yodel call, it is stressed and alarmed by your presence. **MOVE AWAY IMMEDIATELY!**

**GIVE LOONS PLENTY OF SPACE** ~ Enjoy watching them from a distance! They need solitude to breed and raise their young. Approaching too closely can inadvertently cause adult loons to leave their nests, potentially for long periods of time, causing chilling of the eggs and failure of the nest! When fishing, do not cast towards a loon or a loon platform.

Remember it takes all of us to watch out for the loons and their safety! Harassment of wildlife is against the law! If you see loons being harassed or boat safety violations, please report it to our local Maine Game Warden Dispatch Center at 1-800-452-4664 . Document as much information as possible including video, taking a picture of the event, and if possible record the vessel's registration number, vehicle and/or boat trailer license number. Thank you for being Loon aware and for practicing safe boating!

For more information about Loons, including the Loon Calendar, visit:  
<https://www.maine.gov/ifw/docs/livingwithloons.pdf>

Maine Game Warden Dispatch Center: 1-800-452-4664  
<https://www.maine.gov/ifw/warden-service/index.html>

## Stay Safe on the Lake: Boating Rules and Regulations

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Summer of 2020 brought one of the busiest boating seasons that Mousam Lake has had in recent years. Whether you are out for an evening cruise, pulling tubers, riding a jet ski, or taking a leisurely paddle on a kayak or paddle board, the MLRA would like everyone to stay safe and abide by the following rules and regulations.

### Maine Boating Rules and Regulations

#### *Motor Boats:*

- Headway speed only within 200 feet (2/3 of a football field) from shore, rafts, other boats or swimmers.
- Must be 12 years or older to operate a boat with more than 10 hp, unless supervised by someone at least 16 years of age.
- Imprudent operation, including prolonged circling, racing and wake jumping is prohibited.
- Remember to turn on your anchor and navigating lights at dusk.

#### *Personal Watercraft (Jet Ski or similar type)*

- Must be 16 years or older to operate.
- Headway speed only within 200 feet (2/3 of a football field) from shore and from specially marked buoy areas.
- No operation between sunset and sunrise.
- Imprudent operation, including prolonged circling, racing and wake jumping is prohibited.
- Be aware of water skiers and tubers who may cross your path when boating.
- Please respect the rights and privacy of waterfront property owners
- Keep a safe distance (100 feet) away from wildlife such as loons and their chicks to prevent injury.



## Stay Safe on the Lake: Boating Rules and Regulations

### Meaning of Lake Marker Symbols

#### White marker with orange identifications:

- Hazard Area, Shallow Area, Rocks.
- Headway Speed Only.
- Headway speed is the minimum speed required to maintain navigation – NO WAKE.

#### Black & White Vertical Stripe:

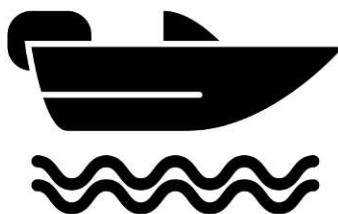
- Boats should not pass between marker and nearest shore/land.



Thank you to Glenn Baxter for putting the swim buoys in at the foot of the lake.

### Keep in mind these basic rules:

- Before launching your boat, please make sure that it has been washed clean of any possible plant material that could endanger the lake.
- Be careful of spills when refueling or mixing gas.
- Keep a container aboard your watercraft for trash and take it with you when you leave.
- Use headway speed only in channels or as otherwise indicated by markers.
- Use the toilet facilities provided at the public boat launch ramp or the public beach at the foot of the lake.
- Be aware of water skiers and tubers who may cross your path when boating.
- Remember to turn on your anchor and navigating lights at dusk.
- Please respect the rights and privacy of waterfront property owners
- Keep a safe distance (100 feet) away from wildlife such as loons and their chicks to prevent injury.



motor boat by iconnect from the Noun Project

## Welcome New Members!

Alan & Kris Stephens 16<sup>th</sup> St. Loop Shapleigh  
James & Diane Iannucci Hickory Lane Acton  
Alice Moore 1<sup>st</sup> St. Shapleigh  
Erik & Kate McDaniel Ave B Acton  
Stephen Gangemi 32<sup>nd</sup> St. Shapleigh  
Phyllis & Ben Welch 16<sup>th</sup> St. Loop Shapleigh (2<sup>nd</sup> camp)  
Sharon & Robert Bolen Shapleigh Corner Rd. Shapleigh  
Lorraine Cappuccio 17<sup>th</sup> St. Shapleigh  
Louis & Gene Mansour 18<sup>th</sup> St. Shapleigh  
Bryan & Samantha Daley Ave A Acton  
Linda & Dennis Murphy 11<sup>th</sup> St. Acton  
Troy Munford 34<sup>th</sup> St. Acton

### A Message From Membership

Dues letters have been sent to our 484 members. If you have not received yours, please email me at [membership@mousamlake.org](mailto:membership@mousamlake.org). We are having a quick response from our members on getting the dues sent in and we thank you for that as well as the generous donations. Stickers and your acknowledgement letter will be sent to the summer address we have on file shortly after we receive your dues. Please note any contact information changes when you send in the dues. You can always email any updates or changes at any time.

To **join** the MLRA *online*:

1. <https://mousamlake.org/>
2. Select **Members** tab
3. From drop down menu, select **Join-Register Online**

To **renew** your membership *online*, please use the **RENEWAL** form

- 1) <https://mousamlake.org/>
- 2) Select **Members** tab
- 3) From drop down menu, select **Renew Your Membership**

Wishing you all a wonderful summer.

Thank you all for your continued support.

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

*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 Fall/Winter Newsletter in November!*

PO BOX 333  
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[WWW.MOUSAMLAKE.ORG](http://WWW.MOUSAMLAKE.ORG)

**MLRA website:** <https://mousamlake.org>

**MLRA Facebook Page:** <https://www.facebook.com/MousamLakeRegionAssociation>





**2020– 2021 MLRA Board of Directors**

<b>Directors</b>	<b>Contact Number</b>	<b>Position</b>
Mark Rousseau	(978) 374-3771	President
Gary Thibodeaux	(207) 841-1575	Vice President
James (Jamie) Verity	(617) 901-5212	Treasurer Secretary
Dick Jagger	(207) 467-5888	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
Roger Gutner		Director
Amy Chartrain		Director



August 2019 Board Meeting

**In Memory**

Long time member and volunteer of the MLRA, Helen Vailliere passed away in January.

Helen was the membership coordinator for more than fifteen years. She was the driving force behind the MLRA cookbook, *Mousam Lake Camp Fixin's*. Published in 1998, this cookbook is a collection of recipes and stories submitted from members around the lake. Helen's husband Larry served the MLRA during the same time as president and treasurer and still resides on the lake. Helen and Larry were happily married for 66 years.

From *Mousam Lake Camp Fixin's*: (Look for more about this cookbook in the Fall Newsletter!)

**CORN RELISH**

<p><b>6 c. fresh corn kernels (12 corn on cob)</b>  <b>1 c. chopped onions</b>  <b>1 med. green pepper</b>  <b>1 med. red pepper</b>  <b>4 c. white vinegar</b>  <b>2 c. white sugar</b></p>	<p><b>1 c. water</b>  <b>1 Tbsp. pickling salt</b>  <b>1 Tbsp. celery seed</b>  <b>1 Tbsp. mustard seed</b>  <b>1 Tbsp. turmeric powder</b>  <b>1 bay leaf</b></p>
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In 6-8 qt. kettle, combine all above. Bring to boil over medium high heat. Stir occasionally. Reduce heat to medium. Cook 15 minutes and stir occasionally. Remove bay leaf. Put in hot sterilized jars. Process in hot bath for 15 minutes for pints. Makes 5-6 pints.

*Helen Vailliere, 13th Street*

## Mousam Lake Beach Clean-Up

Once again, the Acton-Shapleigh Youth Conservation Corps (ASYCC) completed spring clean-up at the Foot of the Lake. This beach area is well used by the local community and the MLRA supports the efforts of the ASYCC to keep this area maintained for the health of the lake and enjoyment of all. As a reminder to anyone that may use the beach, please remember these posted rules and do your part to keep Mousam Lake beautiful for future generations!



## MLRA Summer 2021 Activities

Please check the MLRA Facebook and Website for scheduled event updates.

<https://mousamlake.org/>

### Saturday, June 26: Annual Meeting

- 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at Acton Fairgrounds

### July 3: Light up the lake

- Add lights to your dock— be creative!

### July 4: Annual Boat Parade

- Registration begins at 11:00 am in Carpenter's Cove
- Parade starts at 11:30 am and proceeds down the Acton side to the Foot of the Lake
- Prizes for best big and small boat decorations

### Saturday, July 17, 9:00am to 12:00pm: Kid's Fishing Derby

- Registration begins at 8:30 am at Baxter's Dock (near The Foot)
- Final weigh-in at 12:00pm

### July 30: ASYCC Golf Tournament

- Province Lake Golf Club

