



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)

Dear Members,

As the weather improves and activity around Mousam Lake increases, we have some reminders for everyone to do their part to help protect our lake and make this summer season safe and enjoyable for all: Please **Respect, Review & Inspect!**

**RESPECT** the 200 feet No Wake zone and other boating laws. Want to know more about Maine's boating laws? The MLRA is sponsoring 3 boat safety courses this summer. Read more on page 3.

**REVIEW** your shoreline for erosion control opportunities, like creating or enhancing your plant buffer zone to prevent phosphates from entering our lake.

**INSPECT** your septic system and holding tank - if it hasn't been pumped out in the past 2 or 3 years, it's time!

Thank you for considering these items and for supporting the MLRA. We hope to see you all at the **Annual MLRA Meeting on Saturday, June 25th at the Acton Fairgrounds beginning at 9:00 am.**

-Jamie Verity  
on behalf of MLRA Board of Directors

Please visit the MLRA Facebook and MLRA website ([www.mousamlake.org](http://www.mousamlake.org)) to stay informed.

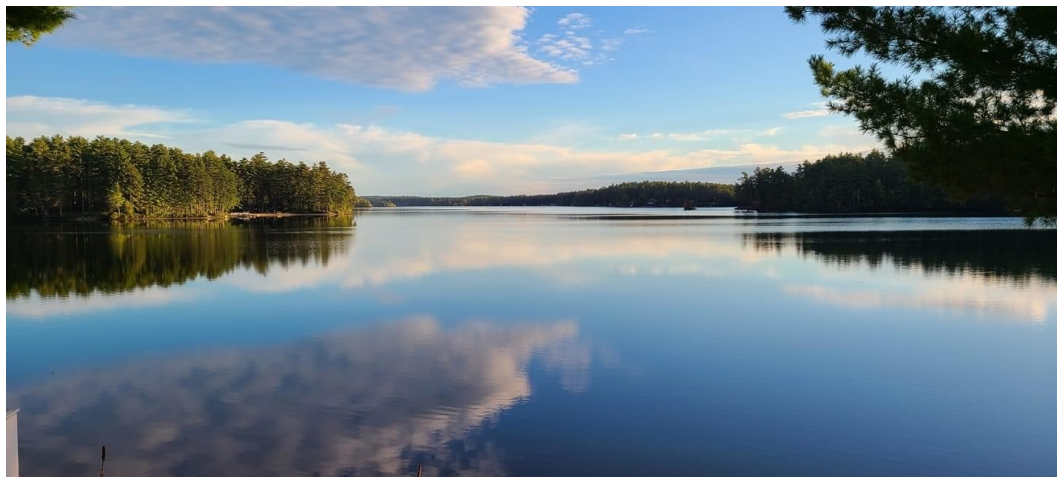


Photo used with permission from Nancy Nicolucci

## Watershed Work Continues on Mousam Lake

By David Landry

Phase I of the Mousam Lake 319 grant wrapped up this past December. The grant paid for fifteen ASYCC projects and six larger road projects. The MLRA took a leadership role in Phase I of the Mousam Lake Watershed Grant committing manpower and financial support which helped ensure the grant’s successful completion. Without input from a number of the MLRA Directors several of the projects would not have been completed. Not only has the MLRA provided strong leadership in water quality protection, the organization continues to be good stewards of the money its membership entrusts the organization with.

Phase II of the grant continues through the summer of 2022. Several larger projects are in the works including stabilization of the boat launch on Goose Pond and work to address runoff down the Goose Pond Road into Mousam Lake and Goose Pond. In the planning stages are two additional projects. The first is on 31<sup>st</sup> Street on Cattail Loop to address runoff the lake and a second is at the junction of 23<sup>rd</sup> Street and Sternway Drive again aimed at reducing storm water runoff into the lake.

Thirteen smaller shorefront projects are planned for Phase II of the grant. The smaller erosion control projects are very inexpensive ways for shorefront property owners to address erosion issues on their property or do plantings that enhance the buffer strip around the lake. The grant will re-imburse property owners up to \$400 in material costs while the labor is done without charge by the Acton/Shapleigh Youth Conservation Corps. Property owners who would like talk about an erosion issue on their property are urged to contact Dave Burns of the ASYCC. He can be contacted at [eccleader@ASYCC.com](mailto:eccleader@ASYCC.com).

Any type of storm water runoff issues might be eligible for inclusion in the grant. Interested parties can see examples of past erosion control projects by viewing the educational video done on Mousam Lake two years ago. “Storm Water Runoff...” can be viewed by going to [Mousamlake.org](http://Mousamlake.org), pulling down the Education Tab, and clicking on Water Quality Education. This will lead you to the YouTube link where the video is archived. Also see the link at the bottom of this article.



Ditch turn-out and rain garden at Director’s Lane Project



The 23<sup>rd</sup> Street Allen Project rocked line ditch and turnout. Grading and compacting of gravel still in progress. Lake is seen on left.

Remember, clean water in our lake is not a given. We can all do our part by working to reduce storm water runoff, reduce the size of lakefront lawns, and provide a healthy buffer strip between the lake and your cottage.

The MLRA extends our thanks to Mindee Goodrum who as local grant administrator worked tirelessly over the past two years addressing storm water runoff issues on Mousam Lake. At the end of April Mindee left her position with the York County Soil and Water Conservation District to pursue other opportunities. We wish her well.

## Boaters Safety Course

The Mousam Lake Region Association will be hosting 3 separate Boating Safety Classes at the Acton Town Hall on May 28, June 18, and July 23. These classes are provided by Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and are from a nationally-recognized curriculum, taught by a member of the MLRA. You only need to take one to receive your Maine Boater Education Card.



Class size is limited to twenty-five participants and will run from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Water and snacks will be provided. Lunch is BYO "Brown Bag". A \$5.00 contribution to defray expenses will be accepted at the door (Cash or Check payable to MLRA).

Students 12 years and younger must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Students 17 years and younger must have parental consent to attend.

Walk-ins will be accepted if space is available.

On-line pre-registration is necessary via the following links.

[Boating Safety Course- Acton Tickets, Sat, May 28, 2022 at 9:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)

[Boating Safety Course- Acton Tickets, Sat, Jun 18, 2022 at 9:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)

[Boating Safety Course- Acton Tickets, Sat, Jul 23, 2022 at 9:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)

*Who should attend?* We encourage all those that enjoy using Mousam Lake to attend. There are age and operator restrictions that require a Maine Boater Education Card. Per Maine Boating Laws and Regulations:

**Anyone under the age of 12 years** may not operate a motorboat propelled by machinery of more than 10 horsepower unless under the immediate supervision of a person in the motorboat who is at least 16 years of age.

**No one under 16 years of age** may operate a PWC.

**Anyone between the ages of 16 and 17 years** may operate a PWC if they are accompanied on board by a person 18 years of age or have successfully completed an approved safety education course and carry on board proof of age and course completion.

For further information please email: [mlraboatsafety@gmail.com](mailto:mlraboatsafety@gmail.com)

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife: [Boating Safety Information](#)



We just completed the third build of what we call the “shed” on our Mousam Lake camp. The camp was built in 1930 and has been in our family since 1945. It’s a camaraderie in the Mousam Lake Region Association that inspired me to write my camp’s story with the hope that it will inspire others to do the same.

In 1956, a collective interest in the lake by camp owners led to the formation of the MLRA. This was when the Sanford Mills, with the right to control the Mousam River water flows to power the mills, were sold by the Goodall family to the Grossman’s from Massachusetts. Camp owners were concerned that the new mill owners might raise and lower the lake’s level without regard for our enjoyment of the lake. Ever since, the MLRA has brought camp owners together with histories of camps, families, and traditions. This is more than the story of a camp’s addition. It’s about lake history and family traditions.

In 1902, Georgia Stevens, widowed from her doctor husband, built her camp as a summer home for herself and her four daughters. Known later as the Lynn-ette (the sign still hangs from the porch), it was then the farthest camp up the lake on the Shapleigh side and sits across from Beef Island. Eventually, daughter Ruth married Charles Belknap from away, away being Toledo, Ohio. In 1930, Charles had what is now our camp built next door to the Lynn-ette for what would become their family compound.

When built, the camp had three bedrooms, a kitchen, and a porch. An outhouse and chamber pots completed the essentials. The shed behind the kitchen, for the icebox (filled with ice cut from the lake and stored in the icehouse out back) and pantry, and a back bedroom were added soon thereafter.

During summers in the thirties, Georgia’s daughters and their families – Belknaps, Laws, Comeys, and others - enjoyed the camps. My family started coming to the lake from Queens, New York in 1938. We rented Hobart’s camp, WEOWNIT, just a few camps north of Meaders’ store and the dancehall. During those summers, my sister, Jean, and I became friendly with the Belknap kids, Steven, Jean, and Bruce, and Georgia’s other grandchildren, Dana and Marilyn Law. Our parents all socialized together, too.

Back home in Toledo, after the summer of 1940, Ruth was killed in a horseback riding accident. The Belknaps never came to Maine after that, and not many people came to the lake during the war years. After the war, the camp was offered to my parents by Georgia’s daughter, Frances Stevens Law, acting for Charles Belknap who had charged her with finding someone she was comfortable with having as a close neighbor.

My parents bought the camp in 1945. In our time, electricity, which was introduced in the thirties, meant that the icebox could be replaced with a refrigerator. Shed number two came about in the mid 1960’s. We extended the shed to ten feet long (it’s nine feet wide, the distance between windows) for a bathroom with a toilet and sink to go with our new running water. The shed also had space for the refrigerator, pantry, and tool storage, until we later added a shower room. Adding the shower meant moving the refrigerator into the kitchen and losing the pantry. We had the modern conveniences under one roof, and things were acceptable if a little cramped.



This picture was taken in fall of 2020 after demolition of the shed. This is what the camp looked like when originally built.

The idea for shed number three came about over cocktails on the porch in July 2018. The incentive and initiative came from my son, Jeff, who had studied architecture and who enjoys cooking. I shared his dislike for the refrigerator in the kitchen and the use of our wood stove's top for the pantry. Shed number two was to be replaced with one twice as long. At the end there would be a real bathroom: toilet, sink and shower across the shed's nine-foot width. The camp's back door, at the shed's end, would be replaced with doors midway on each side. Space for the refrigerator, pantry, and tools would be restored. Shed number three would let the main part of the camp be the same as it was when built in 1930. We researched Shapleigh's building code, drew up the site plan and plans for the addition, and got the building permit. Construction started in October 2020, and the camp was ready for the start of the 2021 summer season. Things went well throughout the project; there isn't anything about the final build that I don't like - no "if onlys."

As I said our camp was built in 1930 to go with to the Lynn-ette next door. The two camps have been together ever since, and lifelong present owner Marilyn Law Hinterleiter, who is like family, is still there. Marilyn's children and her grandchildren have grown up with my children and my grandchildren. The two camps have unique views of the lake from the slight promontory they occupy. The stand of red pines in front of our porch allows us to see as much of the lake as we want to at any time. The world pretty much ended beyond our lot with a floating island blocking the shore front to our north. Edgar ("Laddy") Ladd, newly home from the war, recognized that lot's potential, cleared it, and rescued it from oblivion. While building his camp, he and wife Dell lived in a tent; Laddy, Dell, and my parents often socialized. His camp, which is still there today, is now owned by its second owners.

I am completely satisfied with shed number three's outcome. It was more than a carpentry project. There are touches beyond functionality, which reflect the camp's original style – same novelty siding outside with inside surface exposed, reused windows from shed number two, same exposed rafters and "cathedral ceilings." In years to come the new woodwork will mellow to match the color of the original as well as it does in detail. Our woodstove is now a backup to the new heat pump for those cold days. And the camp looks the same from lake.

Sitting in the camp now, surrounded by things and memories, I have a profound feeling of being at home. Mousam Lake and camp have been part of my life for 80 plus years. Writing this has brought memories and caused reflections - what it has come to be and has come to mean. From my 97-year vantage, camp has become ever more livable without sacrifice in camp "flavor."



September 2021– Shed 3 is complete.

We want to extend a special thank you to Mat Leupold for all the Mousam Lake history he and his family have provided the MLRA through the years! Inspired to share your family's story of Mousam Lake? Email: [general@mousamlake.org](mailto:general@mousamlake.org)



## Take a Family Hike

There are many wonderful hikes a short drive from Mousam Lake. Spend a day, or even just the afternoon, exploring these trails.

### **Williams Town Park, Shapleigh, Maine**

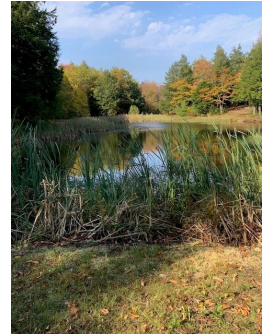
The Williams property is a 300 acre parcel of hardwoods, evergreens, ponds and fields that were donated to the people of Shapleigh by Roger K. Williams. The property is open to the public and is accessed from both County Rd and Gulf Rd. It is open to pedestrian and bicycle traffic only. There are gravel roads that offer excellent hiking to the many rocky overlooks. At one point the road is very steep leading up to a fire tower (not open to the public).



*Exploring Williams Town Park on a beautiful autumn day.*

For more information, including trail map, visit:

[https://www.shapleigh.net/files/WILLIAMS\\_BRCH\\_2012.pdf](https://www.shapleigh.net/files/WILLIAMS_BRCH_2012.pdf)



### **Abbott Mountain Trail, Shapleigh, Maine**

This 2.6 mile out and back trail offers the chance to see wildlife and is rated as moderate. The trail is primarily used for hiking, walking, and nature trips and is best used from May through October. Dogs are also able to use this trail. Park at the trail head for Abbott Mountain and Sugarloaf located on Owls Nest Road.



*View from Abbott Mountain*

### **Goat Hill Trail, Acton, Maine**

Three Rivers Land Trust has been engaged in a multi year project to bring the Goat Hill Trail to ADA compliance. The maintained trails of crushed stone and a bonus picnic area at the top make this a great family hike. Goat Hill Trail offers stunning views of nearby lakes including Square Pond and Wilson Lake, the Presidential Range, Mt. Washington, and Romac Orchards. Parking area is located at 1205 H Road just past Romac Orchards.



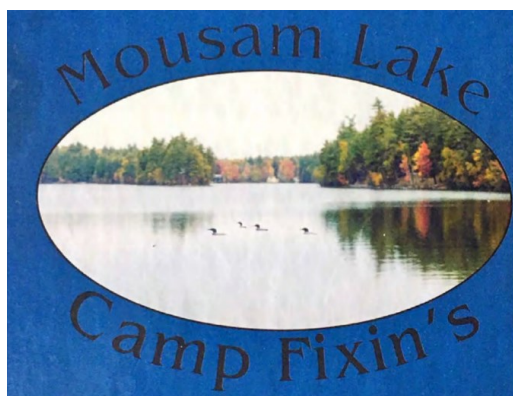
*Views from Goat Hill Trail*



*Maintained trail courtesy of Three Rivers Land Trust*

Find more hikes at [Alltrails.com](https://www.alltrails.com)

## Mousam Lake Camp Fixin's



*Mousam Lake Camp Fixin's*, published in 1998, is a collection of recipes and stories submitted from members around the lake. It was dedicated in part to the "Memory of all Mousam Lake cooks who over the years have enhanced the sweet smelling summer breezes around Mousam Lake with the wonderful aromas of home-cooked food." What will you cook up this summer?

### CHEESE BALL

2 (8 oz.) pkgs. cream cheese	1 c. chopped walnuts
1 small can crushed pineapple-drained	1 tsp. seasoned salt
¼ c. diced red and yellow pepper (tiny)	2 Tbsp. chopped onion

Mix all, but walnuts. Divide into 2 and mold into balls. Roll in chopped walnuts. Put in freezer, take out 1 hour before serving.

*Pat Spinella, Hubbards Cove*

### STRAWBERRY SPINACH SALAD

1 lb. spinach	1 Tbsp. poppy seeds
1 pt. strawberries	1 Tbsp. sesame seeds
1 pkg. fresh mushrooms	½ tsp. minced onion
½ c. sugar	¼ tsp. paprika
¼ c. apple cider vinegar	½ tsp. worcestershire sauce
½ c. oil	

Heat and cool sugar, vinegar and oil. Add remaining ingredients and serve over salad.

Great summer salad!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

*Terry Estoche, 17th Street*



# Chinese Mystery Snails

The Chinese Mystery Snail has been spotted on Mousam Lake. These extra large snails were originally brought to the United States in the late 19th century as a food source in Asian markets. Today, the Chinese Mystery Snails have spread to parts of the U.S. including many Maine lakes and ponds. They are a nuisance and can cause a host of issues. The Mystery Snail competes with native snail species for food contributing to their decline, may carry parasites, and have been known to clog screens on water-intake pipes. The snails can die off in large numbers, washing up on shore where they can be (unpleasantly) smelled.



Do we have a problem with them on MLRA water bodies? The MLRA Board of Directors are taking this topic seriously. On April 30th, our neighbors at the Square Pond Improvement Association (SPIA) met with several members of the MLRA BOD to discuss their efforts in controlling this invasive snail population. Join us at the Annual Meeting on Saturday June 25th to learn more.



## Beach Update

As owners of the beach at the foot of the lake, the MLRA provides ongoing modifications and enhancements to this area. This past fall, the walkway was re-established along with changes at the bottom of the ramp which provide accessibility for everyone, including those with disabilities. Soon, the Acton-Shapleigh Youth Conservation Corps (ASYCC) will complete spring clean-up at the Foot of the Lake to keep this area maintained for the health of the lake and enjoyment of all. Swim buoys and toilet facilities will be installed in May.



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!

**Mousam Lake Region Association Beach**  
 No Lifeguard on Duty - Swim at own Risk  
 Monitor Your Children at All Times



This beach is owned and maintained by the MLRA. It is open to the public for everyone's enjoyment. Please treat it like it is yours. In case of Emergency dial 911.



## Will you help?

The MLRA is in need of a graphic designer as we embark on a special project to create a Mousam Lake 'Handbook'. Our hope is to create guide about the lake community and to encourage residents in our continuing efforts to protect our lake. What better place to look for a volunteer designer than our members! If you are interested, please email MLRA President, Jamie Verity at [general@mousamlake.org](mailto:general@mousamlake.org)

## We are going digital!

Starting in 2023, the MLRA Newsletter is going digital only! Please make sure the MLRA has your most current email address so you can continue to receive this publication. To update your email address please email: [general@mousamlake.org](mailto:general@mousamlake.org)

## Help keep our lake clean: Spring cleanup reminders

During spring cleanup, it is not OK to throw leaves and debris into the lake. This can harm water quality and your rush to get rid of your leaves and debris will almost surely float up on someone else shore-front. Please dispose of leaves and debris in a mulch pile or bring them to the landfill. As you spruce up your property, try to eliminate fertilizer use near shoreline areas to prevent additional phosphorus from entering the lake by runoff. This will help reduce the possibility of algal blooms.

## 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>

MLRA [website](https://mousamlake.org): <https://mousamlake.org>

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



**New MLRA members November 2021-April 2022**

Mary Murphy Trails End Rd. Shapleigh  
Kim & John Ring 30<sup>th</sup> St. Shapleigh  
Janet Chartrain Wright 21<sup>st</sup> St. Shapleigh  
Suzanne & Eric Larson 14<sup>th</sup> St. Shapleigh  
Ernest W Smith Old Loop Rd. Shapleigh  
Brian Oconnor Covewood Dr. Acton  
Ken & Janis Kordana Totte Rd. Shapleigh

The Board would like to extend condolences to the family of Marilyn Law-Hinterleiter who passed away January 1, 2022. As noted in this month's Mousam Lake History article, Marilyn and her family are long time residents of Mousam Lake and friends and neighbors of the Leupolds.

**A Message From Membership**

Please join me in welcoming our newest members and thank you to our entire membership for your continued support. Annual dues letters will be arriving by mail soon with a new MLRA handout full of useful information and a map of the lake. We hope you find it helpful. Great to keep in the boat! 2022 stickers will be sent with your tax deductible receipt when dues are paid. To minimize administrative time and cost, I ask all member to please send their dues in the spring rather than late summer. Be sure to update your contact information if it has changed by writing it on the return portion of the dues letter. You can email any updates or changes at any time to [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 Newsletter in November!*

PO BOX 333  
SPRINGVALE, ME 04083  
[WWW.MOUSAMLAKE.ORG](http://WWW.MOUSAMLAKE.ORG)

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**

We hope to see you at the Annual meeting on June 25th.

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

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

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



## Looking forward to Summer 2022 Activities

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

<https://mousamlake.org/>

### Saturday, June 25, 2022: Annual Meeting

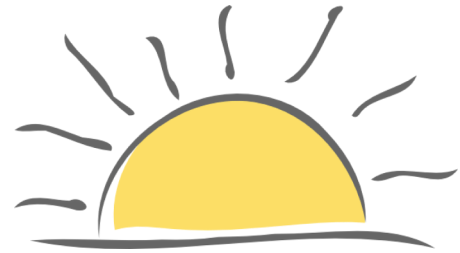
- 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at Acton Fairgrounds

### 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 16, 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

### ASYCC Golf Tournament

- Province Lake Golf Club
- Date TBD
- For more information: <http://www.asycc.com/golf.html>

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## 2021– 2022 MLRA Board of Directors

Directors	Contact Number	Position
James (Jamie) Verity	(617) 901-5212	President
Gary Thibodeaux	(207) 841-1575	Vice President
Rich Eagleston	(978) 985-3243	Treasurer
David Landry	(207) 692-3361	Secretary
Glenn Baxter	(617) 285-3111	Director
Jill Bonina	(978) 767-6331	Director
Gary Brown		Director
Amy Chartrain		Director
James Gilbert		Director
Roger Gutner		Director
Richard Jagger	(207) 467-5888	Director
Mark Rousseau	(978) 374-3771	Director
Rebecca Talley		Director