



Mousam Lake Region Association

P.O. BOX 333 SPRINGVALE, ME 04083

Inside this issue:

Message from the MLRA 1

Water Quality Grant Update 2

Boat Parade Highlights 3

ASYCC Update 4

Chinese Mystery Snails 5

Beach Cleanup 5

A Note from Membership 6

Meet your Board of Directors 7

Prepping for Winter 8

www.mousamlake.org

Greetings MLRA members,

The summer of 2020 is now behind us. Hopefully, the time you and your families spent on the lake this summer was a bright spot in this difficult year. The Association was faced with many challenges in 2020, most notably deciding to waive membership dues for the year and canceling our annual meeting for the first time since the formation of MLRA in 1956. Despite these challenges, several articles in this winter newsletter can attest to a very active summer season for MLRA!

Since March, the Board of Directors has continued our meeting schedule virtually with no disruptions. Moving into 2021 we have adopted a "business as usual" approach. Winter camp inspections will occur this year as they have in past years. Dues letters will be mailed out in April. The Acton Fairgrounds has already been reserved for the MLRA Annual Meeting (Saturday, June 26, 2021). As things evolve, we will continue to utilize all available information channels to keep our members informed of any changes or updates. Please visit the MLRA Facebook and MLRA website (www.mousamlake.org) regularly to stay informed.

Thank you! Please take good care of yourselves and we'll see you next summer!

Mark Rousseau
on behalf of MLRA Board of Directors

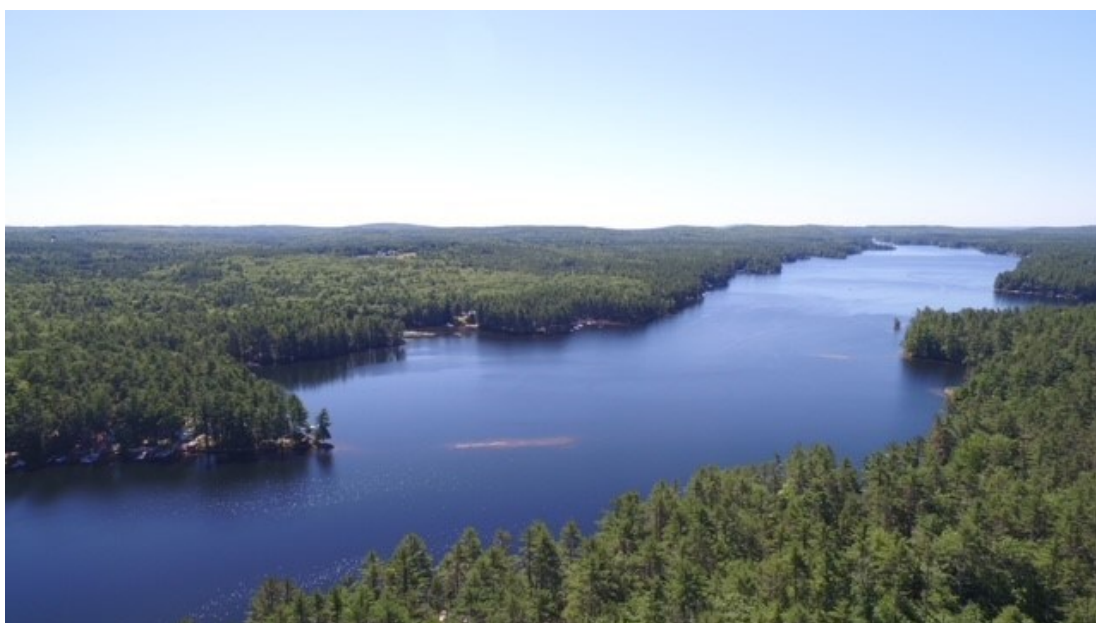


Photo used with permission from Grant Corso

Water Quality Grant Update by David

Work on the Mousam Lake water quality protection grant continued through the summer of 2020 but was slowed due to several factors. First, Covid-19 prevented holding a number of planned public meetings and slowed the planning and permitting of projects. Next, the original local grant supervisor, Jennifer Harris, left the York County Soil and Water Conservation District (YCSWCD) to take a job in the drinking water division of the Maine Department of Health and Human Services. She was replaced by Mindee Goodrum who proved herself to be a quick study. Under Ms. Goodrum's guidance progress was made on a number of fronts.

Working in cooperation with the Acton Shapleigh Youth Conservation Corps, nine erosion control projects were completed for individual property owners over the summer. There are five larger projects in the works as we go into the fall in addition to a significant demonstration project that was completed in July. The larger projects generally fall under the heading of major camp road erosion control projects. Work is underway on projects both on 23rd street and 26th Streets. Projects are tentatively planned for next year on Starboard Lane, Tattle Street, and a second project on 23rd Street.

With the delays caused by Covid-19 it is anticipated that an extension will be sought for the current grant which was planned to wrap up in December of 2020 but would then go into next summer. With the success that has been seen with the current grant an additional \$40,000 in funding has been applied for to address more storm water runoff issues in the Mousam Lake Watershed.

One of the exciting developments that happened was the production of an educational video, "Storm Water Runoff...a threat to water quality in Maine Lakes". All 319 grants have a community educational requirement. With Covid-19 preventing planned educational events it was decided to produce an educational video.

With input from Amanda Pratt of the Maine D.E.P. and local grant supervisor Mindee Goodrum, David Landry of the MLRA enlisted two of his daughters to help with the video. Landry's daughters were spending the summer working remotely from Mousam Lake. It helped that both daughters are in the film and entertainment industry in Los Angeles. Dave exchanged food, internet access, and laundry services for video expertise. Check it out at: https://mousamlake.org/education/quality_education.asp

Under the current grant two types of projects are being addressed. The first are smaller erosion control projects done for individual property owners. Here homeowners are eligible to receive up to \$400 to offset the cost of materials with labor provided free of charge by the Acton Shapleigh Youth Conservation Corps. The second type of grant award is for larger projects that typically involve public or private roads. Here the grant may pay significantly more. Property owners who would like to learn more about resources and funds available to them can contact Mindee Goodrum, local grant supervisor, at the YCSWCD by email: mgoodrum@Yorkswcd.org or calling 207-432-3516.



Meet Mindee Goodrum : The new local grant supervisor of York County Soil and Water Conservation District (YCSWCD)



2020 Boat Parade



Large Boat Category

1st Place: Race Car- Adams family
2nd Place: Aquarium Under the Sea- Hermon family
3rd Place: Fight Finished- Glidden family



Small Boat Category Winners

1st Place: Don't panic- Hilton family
2nd Place: Under the Lake- Thompson family
3rd Place: Happy Birthday USA- Generaux family



ASYCC Update: Summer 2020

This summer, the **Acton - Shapleigh Youth Conservation Corps (ASYCC)** had to cancel their annual golf tournament fundraiser due to COVID-19. The ASYCC golf tournament has been the ASYCC's biggest fundraiser for many years. The ASYCC reached out to the MLRA asking for help circulating a request for financial support (see below). With funding provided through donations and support from the towns of Acton and Shapleigh, as well as several local lake Associations, including the MLRA, the ASYCC continues to do great work on Mousam Lake and the surrounding lakes in Acton and Shapleigh. Services provided by the ASYCC include courtesy boat inspections, erosion control, and invasive plant monitoring. These services greatly benefit our lake, but they may be threatened by potential funding shortfalls for 2021. Please consider supporting ASYCC.

For more information about the ASYCC and to learn how to take advantage of their services, visit: <http://asycc.com/>

Thank you,
MLRA Board of Directors

If you are able, please send a donation to ASYCC at PO Box 47, Springvale ME 04083 or you can donate via PayPal at <http://www.asycc.com/donate.html>



ASYCC NEEDS YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT **NOW!**

PLEASE DONATE TODAY TO:

ASYCC, PO Box 47, Springvale ME 04083

PayPal: Go to "asycc.com" then click Donate

We are busier than EVER and our donation goal is to raise \$5,000 towards perpetuating & supporting:

- Invasive plant inspections of boats & trailers at public launch sites (CBI)
- Erosion control projects to manage soil run-off into our lake (ECC)
- Invasive Plant Patrols (IPP)

THANK YOU FOR DONATING TODAY!

YOUR ASYCC TEAM

What is the Mystery with these 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. Though not widespread, 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.

But why are these snails a “mystery”? They are called this because females give birth to young, fully developed snails that suddenly and “mysteriously” appear. The olive green to brown or reddish brown snails grow to the size of a walnut or golf ball. They feed off the bottom of the lake, but can be found floating on the water surface.

If you have these snails living in your swim area and remove them from the lake., be warned! Do not dispose of them on your property... or even in the woods. These snails have a strong, pungent odor when they die. Bag them up and bring them to the transfer station.



“Chinese Mystery Snails.” *Lake Stewards of Maine*, www.lakestewardsofmaine.org/programs/other-programs/chinese-mystery-snails/. Accessed 27 Oct. 2020.

“Prevent the Spread of Chinese Mystery Snails.” *Lake George Association*. www.lakegeorgeassociation.org/educate/science/lake-george-invasive-species/chinese-mystery-snail/. Accessed 27 Oct. 2020.

“Chinese mystery snail.” *Wikipedia*. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_mystery_snail. Accessed 27 Oct. 2020.

Mousam Lake Beach Clean-Up



This summer, the Mousam Lake Beach area never looked better thanks to the work of Andrew Keegan. Interested in completing an environmental project for his Eagle Scout project, Andrew approached MLRA president Mark Rousseau in the spring hoping to do some work for the MLRA. He offered to regularly clean up the beach area at the foot of Mousam Lake protecting the lake from debris and pollutants and keeping it clean for the enjoyment of the regular visitors to the beach.

Andrew did a wonderful job cleaning up debris, raking uneven areas, and removing trash. We thank him for his efforts and congratulate him on his accomplishment of Eagle Scout.

Welcome New Members!

Support the MLRA when you shop at Amazon.com! Use this [Amazon Smile](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/22-2510524) 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>

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

Look for the Spring Newsletter in May!

PO BOX 333
SPRINGVALE, ME 04083
WWW.MOUSAMLAKE.ORG

Ty Pombriant & Deb Smith 30th St., Shapleigh
Jenise & Gary Rideout 7th St, Acton
Troy Munford 34th St., Acton
Jon Lamontagne 30th St., Shapleigh
Brian & Sandy Perry 1 3th St., Acton
Tammy Allen Kato's Nose Cove, Shapleigh
Sue Foley & Chris Jones Old Loop Rd., Shapleigh
Vin & Pauline Spirito Totte Rd., Shapleigh
Stephen Dame 34th St., Acton
Douglas & Judy Haberman Dancehall Dr., Shapleigh
Ronnie & Marty McNemey Long Way Rd., Shapleigh
Steven Barakian Ave. D, Acton
Robert Donahue Ave. D, Acton
Scott Newton Portside Lane, Shapleigh
John Gagnon 11th St., Acton

A Message From Membership

A reminder that every member received their 2020 stickers back in April and they should now be displayed both lakeside and rear doors of your camp for winter inspections. New members that paid \$30 dues to join have been credited towards your 2021 membership. Annual dues letters will be sent out in April 2021 to your summer address. 2021 stickers will be mailed out within 30 days of receiving your 2021 dues. I suggest you put the stickers up as soon as you get them to avoid misplacing them.

Expect to see our annual Water Quality Fund letter in November. Your generous support is appreciated.

Help us to keep our members database current by contacting membership of any changes to mailing address (winter or summer), email, and/or phone number or if you are no longer on the lake. Please notify membership if you are no longer on the lake.

A special thank you to Cynthia MacQuarrie and Ralph Beaudoin for their generous donations to the MLRA.

Thank you all for your continued support.
Patti Baxter/ MLRA Membership

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

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



2019– 2020 MLRA Board of Directors

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



August 2019 Board Meeting

Meet a BOD Member Glenn Baxter

My wife Patti and I have been on Mousam Lake since 2002. We head up to the lake weekends from Melrose, MA year round. It is such a great feeling driving in the camp road to our little piece of serenity after a busy week. We became members early on after striking up a conversation with a long-time MLRA member and past president Warren Cummings during dinner at the Corner Store. Not long after, I joined the board, and have enjoyed working with many dedicated directors over the years.

Patti and I enjoy running the annual Kids Fishing Derby and being involved in many other lake activities. Patti is currently MLRA's membership person and involved with registration and raffles for the annual meeting. We have enjoyed working with the ASYCC erosion control crew over the years at our site, and would urge the membership to take advantage of this program. It's free labor and helps promote less plant growth and clear water.

"Protect Earth's Eye",
Glenn Baxter



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

Outside Duties

- Clean & store boats, dock, ladder, life jackets and ski equipment
- Mow the lawn one last time
- Clean and winterize gas-powered yard equipment.
- Rake and remove leaves within 30 feet from your cabin.
- **The lake is no landfill!** 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 shorefront. Please dispose of leaves and debris in a mulch pile or bring them to the landfill.
- Store fire pit decorations, emptied flower pots, drained hoses and sprinklers, and deflated water toys.
- Look for air leaks around electrical wiring, dryer vents, pipes, windows and doors; then seal leaks with caulk or insulation to keep out cold air and pests.
- Insulate pipes in crawl spaces by wrapping them with heat tape or thermostatically-controlled heat cables; also open cabinet doors to allow heat to get to un-insulated pipes under sinks and appliances near exterior walls.
- Clean out gutters, and inspect roof for shingles that are raised or cracked; leaking roofs and clogged gutters can lead to significant water damage.
- Turn off outside pump breaker, hoist motor breaker, dock light breaker.
- Store outdoor furniture, picnic tables and hammocks.



A December view from 21st Street (looking down the lake).

Inside Duties

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