



REGION ASSOCIATION

Mousam Lake Region Association

P.O. BOX 333 SPRINGVALE, ME 04083

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Dear Members,

Spring at Mousam is always a wild card; the rain we experienced and the rise in lake levels this May seemed, in my recollection, the highest since the Mother's Day flood of 2006. The shoreline erosion and debris which found its way into the lake was substantial and a reminder of the importance of a good vegetation buffer zone around the lake to hold soil in its place.

Please take the time to read the *new MLRA Lakedweller's Handbook* to learn more about the many ways you personally can help protect Mousam Lake and Goose pond's water quality. The *Lake Dweller's Handbook* is [linked here](#) and can also be found on our [website](#) & Facebook page. The Handbook is in PDF page-spread format, available for you to open and/or download, 24/7.

We hope to see you at our annual meeting on Saturday, June 24th at the Acton Fairgrounds. The meeting starts at 9:00am. Check in begins at 8:30am.

Thank you for being a member.

-Jamie Verity
on behalf of MLRA Board of Directors

We are now digital!

This is the *first digital only MLRA Newsletter!* Do you have a friend or neighbor that is not receiving this? Want to change your email address in our database? Please make sure the MLRA has the most current email address so everyone can continue to receive this publication.

To update an email address please email: membership@mousamlake.org
General questions or comments, email: general@mousamlake.org

Stay informed! Please visit the [MLRA Website](#) and the [MLRA Facebook page](#)

Visit the MLRA Website:
www.mousamlake.org

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



Photo used with permission from Nancy Nicolucci

Funds Available for Mousam Lake Watershed Work

The Mousam Lake Region Association (MLRA) is pleased to announce funds are still available to landowners through the Mousam Lake Watershed 319 Watershed Grant, Phase 2.

The grant work is done in two categories. The first category are smaller erosion control projects for homeowners that can be done with hand tools. These projects have been done in the past by high school students working in the Acton Shapleigh Youth Conservation Corps (ASYCC). While the ASYCC was not able to hire students for the summer of 2022, hopefully workers will be found for the coming summer and work will resume (see below).

Individual property owners would be eligible to receive up to \$200 to offset up to fifty percent of material costs. Additionally, labor for these erosion control projects is provided free of charge by the Acton Shapleigh Youth Conservation Corp (ASYCC). Projects that would fit this program might be storm water runoff across patios, stairs, or driveways that runs down and into the lake. It should be remembered that storm water runoff into Mousam Lake is a serious threat to water quality. There is no better way to protect property values and enhance the public's enjoyment of the lake than by protecting water quality. By taking advantage of available grant money and the free labor provided by the ASYCC, property owners can do projects that will help protect the lake for a fraction of the cost that a private contractor might charge. The ASYCC is able to offer design and permitting for accepted projects. Thirteen projects are yet to be filled under the homeowner category of the grant leaving plenty of opportunity for those wishing to have work done to reduce storm water runoff into Mousam Lake.

An erosion control demonstration project is also planned for this summer. The ASYCC will choose a site where a number of erosion control strategies can be employed to reduce runoff. Property owners are encouraged to attend and learn more about available erosion control techniques. As soon as the site is chosen the location of the demonstration project will be noted on the MLRA Facebook page and on the association's website, Mousamlake.org.

The second category of work under the grant are larger projects on common roads or drainage areas where contractors are involved. Tentatively, work is planned on the Goose Pond Tote Road Boat Launch and on areas of Goose Pond Road where the road crosses over the culvert between Goose Pond and Mousam Lake.

Property owners wishing to have their property considered for inclusion in the grant or to learn more about preventing storm water runoff can contact David Burns of the ASYCC at eccleader@ASYCC.com or David Landry of the MLRA at 207-692-3361.

Funding for the Mousam Lake grant is 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.

Acton-Shapleigh Youth Conservation Corp (ASYCC)

Know someone in need of a summer job? The ASYCC has several openings. Services provided by the ASYCC include courtesy boat inspections, erosion control, and invasive plant monitoring. The services they provide greatly benefit Mousam Lake and the surrounding lakes in Acton and Shapleigh. Job postings and information can be found at <http://www.asycc.com/jobs.html>

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

Invasive Plants a Threat to Mousam Lake

By David Landry

As noted in the past, Mousam Lake is at a high risk for invasive plants for several reasons. First, Arrowhead Lake to our east and Milton Three Ponds to our west have significant populations of invasive water weeds including European (brittleleaf) Naiad and Watermilfoil. Secondly, Mousam Lake has some of the highest number of boat launches in the state. The Courtesy Boat Inspection Program run by the Acton Shapleigh Youth Conservation Corps is critical in protecting our lake against invasive plants as is citizen awareness of the threat.

The MLRA is working to establish an Invasive Plant Patrol to survey areas of Mousam Lake at high risk. We are fortunate to have one of the state's experts on invasive plants living on Mousam and helping in our efforts. Dennis Roberge has been at the forefront of invasive plants protection and surveying for the past decade.

Just this past week an attentive fisherman spotted weed fragments floating in Mousam Lake that he was concerned about. Because we have done the ground work in establishing a network of trained individuals here on Mousam, we were able to exam the weed fragments and determine it was a native rather than an invasive plant.

If you are interested in helping the MRLA's effort to protect our lake against invasive plants reach out to the MLRA. Additionally, if you have spotted weeds you are concerned about you can contact the MLRA to further investigate.

To learn more or report suspicious weeds, call Dave Landry IPP Coordinator at 207-692-3361

Helpful links:

- [Eurasian Watermilfoil](#)
- [Brittleleaf Naiad](#)



Eurasian Watermilfoil



Brittleleaf Naiad

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's shorefront. 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.

Beach Update

By Roger Gutner



Many Mousam Lake homeowners are unaware that the beach at the foot of the lake has been owned and maintained by the MLRA since November 2002. At that time the town of Sanford, which for many years had responsibility for its upkeep, agreed to give ownership of the beach to the association in an agreement which did not involve cash.

Since then, the beach has been available to all. The MLRA provides landscaping for erosion control, toilet facilities, and garbage pick-up. Entrance ramps were installed to allow access for those with disabilities and an informational bulletin board keeps visitors up to date. This area allows free access for

any interested residents or home/shore owners to enjoy the lake's attractions. With safety being of paramount importance, each spring a strand of floating buoys is installed to prevent watercraft from gaining access to the swimming areas. The public is encouraged to carry out what is brought in to preserve the attractiveness and safety of the area. Parking across the street is provided and maintained by the state. In summary, for over twenty years the MLRA has been proud to provide this area for the benefit of all at no cost to the community.



Thank you to Pat Levasseur and his crew at Stone Edge Landscaping for their hard work in getting the beach ready for Memorial Day Weekend. They created a clear vista of the lake by trimming the shrubs while keeping the milkweed in place for the Monarch butterflies. The crew built a new enclosure for the Port-A-Potty and raked the beach sand clean of detritus left behind after the Spring rainwater receded. The Foot is ready for the summer!



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



Welcome Spring! We hope you all had a great winter and are back to enjoying lake life.

As a reminder, the MLRA Dive Team was formed with the immediate goal to search for, collect, and dispose of the invasive Chinese Mystery Snails from our lake. Our goal for this year is to have 8-10 dives, starting early before healthy weed growth hampers our visibility.

The Dive Team is now a monthly agenda item on the MLRA Board Of Directors meetings. Here are a few key notes from the winter meetings:

- At the last MLRA Board meeting the budget was approved and the Dive Team will be funded moving forward.
- The MLRA BOD unanimously agreed to approve our request to form a **Dive Team Committee**. The committee will meet and make decisions supporting our objectives, and will report to the MLRA Board as needed..
- A handful of individuals from the Dive Team have stepped up to join the committee. We anticipate a few meetings before the season to plan dives, determine equipment needs and ways to best help our divers with training and reimbursement.
- The Dive Team, with approval from the BOD and funding from the MLRA, purchased an enclosed 6x12 foot trailer to store and move dive equipment from site to site. Come see the MLRA Dive Team Trailer on display at the annual MLRA meeting on June 24th.

We are looking forward to planning this next dive season with the help of our newly formed Committee!

Please reach out if you have a concentration of Chinese Mystery Snails in your area. If you know of someone that would like to be part of the team, or involved in any way, drop us a line at MLRADiveTeam@gmail.com

Your Dive Team Coordinators,
Gary and Ann Brown

For more information on Chinese Mystery Snails visit the following sites:

- [Lake Stewards of Maine](#)
- [University of Wisconsin Sea Grant](#)
- [Native vs. Invasive Aquatic Snails](#)



Boaters Safety Course

The MLRA will again offer Boating Safety classes. Led by MLRA Director Dick Jagger, the course is nationally recognized by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA). Successful completion earns a certificate recognized in all fifty states and Canada.

Dates for 2023 are:
 Saturday June 17th
 Saturday July 15th

Class will be held at Acton Town Hall and run from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Water and snacks will be provided. Lunch is BYO "Brown Bag". There is no charge for the class, but a \$5.00 per person contribution to defray expenses is appreciated (Cash or Check payable to MLRA). If you have questions, please email us at MLRABoatSafety@gmail.com



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

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.

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

For further information please email: mlraboatsafety@gmail.com

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

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

Mousam Lake Dwellers E-book: <https://mousamlake.org/community/default.asp>



A Message from Membership

Welcome New Members 2023

Nicole Pelletier & Rick O'Donnell Buccaneers Way, Shapleigh
Kevin McCall Meaders Lane, Shapleigh
Mark McGuire Rte 109, Acton

Happy Birthday to Joyce Jacobs who is turning 99 years young!

Please join me in welcoming our newest members. Thank you to our entire membership for your continued support. Renewal letters were sent in April to your summer addresses. Your membership sticker will be sent when dues are received. If you do not receive your sticker within a few weeks of renewing, PLEASE notify membership. Renewing online is quick and easy. Be sure to follow all the way through to the end to pay with a credit card. If paying by check, please do not use the online format. Be sure to update your contact information if it has changed by writing it on the return portion of the dues letter or email any updates or changes to membership@mousamlake.org

Thank you,
Patti
Membership volunteer

Why join the MLRA?

A storm was coming with an estimated rain fall of 2+ inches. A neighbor noticed that a roof skylight was left opened at a nearby home and notified the MLRA to see if we could contact the property owner, before it was too late. How does the story end?

Unfortunately, this person was not a MLRA member and we had no way to contact them. Fortunately, our membership volunteer, Patti Baxter, didn't accept this and used town and public records to track the owners down who then gratefully drove up here and close window before the storm hit. Yes, happy ending.

What are the lessons learned from this? First, if your neighbor is not a MLRA member please ask them to join us as we offer incredible value to our community for a \$30 membership fee. Second, make sure that the MLRA has your updated contact information for a situation such as this. No one wants 2" of rain in their living room.

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**

Mail membership fee to:
MLRA
PO BOX 333
Springvale, ME 04083

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

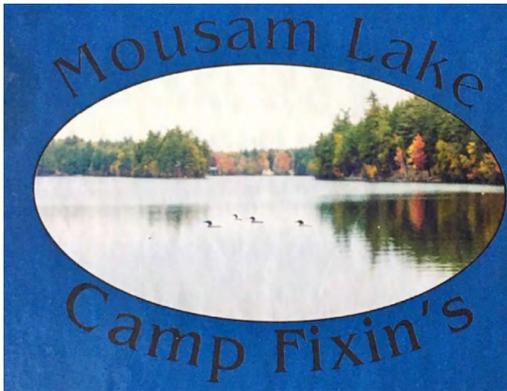
1. <https://mousamlake.org/>
 2. Select **Members** tab
 3. From drop down menu, select **Join-Register Online**
-

Mousam Lake Region Association recognizes the following members who's work and dedication to the MLRA will not be forgotten.

Director Emeritus Polly Mapes passed away on January 30th, 2023. Polly served on the MLRA Board from 1997-2008. Polly's contributions were many and her public and private support of this organization was always greatly appreciated. Thank you for your service, Polly, we remember and honor you.

Director Emeritus Skip Bartosch passed away on June 11, 2022. Skip began volunteering with MLRA in 2005 as a certified water quality tester and was the primary MLRA contact for a seemingly endless list of lake issues including winter inspections, lake markers, and water quality sampling to name a few. Skip joined the BOD in 2007 and served as Vice President from 2008 – 2019. We remember & honor Skip. His service is appreciated.

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?

COFFEE CAKE

Cake:

¾ c. sugar
¼ c. soft shortening
1 egg
½ c. milk

1 ½ c. Gold Medal flour
2 tsp. baking powder
½ tsp. salt

Mix together thoroughly; sugar, shortening and egg. Stir in milk. Sift together and stir in flour, baking powder and salt. Spread batter in greased and floured 9 inch square pan. Sprinkle with desired topping (see below). Bake in 375° oven for 25-35 minutes until wooden pick thrust into center of cake comes out clean. Serve warm, fresh from the oven. Makes 9-3 inch squares.

Blueberry Buckle: Follow recipe above, except use 2 cups flour and carefully blend in at the end, 2 cups well drained blueberries. Sprinkle top with crumb mixture.

Crumb Mixture:

½ c. sugar
⅓ c. sifted Gold Medal flour

½ tsp. cinnamon
¼ c. soft butter

Mix together, and sprinkle on top of cake. Bake 45-50 minutes.

Betty Bradford, 21st Street

Looking forward to Summer 2023 Activities

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

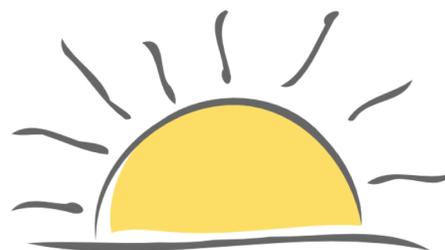
<https://mousamlake.org/>

Saturday, June 24, 2023: Annual Meeting

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

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 15, 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
- Friday August 4, 2023
- For more information: <http://www.asycc.com/golf.html>

2022– 2023 MLRA Board of Directors

Director	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
Gary Brown		Director
Amy Chartrain		Director
James Gilbert		Director
Roger Gutner		Director
Richard Jagger	(207) 467-5888	Director
Mark Rousseau	(978) 374-3771	Director
Jill Folsom	(978) 767-6331	Director
Patti Baxter		Membership Volunteer
Ann Brown		Dive Team Co-coordinator
Kristi Borst		Social Media Volunteer

Stay Safe on the Lake and Preserve Our Shores

After the heavy spring rains have left the lake level extremely high, the MLRA would like to remind everyone to abide by the [Maine Boating Rules and Regulations](#). These rules will keep everyone safe. Please respect the rights and privacy of waterfront property owners. Obeying headway speed will help to preserve Mousam Lake's shoreline.

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 navigating lights at dusk.

Personal Watercraft (Jet Ski or similar type)

- Must be 18 years or older to operate.
- No one under 16 years of age may operate a PWC.
- Persons 16 and 17 years of age may operate a PWC **only if they:**
 - Carry on board proof of age **and** boating license OR
 - Are accompanied on board by a person 18 years of age or older
- 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.
- Keep a safe distance (100 feet) away from wildlife such as loons and their chicks.

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.

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

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

Mousam Lake Dwellers E-book: <https://mousamlake.org/community/default.asp>

