



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 Membership,

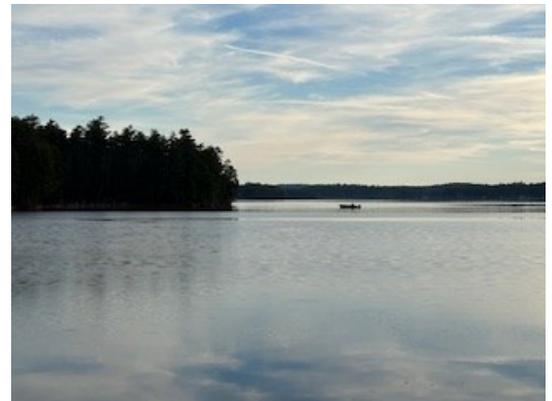
I hope you are enjoying the winter season!

I'd like to thank both the property owners who are utilizing erosion control methods (*outlined in our Lake Dweller' Handbook - available on our website*) and the volunteers who took the time to learn about and remove the invasive aquatic plant (*swollen bladderwort*) from our lake. Both these measures are vitally important for the continued health of Mousam. I'd also like to urge more members to volunteer and help with both these initiatives next season. Email [general@mousamlake.org](mailto:general@mousamlake.org) to get involved.

Happy Holidays!  
-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.



Can you spot the boat?  
Pictures taken December 26, 2023.

## Watershed Work Continues on Mousam Lake

By David Landry

Over this past summer the MLRA, ASYCC, York County Soil and Water Conservation District, the Town of Shapleigh and the Maine DEP continued to focus on reducing storm water runoff into Mousam Lake through Phase 2 of the Storm Water Mitigation Grant.

The Acton Shapleigh Youth Conservation Corps completed eleven projects as part of the grant in addition to doing a comprehensive demonstration project. This demonstration project on a shore-front property on 7<sup>th</sup> Street aim was to showcase landscape tools that can be used to reduce storm water runoff.

The highlight of this season's work was approval and final planning for the Totte Street project on Goose Pond Road, ditch work on 7<sup>th</sup> Street in Acton, and ditch and culvert work at the intersection of 18<sup>th</sup> Street and Goose Pond Road. While the 18<sup>th</sup> Street project is underway the other two projects will be finished before snow flies. These three projects are larger in nature and require complex planning and execution. They will no doubt significantly reduce storm water runoff into our lake.

The MLRA recognizes the tireless work of Shri Verrill of the YCSWCD as well the ongoing commitment of the Town of Shapleigh.

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.

Resources:

Educational Resources:

Educational Video produced on Mousam Lake:

"Storm Water Runoff...a Threat to Water Quality in Maine Lakes"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2TaaWqYeVls&feature=youtu.be>

Watershed Report:

<https://mousamlake.org/images/uploads/files/2017MousamLakeWatershedSurveyFinalReport.pdf>

Watershed Maps:

<https://mousamlake.org/images/uploads/files/2017MousamLakeWatershedSurveyMaps.pdf>

Addendum B:

<https://mousamlake.org/images/uploads/files/2017MousamLakeWatershedSurveySiteList.pdf>



ASYCC members and YCSWCD working on demonstration project off of 7th St. In



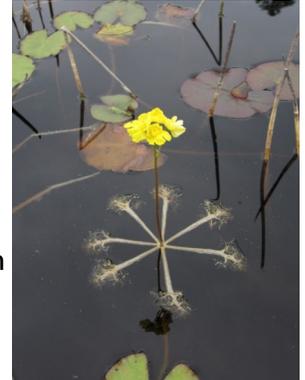
Looking up Goose Pond Rd from junction of 18th St. In Shapleigh.



Totte Rd. Off of Goose Pond.

## Invasive Aquatic Plant Discovered: Your Help is Needed!

The invasive aquatic plant, *Utricularia inflata* (swollen bladderwort), was found in Mousam this past June. When discovered the MLRA took immediate action to notify our community and began survey and assessment efforts. From there we developed a plan to remove as much of the plant as we could. The MLRA organized several Dive Team harvesting events. Both individual and smaller group outings removed thousands of gallons of the plant from our lake. We can't thank the MLRA Dive Team members and other volunteers enough for this impressive initial effort! Unfortunately, the infestation persists, and has been found from Goose Pond to Lower Mousam and most areas in between.



This invasive, if left unchecked, will cause great damage to Mousam's water quality, our native aquatic vegetation, our fish populations and likely our property values. As most members know, the resources of the MLRA are limited and our current volunteer capabilities are nowhere close to where they need to be to fight this infestation and get it under control. We need to work together to INCREASE harvesting efforts next summer so we don't lose this fight!



**How can you help?** First, learn about this plant and what it looks like. Second, take action to remove it! Educational information is available on the [MLRA Facebook page](#) or simply google it. We encourage you to get the whole family involved in this effort. Consider buying a snorkel mask and fins for yourself, kids or grandkids (holiday gift idea?) and go hunting for this plant for an hour or two during a weekend. Please police your waterfront and adopt another part of the lake to help in. We need resident leaders in each of the coves (including Ash, Hubbard's, Hams, Back, Anns, etc.) to build cove harvesting teams. Finally, please consider signing up to be part of the MLRA Dive Team. There are many roles you can volunteer for. You don't have to "Dive" to be part of our team!

The MLRA is grateful for your support and your invasive plant removal efforts. Email [mlradiveteam@gmail.com](mailto:mlradiveteam@gmail.com) to volunteer and to be added to our distribution list.



### **Pontoon Boat needed**

To help with MLRA water quality monitoring and dive team efforts. Do you have a pontoon boat which you are no longer using? Would you consider donating it to the MLRA? Please

email [general@mousamlake.org](mailto:general@mousamlake.org) to start this conversation. MLRA will provide a donation letter which may qualify you for a charitable tax deduction.

## Removing Swollen Bladderwort: 2023 *U. inflata* Ash Cove Harvest Project

By Dennis Roberge

Ash Cove is located on upper Mousam with an area of 11 acres. For ease of identification, Mousam is surveyed into sectors. Ash cove has four sectors, U52, U53, U54 and U55, clockwise as you enter the cove. The entire cove is littoral with an average depth of 6 feet and boasts over 20 different native species of aquatic plants with 2 dominating the cove. The most prolific plant is *Eleocharis Robbinsii* (Robbins spike rush) which covers approximately 60% of the cove. The leaves are dense, bladeless very thin around 18 inches long. The plant is rooted and produces large mats mostly in sectors U54 and 55. The second is *Utricularia purpurea* (Purple bladderwort) which covers approximately 30% of the cove in sectors U52 and 53. The plant is not rooted and drifts in the water column. They form dense mats that usually stay close to the bottom. The last 10% are mostly smaller obscure bottom dwelling natives.

In early June ten to twenty flowering *inflata* (swollen bladderwort) plants were found and were removed totaling one 5-gallon bucket. Towards the end of June, a heavy infestation was discovered in the small inner cove sector U53. Sector U55 in Ash was harvested at the end of June by snorkeling and all visible plants were removed. The first 2 weeks of July were spent surveying and harvesting other areas of Mousam. During the last two weeks of July, the focus shifted back to harvesting Ash Cove with a team snorkeling on sectors U52, 53 and 54. Again all visible plants were removed by Jamie and Judy Verity, Steve Hultin and Dennis Roberge. The one exception was the small inner cove in sector U53 which had the heaviest infestation. Very dense beds of *inflata* were blanketing 25% of the cove. It was decided the dive team was best suited to harvest that area.

On August 3rd, the Dive Team harvested the inner cove and removed well over 100 gallons of *inflata* but it was apparent a second pull would be necessary. On August 11th, the Dive Team returned and harvested 100 gallons from the small inner cove.

During the last 2 weeks of August and the first 3 weeks in September Ash Cove was repeatedly harvested by snorkeling in all sectors. This was necessary because the *inflata* was constantly appearing from below the bottom dwelling natives. With falling water temperatures at the end of September, snorkeling was replaced with harvesting by boat using a 4-prong metal rake. Some raking from shore in the small inner cove was done in the few remaining dense areas by Steve and Judy. While the rest of the dense patches were removed from the small inner cove it was obvious that large amounts of *inflata* were hidden below the Purple bladderwort and Robbins spike rush.

As native plants were starting to die back and loosened their grip on the *inflata*, approximately 30% of the small inner cove was blind raked (2'- 4' deep) to remove the unseen *inflata*. This was very labor intense but worked well with over 100 gallons removed. The remaining 70% showed less signs of *inflata* below the natives and was not raked. With approximately 80% of the *inflata* removed from that location, there is still more work needed to be done.

By October the native community started to die back and the bottom dwelling plants lost approximately half their volume. The *inflata* does not die back as it is a perennial and actually showed signs of producing new growth. Between producing new growth and the natives dying back, large amounts of *inflata* hidden under the natives were now visible. Several areas had moderate infestations with many single plants throughout the cove. In October, the entire cove was again harvested by boat and rake removing most of the visible plants. The lake levels were lower because of the fall drawdown, which made harvesting a little easier.

In early November, we had to reharvest areas that were harvested 2 weeks prior. These areas were showing new shoots (growing tips) due to the continued decomposition of the natives allowing the *inflata* to peek through. Fortunately, the tips are still a reddish maroon color making them easy to detect. After removing the majority of these newly exposed tips few plants were found. Hopefully the majority of the hidden *inflata* has been removed.

## Removing Swollen Bladderwort, continued

There is one area in sector U52 that is approximately 100' X 100' and 8 feet deep that was not harvested in the summer due to a large community of purple bladderwort covering the invasive inflata. At the time it was still too deep to rake and we were hoping lake levels would continue to drop. By mid-November the lake was still not at winter level but with time running out we used an 8' long rake to harvest what we could in this area. Many mature plants were removed totaling 80 gallons with more work to be done.

To date, we have removed approximately 60% to 80% of the inflata from Ash cove. This would not have happened without a full team effort. The dive team removing the bulk of the densest patch was key to letting us get a foothold in the small inner cove. The work done by Jamie, Judy, Steve and Glenn, and the many unnamed others, was instrumental in accomplishing all we achieved in Ash Cove this summer. Their selfless dedication to Mousam has allowed us to collectively remove **1414 gallons** of inflata from Ash Cove this year.



### Conclusions: What we have learned

For the inflata (swollen bladderwort) to produce the size and density of the infestation discovered in the inner part of Ash Cove, it is apparent that it must have been there for at least 5 years. The rest of Ash Cove has inflata fully dispersed (moderate to sparse) throughout and it is deeply imbedded in the natives. Many of the inflata plants removed are 6 feet in length and if left unchecked I believe that in another 5 years most of Ash would have the same dense level of infestation as the inner cove.

After removal in the areas with the heaviest infestations, the substrate was completely barren of all native plants. The inflata had formed a dense mat that stopped the sunlight from reaching the natives below and without the ability to photosynthesize they all died. However, the areas bordering these barren areas are very dense with natives.

The Maine Department of Environmental Protection performed a survey of the entrance to the cove. The entire littoral zone was surveyed with only one small patch found and removed. The low levels of inflata at the entrance to Ash Cove would indicate the infestation started in the small inner coves of Ash and not at its entrance. As you leave the inner cove the level of infestation starts to decrease which helps support this conclusion. In sector U53, just outside the inner cove, this had the second heaviest infestation, again confirming it is spreading from the inner cove. While the harvesting went well there is still an undetermined amount of inflata hidden below the natives which in summer rise 1 to 4 feet above the substrate. Unfortunately, the inflata in these conditions cannot be harvested at this time. They are too well hidden and if found, they will fragment when trying to remove them. The fall and spring are the only times to harvest the imbedded inflata. This is now the bulk of the inflata remaining in Ash Cove.

The good news is starting in October, with most of the natives dying back, the hidden inflata started to show itself. When the remaining natives go limp, pulling a small, exposed section of the inflata can produce a plant 6' long with almost no fragmentation. Two weeks into November the natives are 6 inches to a foot off the substrate. I'm hopeful clearing areas at this time is removing the majority of the remaining inflata. Next spring will tell us how much progress we have made.

## Dive Team News

### MOUSAM LAKE REGION ASSOCIATION



Last year at this time we stated: “A big area of concern on Mousam Lake has been the extremely invasive Chinese Mystery Snail.”

In the spring newsletter we reminded you that “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.”

What a surprise when we had to totally change our direction after the invasive plant **Utricularia Inflata** (Swollen Bladderwort) was discovered in the lake.

The Department of Environmental Protection and the Lake Stewards of Maine met with MLRA Directors and Dive Team members at Ash Cove which had a significant infestation of the plant. As this is a newer invasive plant to Maine, there was very little information available. We were advised to use great care when extracting it to minimize fragmentation and subsequent spread of the weed. We learned that this plant has no root system and floats at different depths throughout the year and that it also favors shallow coves. We were asked to experiment with various tools and techniques to see what we thought was most effective for removal.

The Dive Team was fortunate to have purchased an enclosed trailer this year (special thanks to Ann Cibelli for help with the great design) and we were anxious to outfit it with equipment that we would need for our snail dives. With the news of the invasive plants and a call to action for collection, we quickly installed tool racks and filled them with nets, buckets and rakes. The trailer has been invaluable and has ferried kayaks and larger collection containers to various host sites around the lake.

For a group of volunteers that were thrown a curveball, and had to quickly respond to a new threat to our lake, we are proud of how it all turned out. We completed 6 group plant extractions and gathered 442 gallons of Swollen Bladderwort. This was accomplished by 85 volunteers with a total of 243 volunteer hours. Some of these hours were earned by local high school students who earned hours toward their community service graduation requirement.

Our thanks go out to our fellow Dive Team Committee members, Matt & Sallie Puffer, Ann Cibelli, Linda Haley and Brian Perry. We could not have done this without them. Thanks also to all the volunteers who showed up to help us at our events (too many to mention) and to our resident invasive plant expert Dennis Roberge for his training and guidance.

It should not go unsaid that the MLRA Board of Directors was instrumental in attacking this problem and was very supportive in providing the Dive Team with any funding that was required to tackle this challenge.

We look forward to another year with the Dive Team and its members doing whatever comes our way to protect our lake.

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](mailto:MLRADiveTeam@gmail.com)

Your Dive Team Coordinators,  
Gary and Ann Brown

It is with heavy hearts that we share the news that one of our volunteer divers, Richard Brady, along with his brother-in-law, passed away on October 4, 2023 while scuba diving in Rockport, MA. Richard and his wife Barbara lived in Hampton, NH but also had property on Mousam Lake. He was an accomplished diver and skier.

A group of us were fortunate to meet Richard this summer when he volunteered his diving services to our Lake Association's Dive Team here on Mousam. He was a valued addition to our team, not only for his vast experience but for his epic tales of past dives and his great sense of humor. He will be missed. R.I.P. Richard.

As a proud veteran, an avid supporter of our veterans, and a staunch supporter of education, charitable donations in Richard's name can be made to:

Wounded Warrior Project - <https://www.woundedwarriorproject.org/>

Tunnel to Towers Foundation - <https://t2t.org/>

Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology - <https://franklincummings.edu/>

In memory of Richard Brady ([rbrady5@comcast.net](mailto:rbrady5@comcast.net))

Full obituary: <https://www.remickgendronom/obituaries/Richard-Brady-15/#!/Obituary>



Richard Brady, shown on far left, after an invasive plant dive in Ash Cove, Mousam Lake 8/3/23.

### Welcome New 2023 MLRA Members

- Joshua Champion
- Diane Hubert Starboard Lane, Shapleigh
- Janet Luxton Ave F, Acton
- Diane Frampton 16<sup>th</sup> St. Loop, Shapleigh
- Diane Fitzpatrick 11<sup>th</sup> St, Acton
- George Rankin 23<sup>rd</sup> St Loop, Shapleigh
- Don & Joyce Messier Shapleigh Corner Rd, Shapleigh
- Noreen & Ron Long Narrows Lane, Shapleigh
- Stephen Materese 13<sup>th</sup> St, Acton
- Amanda Elwell Blanchard Meader Lane, Shapleigh
- Daniel Weldon Ave A, Acton
- Lynn & Christopher Spring Trails End Rd, Shapleigh
- Frank & Pat Donahue Channel Circle, Shapleigh
- Steve & Lisa Boissonneault Covewood Dr, Acton
- Joanne Pappajohn Katos Nose Rd, Shapleigh
- Scott & Melissa Nussbaum Meaders Lane, Shapleigh
- Wes Phinney 18<sup>th</sup> St, Shapleigh

### Celebrating 50 Years on Mousam Lake

Roger and Claudette Poor have been making memories on Mousam for 50 years.

### In Memory

Director Emeritus Elaine Beck passed away July 7, 2023. Elaine served this organization for over 20 years most recently in charge of Membership when she retired from the BOD in 2015. Elaine also served as Vice President and was the Editor of our newsletter. MLRA graciously recognizes Elaine’s decades of services to the Mousam Lake community. Thank you.

Gordon Grant, a long time member of the MLRA, passed away June 2023. He is survived by his wife Donna.

### A Message From Membership

The MLRA is going paperless! PLEASE email [membership@mousamlake.org](mailto:membership@mousamlake.org) with your email address and include your name and membership number. Updating the database is an ongoing process so please do your part by notifying us of all new phone numbers, emails and addresses. Thank you for your continued support. Wishing you all a happy and healthy new year. See you on the lake.

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

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**

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

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

*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 Spring Newsletter in May 2024!*

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

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

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



# 2022 July 4th Boat Parade

## Pontoon Boat Winners:

1st Place— *Mousamopoly*: The Talley Family

2nd Place— *Caution: Mousam Fun Ahead*: The Cahalane Family

3rd Place— *Sanford Spartan Marching Band*: The Alan/ Rankin Family



## Non- Pontoon Boat Winners

1st Place— *Captain Hook vs. Peter Pan*: The Landry & Wainwright Families

2nd Place— *Meaders Camps Vikings*: The McCall Family

3rd Place— *Hooked on Mousam*: The Hultin Family



## First Runner Up

*Greased Lighting*: The Manzer Family



## The Judges had a great time!

MLRA Board of Directors and Volunteers



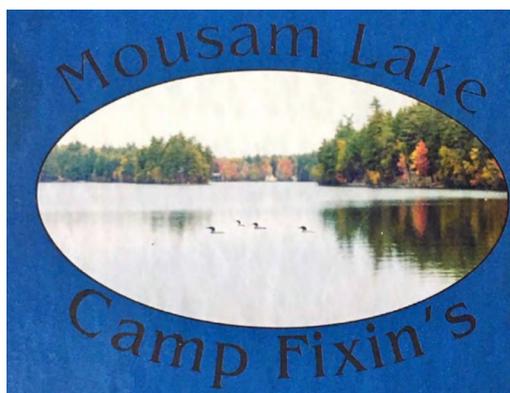
## Kids Fishing Derby 2023

Thank you to Glenn and Patti Baxter for hosting 20 participants! Another great event!

- 1st Place– Hunter, 24”, 5.16 lb. Trout
- 2nd Place– Theo, 17”, 2.41 lb. Bass
- 3rd Place– Lucas, 16.25”, 1.91 lb. Bass
- Youngest Angler– Brianna, 14”, 1.41 lb. Bass



## 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 winter?

### MOUSAM LAKE LOBSTER STEW

2 or 2 ½ lbs. live lobsters  
 ⅓ c. butter  
 1 qt. hot milk

1 c. hot cream  
 salt and pepper

Drop lobsters into well salted boiling water and cook 11 minutes. Remove from water and cool over a deep plate to catch the juice. When cool, pick over the shells saving all juice and whey. Cut lobster meat into ½ inch cubes and cook gently in melted butter until heated through. Add lobster and whey to hot milk and cream. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Sieve any coral and add to stew for nice color. Reheat before serving.

DO NOT ADD EVEN A HINT OF ONION.

*Polly Mapes, 10th Street*

### FIESTA DIP

1 lb. velveeta cheese cube  
 10 oz. shredded cheddar cheese  
 4 oz. can green chili-mild  
 chopped  
 6 oz. hot salsa sauce

15 oz. can stewed tomatoes  
 chopped  
 chili powder  
 garlic powder

Make layers in 2 qt. casserole dish. Start with half each of velveeta, and salsa. Sprinkle chili powder, cheddar cheese, green chili, and garlic powder. Repeat. Bake in 350° oven for about 25 minutes; should be bubbly. Serve with large spoon to get all layers onto tortillas chips.

Big hit while watching foot ball games.

*Barbara Shields, 13th Street*

## Looking forward to Summer 2024 Activities

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

<https://mousamlake.org/>

### Saturday, June 22, 2024: Annual Meeting

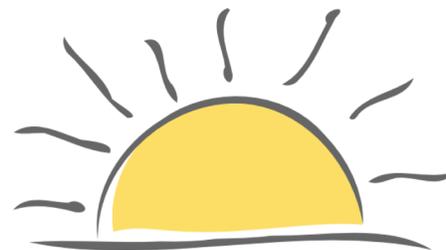
- 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at Acton Fairgrounds

### 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 Shapleigh side to the Foot of the Lake
- Prizes for best big and small boat decorations



### Saturday, July 20, 2024 : Kid’s Fishing Derby

- Registration begins at 8:30 am at Baxter’s Dock (near The Foot)
- 9:00am to 12:00pm
- Final weigh-in at 12:00pm

### ASYCC Golf Tournament

- Province Lake Golf Club
- Friday, August, 2, 2024
- For more information: <http://www.asycc.com/golf.html>

## 2023-2024 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
Gary Brown		Director
Amy Chartrain		Director
Jill Folsom		Director
James Gilbert		Director
Roger Gutner		Director
Mark Rousseau	(978) 374-3771	Director
Patti Baxter		Membership Volunteer
Kristi Borst		Social Media Volunteer
Richard Jagger		Lake Watch Boat