

Mousam Lake Region Association

SPRING 2014
NEWSLETTER

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WWW.MOUSAMLAKE.MYLAKETOWN.COM

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Opening Camp While Protecting Your Lake

A springtime ritual for many families is opening up their lakeside camp or cottage for the summer. To help protect the lake and wildlife that make camp so special, it is important to conduct this yearly procedure in such a way to minimize harm.

The following are tips you can use to make the opening of your camp safer for the lake and its wildlife:

Raking - DO NOT rake up the duff layer of leaves and pine needles that build up under the trees. These leaves act like a sponge and filter, and help prevent pollutants from getting into the lake. As a cottage owner it is one of the best things you can do to protect lake water quality.

Dock painting - Paint or stain docks away from the lake and allow at least 14 days of drying time before putting them in the

water. Make sure to clean brushes, etc. away from the water to prevent materials from washing into the lake.

Check for erosion - Check the shoreline and other areas of the property for soil erosion. Stabilize these areas with plants or rock riprap. If more than minor maintenance and repair is required, or if structural measures are necessary, contact your local code enforcement officer and the DEP to determine if permits will be needed before doing the work.

Septic system - Check your septic system's leachfield for any breakouts and consider having the tank pumped if it has not been pumped recently (tanks should be pumped every 2-3 years for year-round residences and every 4-5 years for seasonal residences). A properly functioning septic system prevents harmful pollutants from getting into the lake.

Boats - When preparing your boat for another season, make sure to dispose of drained lubricating oils at a recycling facility or bring the oil to your local dealer for disposal (see list of [oil recycling locations](#)). Wash the boat away from the water or at a commercial car wash. Check to make sure that the boat, trailer and other equipment are free of any hitchhiking plants. And tune-up that motor.

Cleaning products - When using cleaning agents, use natural products like baking soda and lemon juice when cleaning and save money while protecting your health and nature.

Paint color - When using paints and stains, consider using earth tone colors so that buildings and other structures will blend better with the natural shoreline.

WINTER CAMP INSPECTIONS

Winter Camp Inspections have been completed. Special thanks to Fred and _____ Kelly for once again completing this monumental task!

Mark Calendars for Summer Events

Your Board of Directors are busy at work planning for this year's annual summer events. Additional details on times and locations will be announced in the next newsletter.

Annual Meeting	Saturday, June 28 th
Light Up the Lake	Thursday, July 3 rd
Boat Parade	Friday, July 4 th
Kid's Fishing Derby	Saturday, July 19 th

Directors	Contact Number	Position
Rich Eagleston	(978) 985-3243	President
Skip Bartosch	(207) 636-2751	Vice President
James (Jamie) Verity	(207) 636-3644	Treasurer
Chris Leupold	(207) 636-3170	Secretary
Glenn Baxter	(207) 636-3510	Director
Jack Kelley	(207) 636-3252	Director
Elaine Beck	(207) 636-2166	Director
Elliott Levine	(207) 636-1785	Director
Mark Rousseau	(978) 374-3771	Director
Dennis Roberge	(207) 850-1588	Director
Jaime Fajardo	(207) 252-3215	Director



Stop the Spread—Save the Dates to Save Your Lake!

On Saturday, June 14th join with experts from both the Maine Volunteer Lakes Monitoring Program and the NH Department of Environmental Services to learn about how you can help prevent an invasive aquatic plant infestation in your lake. This workshop, held in Acton, ME will give you an overview of invasive species issues in Maine and NH, teach you the tricks of identification fundamentals, let you play with live invasive

and native aquatic plants and give you the tools to conduct a screening survey. All workshop participants will receive an Invasive Plant Patroller's Handbook, Maine's Field Guide to Invasive Aquatic Plants, and the NHDES Weed Watcher kit.

This free workshop is being coordinated by the Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance (AWWA) in partnership with the York County

Invasive Aquatic Species Project and multiple lake associations. To register, or for more information, contact AWWA at :

[603] 473-2500 or info@AWwatersheds.org.

For more info about the Mousam Lake Invasive Aquatic Plant efforts contact **Mark Rousseau at 978-835-2277**. Further details will be announced as the date nears.

Your MLRA Board is interested in hearing from you. If you have any questions or comments please email them at:

general@mousamlake.org

Acton-Shapleigh Youth Conservation Corps

The Acton-Shapleigh Youth Conservation Corps (ASYCC) would like to thank the MLRA for its continued support. The ASYCC is a community based non-profit organization whose main goal is to protect our lakes and water quality in the Mousam Lake-Square Pond Watershed through the application of effective erosion control measures, technical assistance, public outreach, education, and courtesy boat inspections. As we approach spring, our new Program Director, Zach Lemelin, is busy preparing to interview and hire youths and adults that have direct ties to the lakes and towns that we service and we are preparing for a busy 2014 season.

During 2013, the Erosion Control Crew (ECC) completed a record 30 erosion control projects and conducted 35 technical visits to property owners. The demand for the ECC continues to rise; with fewer than 27 percent of the property owners within the watershed having used the services of the ECC and awareness increasing, there is still more work to be done. The labors of the ASYCC have brought positive results to landowner battles against erosion on lake front properties and, given the property turnover, development and natural erosion taking place, our partnership with the watershed

will surely continue to strengthen.

The Courtesy Boat Inspection Program (CBI), which works to prevent the introduction of invasive aquatic plants from entering the Mousam Lake-Square Pond Watershed, inspected 5,336 boats in 2013, tagging and submitting a total of 367 collection bags. As the number of boaters visiting the clean waters of the Mousam Lake-Square Pond Watershed continues to increase, so do the chances of an invasive plant or organism entering our important waters.

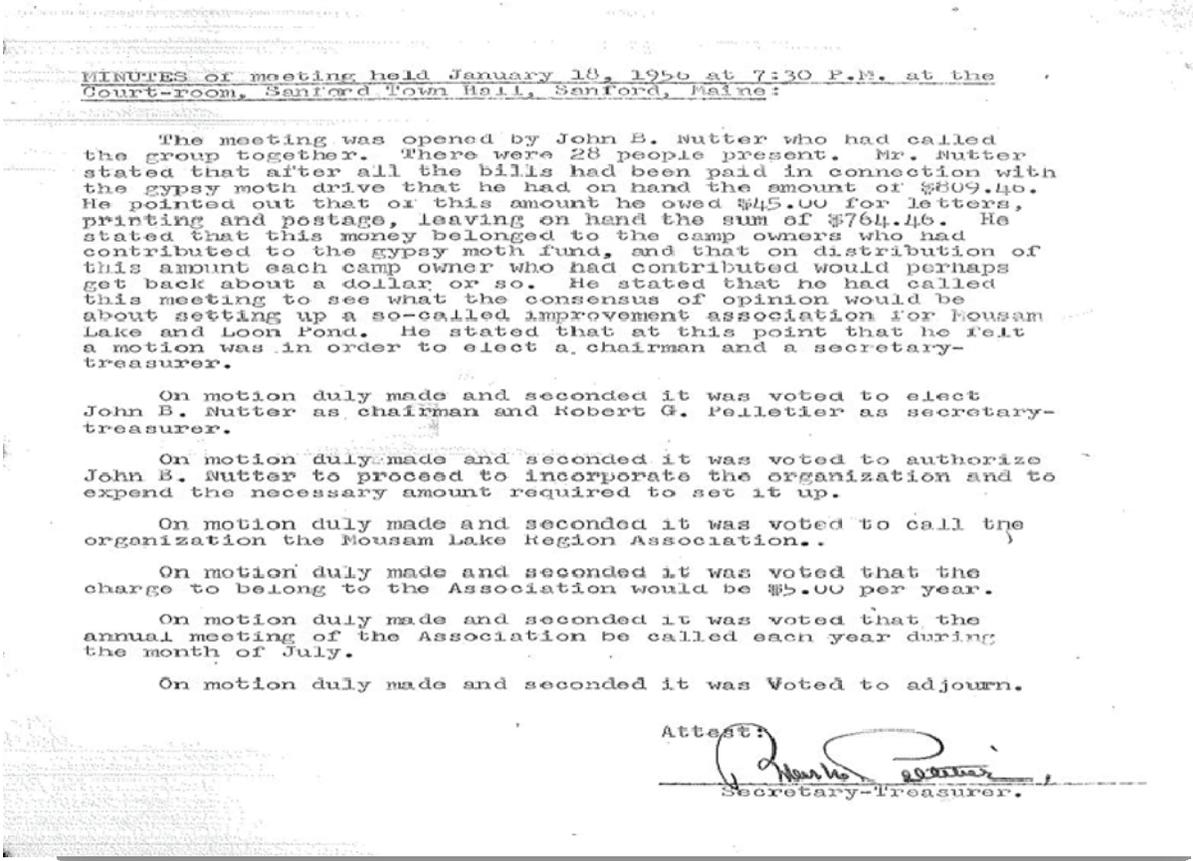
For more information on how the ASYCC can help you and Mousam Lake, please visit www.asycc.com.

Boat Safety Training Classes Offered in 2014

Once again this year Bob Anderson will be offering three **Boat Safety Training** classes on April 12th, June 21st, and September 13th at the Acton Town Hall. Registration is required and seating is limited. For additional information and costs you can contact Bob at 207-477-8588.

Going Retro from 1956....

As the MLRA Board of Directors meet on Saturday, January 18th to discuss our 2014 budget, water quality initiatives, and our event schedule for the upcoming year we realized that this particular meeting fell on a very historic date for the MLRA. On this date, 58 years earlier, a group of camp owners formally meet to establish the beginning Mousam Lake Region Association. Please enjoy the "minutes" from this first meeting 58 years ago.



Welcome New Members

New Members	Camp Address	TOWN
Steve & Katy Singlar	21st Street / Point Road	Shapleigh
Jacques & Constance Hamann	7th Street	Acton
Mike & Carolann Monopoli	13th Street / Ave D	Acton
Kelly & Glenn Biedermann	12th Street / Fairlane Drive	Acton

The Boater's Guide to Maine Boating Laws and Responsibilities

The Boater's Guide to Maine Boating Laws is the official boating handbook developed for the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. The handbook introduces you to Maine laws governing boating and provides general information about safe vessel operation on the waters of The Pine Tree State.

Maine's 2,500 lakes and ponds, 5,500 mile coastline and 2,000 coastal islands make it a favorite destination for motor boating, sailing, and paddle sports, but remember, safety on Maine's waters is the responsibility of everyone.

Use this handbook to familiarize yourself with the steps to make all your boating outings safe and enjoyable.

Topics include:

- Vessel Basics
- Navigation Rules
- Nighttime Navigation
- Emergencies
- Personal Watercraft (PWCs)
- Maine Boating Laws and Regulations
- Required Equipment
- Skiing
- And much more...

Whether or not your state requires education, it can reduce boating accidents and injuries on the water. Boaters can keep themselves and their passengers safe by learning about responsible boat operation, etiquette, and the rules of the waterways.

If you are interested in purchasing this e-book for your phone, e-reader or desktop computer you can do so for \$1.99 by going online at:

<http://www.boat-ed.com/maine/handbook/>

Interested in a Boating Safety Class?

Information can be found on page 2 of this newsletter.

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Watch your mail for you 2014 Membership Renewal Notice