

Acton Shapleigh Youth Conservation Corps



Photo Credit: Linda Charron—SP



2020 Annual Report

**Goose Pond
Loon Pond
Mousam Lake
Square Pond**

Sustaining and protecting water resources in the
greater Mousam Lake & Square Pond Watershed.

Thanks to everyone who helped make the 2020 ASYCC season successful!

Program Funding & Support

- Town of Acton, Maine
- Town of Shapleigh, Maine
- Mousam Lake Region Association
- Square Pond Improvement Association
- Lakes Environmental Association
- Maine Department of Environmental Protection
- Private Donors
- Dan Davis Sales, Event Sponsor
- Nicole Sampson, Gold Level Sponsor

2020 ASYCC Staff

Erosion Control Crew

- Mark Phelps, ECC Director, Shapleigh
- Gavin Bacon, Shapleigh
- John Beaupre, Sanford
- James Lessard Jr., Shapleigh
- John Lessard, Shapleigh
- Georgia Rousseau, Atkinson, NH
- Joshua Rousseau, Haverhill, MA
- Rylan Daigneault, Waterboro
- Quinn Huggins, No Andover, MA

Courtesy Boat Inspectors

David Burns, CBI Director, Alfred

- Sebastian Beaupre, Sanford
- Annabelle Cote-Gendreau, Shapleigh
- Valentina Drown, Acton
- Ben Foglio, Shapleigh
- Parker Jalbert, Alfred
- Mark Jacobs, Shapleigh
- Donnie LaLievre - Acton
- Carrie Phinney, Alfred
- Christian Reehl - Shapleigh
- Abigail Rickard - Acton
- Erma Roberge - Rochester NH
- Andreas Vargas, Lyman

2020 message from the ASYCC Board President

Kent Haake



This year with the Covid-19 pandemic, we are especially grateful to the Towns of Acton and Shapleigh, the Square Pond Improvement Association, and the Mousam Lake Region Association for their ongoing financial support. In addition, we have had a generous response for fundraising even though due to an understandable low turnout for golfer registration, we cancelled this year's golf fundraiser event. Using these multiple forms of support, the ASYCC is able to hire local residents who have a vested interest in protecting the local waterways.

We are still reaching out to our donors and sponsors with an appeal to help keep the ASYCC operating in this difficult year. 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>.

2020 is actually likely to be the busiest and most productive in our 20 year history. Have you noticed more boat traffic on our lakes this year? And have you noticed overflow parking onto Route 109 at the Mousam boat launch? Our CBI program is thriving and is one of the best in the state of Maine in terms of the number of inspections done and knowledge of invasive plants that our inspectors and plant advisors possess. We are easily on pace to set a record for the yearly number of inspections done - which continue to keep invasive plants out of our local lakes.

Our ECC program has a new director this year – Mark Phelps, who has also been assisted by our long-time CBI director Dave Burns and together they have been working to maintain the high quality of the program. We have an excellent young crew this year and look forward to having a majority of the crew back next year. Our ECC program was extended to 9 weeks this year vs 8 weeks in most other years.

Our IPP program is in its second year and is an effort to protect our watershed by carrying out a systematic look for Invasive plants. This is a “win-win”, in that it provides a new way to protect our lakes and it involves further training for several of our CBI's to keep a sharper lookout for invasive plants when doing boat inspections. Our crew of motivated CBI's completed 5 IPP sessions in 2020.

The additional interest in the ECC program is partially due to the 319 grants we have actively helped to procure and participate in. In a joint effort with the Mousam Lake Region Association (MLRA), the Square Pond Improvement Association (SPIA), and York County Soil and Water Conservation District (YCSWCD). There is currently a Mousam Lake grant due to finish up in the coming year with a Phase II grant starting in 2021. Square Pond has also recently been awarded a grant that is due to begin in 2021 lasting two years and managed by York County Soil & Water Conservation District.



Con't.

**A message from the
ASYCC Board
President**

The long term plan is to continue to apply for additional grant funding in the years to come. The total matching donations provided by our towns, landowners, Lake Associations and ASYCC for these grant funds could easily exceed \$150,000 and go directly to benefit our towns and homeowners. This is an amazing return on the investment made by the MLRA, SPIA and ASYCC. All of the work that is conducted through these grants is to help protect our beautiful lakes and ponds for generations to come.

We are very happy to announce we have two new members on our Board of Directors – Tom and Kathie McGurty. They are long-time Square Pond homeowners and supporters to the ASYCC. We really look forward to their help in keeping our organization strong.

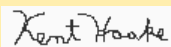
I also want to acknowledge all the contributions and hard work the current members of our Board Directors have been consistently providing for many years. We are a volunteer board.

Our Treasurer Joe Borst was successful in applying for and obtaining a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan which will likely be more of a grant versus a loan – that will significantly help us with our shortfall in Golf Tournament fundraising this year.

Our Secretary Jane Thomas is our star member at finding sponsor donations this year and every year. Scott and Debbie Lansberry have worked very hard each year at setup for our golf tournament and raffles. John Chamberlain has also been a great addition to our board and to the golf tournament fundraising and setup.

Thank You!

We thank you for your past and continued support of the important work that ASYCC is doing, and we need your help to ensure we can continue in the future.



Kent Haake - ASYCC Board President



Introduction

The Acton Shapleigh Youth Conservation Corps (ASYCC) is a non profit organization founded in 2001, working to protect Mousam Lake, Square Pond, Goose Pond and Loon Pond collectively known as the Mousam Lake-Square Pond Watershed.

Education

The ASYCC provides education, community outreach, technical assistance, courtesy boat inspections and the installation of erosion control practices in the watershed. The goal of the ASYCC is to sustain and protect the valuable water resources for its ecological importance as well as for the enjoyment of the local community, businesses and visitors.

Partnerships

The ASYCC is grateful to the Towns of Acton and Shapleigh, the Mousam Lake Region Association and the Square Pond Improvement Association for their ongoing financial support. In addition, fundraising occurs through the annual ASYCC Golf Tournament, grant opportunities through the State and private donations.

Locally Vested Employees

Using this local support, the ASYCC is able to hire local residents who have a vested interest in protecting the local waterways. Between the Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI) Program and the Erosion Control Crew (ECC) Program, the ASYCC hires approximately 15-20 local residents.

Locally Lead Volunteer Board Members

Board Members

Kent Haake, **President**

Jane Thomas, **Secretary**

Joe Borst, **Treasurer**

Scott & Debbie Lansberry, **Directors**

John Chamberlain, **Director**

Tom and Kathie McGurty, **Directors**

ASYCC Management Team

Dave Burns, **CBI Leader**

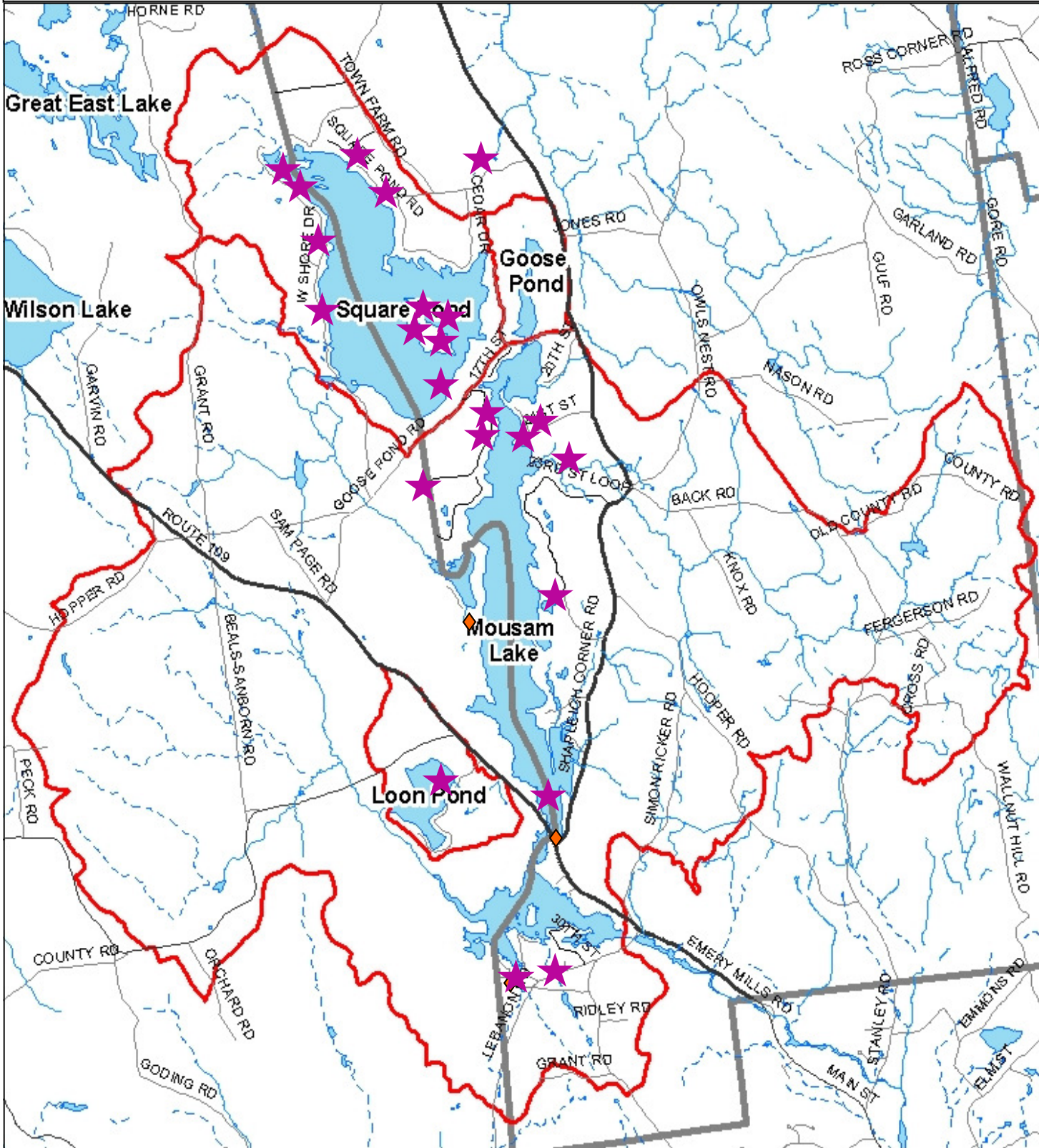
Mark Phelps, **ECC Leader**

Betty Smith, **Program Consultant**

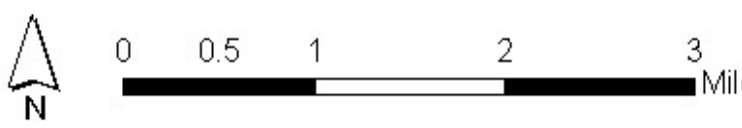
ASYCC Advisors

Mindee Goodrum - Project Manager, York County Soil & Water Conservation District

Mousam Lake & Square Pond Watersheds



★ Indicates approximate location of ECC projects



Courtesy Boat Inspection Program

The goal of the CBI Program is to prevent the introduction of invasive aquatic plants and organisms from entering local water bodies.



The CBI Program works to protect Mousam Lake and Square Pond from invasive aquatic plants and organisms by inspecting boats going into and coming out of our local waterways.

Invasive aquatic plants and organisms threaten the ecology of the freshwater lakes and rivers, the regional economy, and wildlife populations in the area.

The ASYCC emphasizes education, outreach and community involvement as one of the most important purposes of the program, helping boaters and landowners understand how vital it is to protect the Mousam Lake & Square Pond Watershed.



Inspectors conduct boat and trailer inspections looking for plants and plant fragments and provide information to boaters about invasive aquatic plants and organisms.

Inspectors are stationed on the Mousam Lake and Square Pond public boat ramps.

Inspectors look for aquatic plants and organisms like variable leaf-milfoil, Eurasian water-milfoil and marine organisms such as water chestnuts and zebra mussels are just a few invasive species the inspectors look for.

Inspectors check all:

- Boats
- Trailers
- Jet skis
- Fishing tackle
- Lines and ropes
- Water toys

Boat inspections and public education are the best ways to protect Mousam Lake, Square Pond, Loon Pond and Goose Pond from invasive aquatic plants and organisms. Once an invasive species enters a waterway it is very costly to treat or remove. The impacts are far reaching and include a decrease in nearby property values, degraded water quality, decrease in marine life biodiversity and restricted recreational opportunities. There are several lakes in the region that are currently overwhelmed with the removal and maintenance of invasive aquatic species.

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In 2020, CBI coverage hours stayed at 2019 levels for a total of 3316 hours.



◆ **Square Pond** coverage began on May 1st for the “early pre-season” which ran for three weeks, a “pre-season” coverage for six weeks, the “regular season” ran for 11 weeks and the final “post season” for nine weeks ending November 1 with a grand total of 916 inspector hours.

◆ **Mousam Lake** coverage began on May 1st for the “early pre-season” which ran for three weeks, a “pre-season” coverage for three weeks, the “early regular season” coverage ran for 3 weeks, the “regular season” ran for 11 weeks and the final “post season” for eight weeks ending November 1 with a grand total of 2155 inspector hours.

Total Number of Inspections and Plant Fragments Collected throughout the 2020 season includes:

- ⇒ Total number of invasive plants identified from specimens: 0
- ⇒ The Snail Snatchers on Square Pond harvested over 1800 lbs of snails this season.

| | Total number of inspections | Number of plant fragments submitted | Number of confirmed invasive plants |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Mousam Lake | 7702 | 224 | 0 |
| Square Pond | 1621 | 92 | 0 |
| Total | 9323 | 316 | 0 |

“CBI Invasive Plant Patrols”

The pilot project continued this season and the CBI inspectors carried out systematic Invasive Plant Patrols (IPP). Our collaboration with Laurie Callahan Founder and Coordinator at the York County Invasive Aquatic Species Project (*YCIASP*) continues to be successful. This effort began on Mousam Lake and six of our boat inspectors were trained to look for Invasive plants while in the water.



This provides an additional way to protect Mousam Lake and generate additional training for our CBI's to keep a sharper lookout for invasive plants when doing boat inspections.

The CBI's did 5 patrols. A **Level III*** survey of the launch area, then the opposite cove and dam area from the launch. In addition, the beach area and surrounding area around the Acton Trading Post. Finally, the large cove at the foot of Mousam Lake adjacent to Rt 11 in coordination with members of MLRA and YCIASP. Dennis Roberge, Aquatic Plant Specialist from Mousam Lake Region Association accompanied the crew on a few of the patrols. These motivated youths are turning the heads of many folks throughout the state and other IPP organizations. The talent level has far exceeded what we expected!



***Level III survey is a classification the state and Lake Stewards of Maine uses to identify the scope of the patrol. Level III is coverage from 300 feet on each side of the launch and 300 feet out.**

Erosion Control Crew (ECC) Program

The goal is to minimize human impact on the land, use local materials, incorporate the natural landscape into the erosion remedy, promote vegetation and prevent pollutants from entering the water body.



The “YCC/ECC” model has been successfully adopted to protect and improve water quality in several other communities across the state. With development and construction on lakeside properties, the ECC helps to educate property owners and municipalities about the affects of weather, wave action and development have on their properties.

The ECC completed its 19th season in August 2020. This report highlights a variety of conservation projects that the crew completed throughout the 9 week season. The ECC is comprised of local high school students and a crew leader who install erosion controls with guidance from the ECC Director.

The ECC services are open to any property owner in the Mousam Lake, Square Pond, Goose Pond or Loon Pond Watersheds. A project typically begins with a homeowner requesting a technical assistance visit to assess any erosion issues.

Next steps include:

- ◆ The ECC Director, having gathered pertinent information from the homeowner regarding usage of the property will **recommend** standard erosion control Best Management Practices (BMP’s) to address erosion.
- ◆ A **summary or technical report** will be provided to the landowner.
- ◆ Part of the report will also include a **letter of agreement** that outlines the responsibilities of the homeowner and the ECC/ASYCC that highlights instructions and guidance for maintenance necessary to retain the BMP’s effective design.
- ◆ The **labor is free** and the **homeowner is responsible for purchasing** and having materials on site prior to the crew work day. The ASYCC has an overhead fee of \$75.00 and is charged to all landowners that we work with each season. The ECC Director and homeowner will work together to schedule a convenient day to complete the work.

The use of EPA’s Best Management Practices is the foundation of our work.

Total Completed Erosion Control Projects

| Year | 2020 | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 |
|--------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Mousam | 12 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 6 | 13 | 9 | 7 | 13 | 14 | 7 | 9 | 10 |
| Square | 10 | 11 | 9 | 12 | 23 | 10 | 7 | 20 | 8 | 11 | 15 | 6 | 6 |
| Goose | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Loon | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| Totals | 23 | 22 | 19 | 20 | 30 | 24 | 19 | 30 | 26 | 27 | 24 | 16 | 20 |

Total Number of Technical Assistance Visits

| Year | 2020 | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 |
|--------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Amount | 43 | 43 | 60 | 48 | 67 | 64 | 32 | 35 | 44 | 43 | 34 | 33 | 32 |

2020 ECC Accomplishments

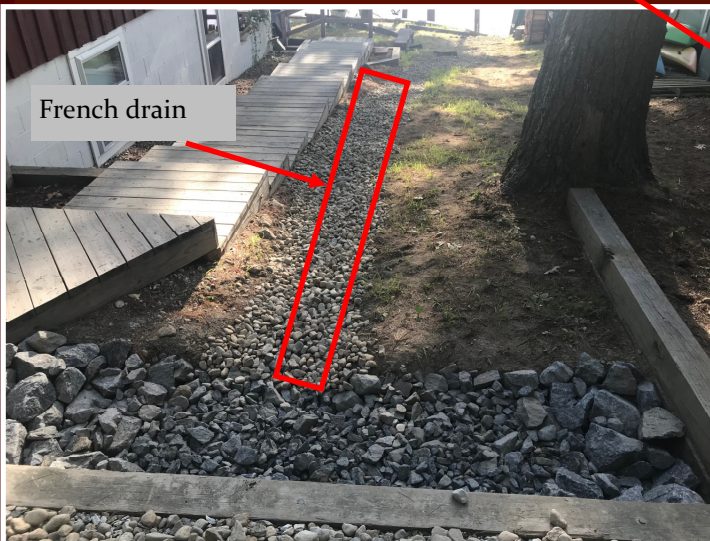
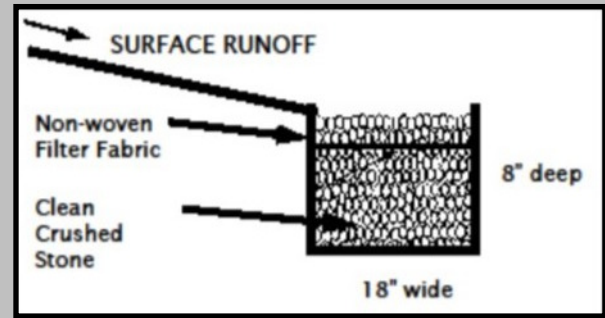
In a short nine week season, a team of five high school students, led by a crew leader and a technical director successfully completed 23 erosion control projects in the greater Mousam Lake-Square Pond Watershed. By the end of the summer they had:

- * Spread approximately 207 cubic yards of mulch
- * Hand placed approximately 60 cubic yards of crushed stone
- * Installed approximately 40 infiltration steps
- * Cleaned, raked and prepared both public beaches for the season
- * Cleaned and maintained 7 plunge pools
- * Installed 9 French drains
- * Installed 96 feet of roof drip line trenches
- * 3 rain gardens
- * Planted over 130 shrubs, groundcovers and perennials.
- * Install 3 rubber razors and 7 water diverters

Moderate to severe surface erosion as seen along the wooden walkway alongside the red house. Recommendation included a French drain (trench lined with geotextile then filled with crushed stone). Crushed stone added to parking area above the French drain providing another area to slow any runoff.



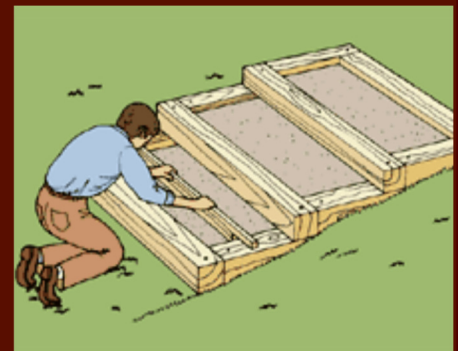
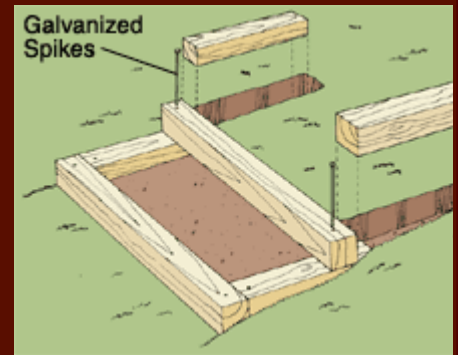
Maintenance is necessary to ensure proper function and maximum water infiltration.



Boat launch stabilization was needed to curb shoreline erosion. Rubber razor water diverter installed at the upper end of the launch with a stone lined trench to encourage infiltration. The shoreline edge of the launch which is impacted by wave action, freeze and thaw was stabilized with 4" stone rolled and compacted.



Pathway needed to be updated to eliminate surface erosion. Additional shrubs and plantings were installed alongside the newly constructed infiltration steps. Infiltration steps allow rain/runoff to slow down and infiltration into the ground.



**A note about
ASYCC 's
General Overhead
Charge
Of \$75.00**

When the ECC team works with a landowner, a \$75.00 fee is placed on your invoice and that fee helps to cover the following:

- **Wear and tear on equipment**
- **storage for equipment**
- **tools**
- **materials**
- **technical assistance visits**
- **recommendations report**
- **filing permits**
- **transportation and gas**

Each year it costs approximately:

- **\$400+ for replacement tools and equipment**
- **\$450 for storage of tools**
- **\$2800 for truck rental and gas**
- **average cost of a technical assistance visit, report and permits is \$600.**
- **Liability and Workers Compensation insurance**
- **Payroll Processing**
- **Printing/Copying**
- **Legal Fees**
- **Bank fees**

If we had divided these costs between the total number of landowners we worked with this year, the fee would have been more than \$200 rather than the \$75.00.



Natural Resource Protection

Acton Shapleigh Youth Conservation Corps

P.O. Box 47
Springvale, Me 04083

www.asycc.com

