

Acton Shapleigh Youth Conservation Corp

2024 Annual Report

Goose Pond
Loon Pond
Mousam Lake
Square Pond



Photo Credit: Jerry Cronin, Square Pond

**Thanks to everyone who helped make the 2024 ASYCC
season successful!**

Program Funding & Support

- **Town of Acton, Maine**
- **Town of Shapleigh, Maine**
- **Mousam Lake Region Association**
- **Square Pond Improvement Association**
- **Province Lake Golf Course**
- **Eldredge Lumber**
- **Rosenkrans Foundation**
- **Exit Key Realty**
- **Dan Davis Sales**
- **Private Donors**

Partial project funding provided in part by the Maine DEP through a USEPA Nonpoint Source Grant under Section 319 of the federal Clean Water Act and York County Soil & Water Conservation District.

2024 ASYCC Staff

David Burns, Program Director, Alfred
Jim Dochtermann, Assistant Program Director, Alfred

Courtesy Boat Inspectors

- **Donnie LaLievre - Acton**
- **Carrie Phinney - Shapleigh**
- **Erma Roberge - Rochester NH**
- **Andrew Stevens - Kennebunk**
- **Simone Gallagher - Acton**
- **Adrianna Mitchell - Sanford**
- **Natalia Rothwell - Acton**
- **Samantha Rumney - W Newfield**
- **Sam Dunbar - Acton**

Erosion Control Crew

- **Andrew Pepka - Pembroke NH**
- **Luke O'Donnell - Hampstead NH**
- **Landon O'Donnell - Hampstead NH**
- **Jordan Stuart - Sanford**
- **Ethan Allard - Shapleigh**
- **Rylee Santos - Sanford**
- **Carrie Phinney - Shapleigh**
- **Martin Glynn - Shapleigh**

2024 message from the ASYCC Board

Margarita Borgal

Terry Borgal

Joe Borst

John Chamberlain

Kent Haake

Scott Lansberry

Deborah Lansberry

Jane Thomas



As we conclude our 24th year as a non-profit dedicated to protecting the lakes in the Mousam Lake-Square Pond Watershed through courtesy boat inspections, erosion control, technical site evaluations, permitting assistance, invasive plant patrols, and public outreach/education, we want to highlight the long-term service of several individuals who have ensured the viability of our program through all challenges.

We feel it is important to acknowledge the long-time dedication provided by our non-paid volunteer Board of Directors. The focus of this year's letter comes about as one of our valued Board members John Chamberlain - has made the difficult decision to step down. John joined our board in 2018. He has been a dedicated and positive voice for all of these years and took on the very difficult task of chairing our important and always successful annual golf fundraiser. John, we thank you and we will miss you.

We will always recognize our program's youth and adult staff with direct ties to the towns we serve. Many in this group have a long history of service and employment. Included in this category are Donnie LaLievre (since 2008), Erma Roberge (since 2017), Carrie Phinney (since 2019).

Also in this category, but needing a point of distinction is our Program Director Dave Burns. Dave started as a Courtesy Boat Inspector (CBI) in 2015. He took over leading the CBI program in 2017 and as of 2022, has been coordinating all of our programs with energy and expertise. We can never thank Dave enough.

We want to mention our newest adult leader and Assistant Program Director, Jim Dochtermann who is heading up the Erosion Control crew and fills in on CBI staffing as needed and assists Dave with Technical visits. Jim has a helpful background as a high school instructor at Massabesic HS, and is learning the ropes from Dave at a very impressive pace.

One final important mention regarding our staff with a long history of service belongs to Betty Smith. We were very fortunate to have Betty join us as a Program Director from 2015 - 2017. She was a main contributor in getting all of our recent 319 grants started and implemented with huge benefits to our towns and lake owners. She also has been a point of contact with questions, and for many years has still been a valued consultant who puts together our Annual Report.

There is not enough room here to mention many more long-term individuals who have or who continue to serve on our Board and as staff for our programs. You all are very much valued and appreciated. And we hope other like-minded and maybe "younger" folks in our area may soon want to join our ranks to continue this mission!

We thank everyone for their past and continued support of the important work the ASYCC is doing.

ASYCC Board of Directors:

Jane Thomas since 2009

Kent Haake since 2014

Joe Borst since 2014

Scott and Deborah Lansberry since 2015

John Chamberlain since 2018

Margarita and Terry Borgal since 2022

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.

Board Members

Joe Borst, **Treasurer**

Jane Thomas, **Donation Lead**

Scott Lansberry, **CBI & ECC Supervisor**

Kent Haake, **Grants/CBI & ECC Assist**

Debbie Lansberry, **Director**

John Chamberlain, **Spokesperson, Golf Tournament Chairperson**

Margarita and Terry Borgal, **Directors**

Dennis Roberge - **Special Advisor, Invasive Plants**

ASYCC Management Team

Dave Burns, **Program Director**

Jim Dochtermann, **Assistant Program Director**

ASYCC Advisors York County Soil & Water Conservation District

Locally Lead Volunteer Board Members

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 like the one found on June 20, 2021 on Mousam Lake 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, swollen bladderwort, water chestnuts and marine organisms such as zebra mussels.

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.

Inspectors check all:

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

Courtesy Boat Inspection Program Con't

- ◆ **Square Pond** coverage began on April 20th for the “early pre-season” which ran for three weeks, a “pre-season” coverage for six weeks, the “regular season” ran for 14 weeks and the final “post season” for three weeks ending October 13th with a grand total of 1214.5 inspector hours.
- ◆ **Mousam Lake** coverage began on April 20th for the “early pre-season” which ran for three weeks, a “pre-season” coverage for three weeks, the “early regular season” coverage ran for three weeks, the “regular season” ran for 14 weeks and the final “post season” for three weeks ending October 13th with a grand total of 1400 inspector hours.

Total Number Of Inspections and Plant fragments collected throughout the 2024 season

	Total number of inspections	Number of plant fragments submitted	Number of confirmed invasive plants
Mousam Lake	6533	112	55
Square Pond	781	21	0
Total	7314	133	55

We would like to take this opportunity to highlight the great work being done by our two lake associations to carry out work to remove the extremely invasive Chinese Mystery Snail on Square Pond and the newly discovered Swollen Bladderwort in Mousam Lake.

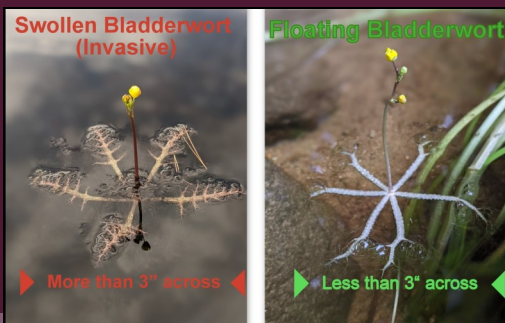
The **Square Pond Improvement Association (SPIA)** has been working on keeping the snail population under control for 13 years, their knowledge is vast and their operation impressive. In 2024, the **Snail Snatchers** completed 6 organized dives and several people dove individually. 75 people volunteered this year and approximately 50 volunteers participated in several dives. 35 divers are now certified. Season totals for Square Pond Snail Snatchers is 2,374 lbs of snails.

The **Mousam Lake Region Association (MLRA) Dive Team** continues to build on the momentum set in 2022 where they collected a total of 204 lbs. of Chinese Mystery snails. While the snails persist, the MLRA has mounted an additional effort to gain control of the recent discovery of Swollen Bladderwort, a rapidly spreading, unrooted invasive plant. Through 6 Dive Team events, 3,811 gallons of Swollen Bladderwort were harvested in 2024. Mechanical and hand harvesting techniques were used. Fundraising continues to assist in the purchase or hiring of a Diver Assisted Suction Harvester, “DASH” boat.

Chinese Mystery Snails...



Swollen Bladderwort



Erosion Control Crew (ECC) Program

ECC

Erosion Control Crew is responsible for implementing on the ground conservation practices.

Youth Conservation Corps

A program design to provide local youth an opportunity for meaningful summer employment while learning about environmental and natural resource protection through the installation of on the ground conservation practices.

The “YCC/ECC” (*Youth Conservation Corps/Erosion Control Crew*) modeled after the State of Maine program 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 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:

1. 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.
2. A **summary or technical report** will be provided to the landowner.
3. The ASYCC has made arrangements with towns and the MDEP to waive **permitting** fees that can result in substantial savings for the landowner.
4. 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 crew typically provides the **labor** and the **homeowner is responsible for purchasing** and having materials on site prior to the crew work day. The ECC program includes an overhead cost in an all inclusive fee to be invoiced to the landowner upon completion and acceptance of the project. The ECC Director and homeowner will work together to schedule the work.



From L-R: Jim Dochtermann, Martin Glynn, Ethan Allard, Kenzy Sposato, Rylee Santos, Julia Dochtermann, Andrew Pepka, Luke O'Donnell, Julien Dochtermann and Landon O'Donnell.



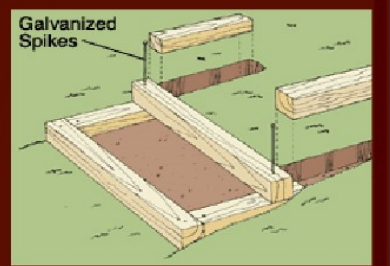
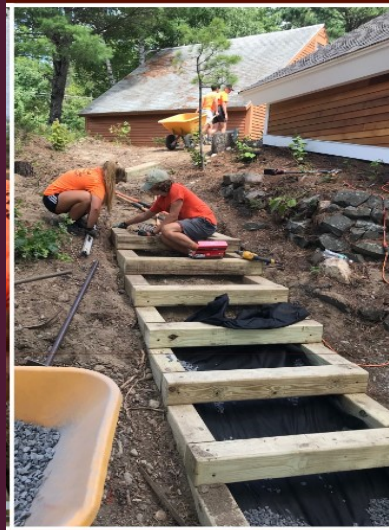
Designating and stabilizing a pathway helps avoid soil compaction over a wider area and encourages plant growth. Infiltration trenches or French drains help slow velocity of runoff and infiltrate runoff into the ground.

Commonly Used Conservation Practices Aka Best Management Practices

Conservation practices are used to infiltrate, slow or divert runoff and in doing so help protect water quality. Most are fairly straightforward and simple. Below are some of the most common practices. For additional details on how and where to install these, visit our website: www.asycc.com/education.html.

Infiltration Steps

Purpose: Infiltration steps use crushed stone to slow down and infiltrate runoff. They are effective on moderate slopes, but consider building wooden stairways on 1:1 slopes (45°) or areas where rocks or surface roots make it difficult to set infiltration steps in the ground.



Surface Runoff on Slopes

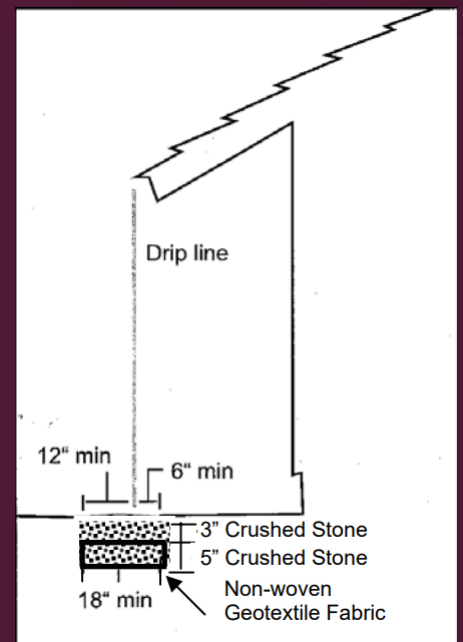
Issue: Generously sloped site with surface runoff that is rutting their launch area due to runoff flowing off of trail. Shoreline area has evidence of sediment loading from this runoff.



Recommendation: Spread erosion control mulch on foot paths and bare soil areas located around the house. Place various plantings, install roof drip line, rain diverter and drywell to encourage infiltration of runoff.

Managing roof runoff with a dripline trench:

- **Purpose:** Dripline trenches collect and infiltrate stormwater, control erosive runoff, and reduce wear on the house by minimizing backsplash.
- **Installation:** Dig an 18" wide and at least 8" deep trench along the drip line, slope it away from the house, and fill it with crushed stone. Use non-woven geotextile fabric to extend the trench's life.
- **Materials:** Crushed stone and non-woven geotextile fabric, which can be purchased locally.
- **Maintenance:** Periodically remove debris and weeds. Trenches with geotextile fabric require less frequent maintenance but will eventually need cleaning.



ABC's of Permitting.. Contact the ASYCC to find out if you need a permit and how they can assist you in submitting.

Permit by Rule: A streamlined process for small projects requiring permits, with forms available online and a 14-day review period by the DEP

- **Purpose:** The document emphasizes the importance of protecting Maine's watersheds through local and state laws.
- **Shoreland Zoning Law:** Regulates construction, vegetation clearing, and soil movement within 250 feet of water bodies, administered by local authorities.
- **Natural Resources Protection Act (NRPA):** Oversees soil disturbance and other activities within 75 feet of water bodies, managed by the Maine DEP.



Acton Shapleigh Youth Conservation Corps

Natural Resource Protection

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.

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www.asycc.com