

# 2025 Annual Report

[www.asycc.com](http://www.asycc.com)

## Acton Shapleigh Youth Conservation Corps

Goose Pond

Loon Pond

Mousam Lake

Square Pond



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

Photo Credit: Jerry Cronin, Square Pond 2025

**Thanks to everyone who helped make the 2025 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
- Davis Conservation Foundation
- Rosenkrans Foundation
- Exit Key Realty
- Dan Davis Sales
- Pension Professionals
- Private Donors

**2025 ASYCC Staff**

**David Burns, Program Director, Alfred**

**Courtesy Boat Inspectors**

- Colomb, Anastasia - Waterboro
- Dochterman, Julia - Alfred
- Dochterman, Glenn - Alfred
- Dochterman, Jim - Alfred
- Dunbar, Sam - Acton
- Gallagher, Samone - Acton
- Kirby, Cameran - Portland
- LaLievre, Don - Acton
- Mitchell, Adrianna - Sanford
- Phinney, Carrie - Shapleigh
- Roberge, Erma - Rochester NH
- Rothwell, Natalie - Acton
- Rumney, Samantha - W Newfield

**Erosion Control Crew**

- Allard, Ethan - Shapleigh
- Glynn, Martin - Shapleigh
- O'Donnell, Landon - Hampstead NH
- O'Donnell, Luke - Hampstead, NH
- Pepka, Andrew - Pembroke NH
- Phinney, Carrie - Shapleigh
- Santos, Rylee - Sanford
- Stuart, Jordan - Sanford
- Syman, Dakota - Shapleigh
- Winchell, Rowan - Sanford

## 2025 message from the ASYCC Board

Joe Borst

Kent Haake

Scott Lansberry

Deborah Lansberry

Jane Thomas



On behalf of the ASYCC Board of Directors, we are pleased to reflect upon the successes in 2025. Since our founding in 2001, ASYCC has remained steadfast in its mission to protect the waterways of the Mousam Lake – Square Pond Watershed—including Goose Pond, Loon Pond, Mousam Lake, and Square Pond—through education, outreach, technical assistance, erosion-control practices, invasive plant patrols, and courtesy boat inspections. A key word to sum up this past year is **Collaboration!**

A core strength of our work has been the partnerships we maintain and deepen each year. We are honored to collaborate with the Mousam Lake Region Association (MLRA), the Square Pond Improvement Association (SPIA), the York County Soil & Water Conservation District (YCSWCD), and the York County Invasive Aquatic Species Project (YCIASP). Together we leverage our shared expertise, funding and resources to advance water-quality protection, invasive-species prevention, and land-owner education in meaningful ways.

Through our partnership with MLRA and SPIA, ASYCC's Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI) program has maintained great coverage at our two launch sites on Mousam Lake and Square Pond, helping ensure that thousands of boats each season are inspected to prevent the transfer of invasive plants. We continue to get great support and member participation from SPIA and MLRA to utilize our Erosion Control Crew to keep the water quality of our area lakes clean.

We are now in the process of increasing our collaboration with YCSWCD exploring further efforts to address the spread of invasive plants in our area and identify the appropriate means of grant funding work that will benefit lakes at a regional level, to prevent further spread of existing infestations and the potential for new infestations in those not yet affected. And Laurie Callahan (YCIASP) has helped us again this year with training and coordination for our Invasive Plant Patrol crews, strengthening our early-detection capacity and reinforcing our role as a first line of defense.

Looking forward, the ASYCC Board reaffirms our commitment to these partnerships—and to welcoming new opportunities for cooperative action. We invite MLRA, SPIA, YCSWCD, YCIASP, and all local stakeholders to continue working with us: to share ideas, accelerate education efforts, enhance youth employment opportunities, and deploy conservation practices across the watershed. By aligning our efforts, we ensure that our lakes remain clean, healthy, and thriving for generations to come.

Thank you to our Staff Directors, Volunteer Board, donors, collaborators, and local youth who play a part in this work. Together, we are preserving not just water, but also the experience of place, community, and stewardship. The ASYCC looks forward to what we can achieve next.

With gratitude and resolve,

The ASYCC Board of Directors

## 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 delivers educational programs, engages in community outreach, offers technical support, conducts courtesy boat inspections, and implements erosion control measures throughout the watershed. Its mission is to preserve and safeguard vital water resources—valued both for their ecological significance and for the benefit of local residents, 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 within the State and private donations.

## Locally Vested Employees

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, Invasive Plant Patrol (IPP) Program, and the Erosion Control Crew (ECC) Program, the ASYCC hires approximately 15-20 local residents.

## Locally Lead Volunteer Board Members

### Board Members

Joe Borst, **Treasurer**

Jane Thomas, **Director and Donation Lead**

Scott Lansberry, **Vice President**

Kent Haake, **President**

Debbie Lansberry, **Director**

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

### ASYCC Management Team

Dave Burns, **Program Director**

Jim Dochtermann, **Assistant Director**

Glenn Dochtermann, **CBI Leader**

### ASYCC Advisors

York Co Soil & Water Conservation District

# 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 monitor for invasive aquatic plants and organisms, including variable leaf-milfoil, Eurasian water-milfoil, and swollen bladderwort, as well as marine species such as water chestnuts and 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.

## Courtesy Boat Inspectors Step In During Critical Moments

Courtesy Boat Inspectors (CBIs) administered CPR to a person in distress at the Mousam Lake boat launch. In previous years, other CBIs have also saved individuals from drowning after they fell off the dock at the launch and were unable to swim.

### Inspectors check all:

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

# Courtesy Boat Inspection Program Continued

- ◆ **Square Pond** coverage began on April 24th for the “early pre-season” which ran for four weeks, a “pre-season” coverage for six weeks, the “regular season” ran for eleven weeks and the final three week “post season” ending October 12th with a grand total of 1193.5 inspector hours.
- ◆ **Mousam Lake** coverage began on April 24th for the “early pre-season” which ran for four weeks, a “pre-season” coverage for six weeks, the “regular season” ran for eleven weeks and the final “post season” for three weeks ending October 12th with a grand total of 1855.5 inspector hours.

We would like to highlight the great work being done by our two lake associations to carry out work to remove the extremely invasive Chinese

Total Number Of Inspections and Plant fragments collected throughout the 2025 season			
	Total number of inspections	Number of plant fragments submitted	Number of confirmed invasive plants
Mousam Lake	7014	110	14
Square Pond	790	13	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>7804</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>14</b>

## Chinese Mystery Snails...



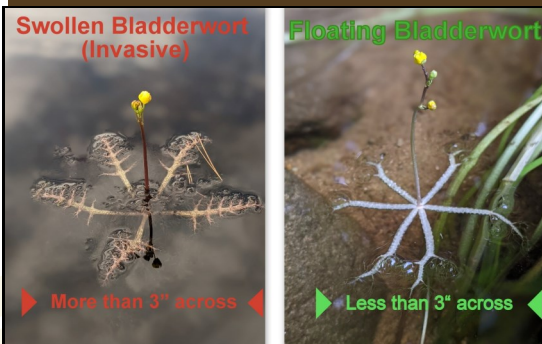
Mystery Snail on Square Pond and the newly discovered Swollen Bladderwort in Mousam Lake.

The Square Pond Improvement Association (SPIA) has been working on keeping the snail population under control for 14 years, their knowledge is vast and their operation impressive. In 2025, the **Square Pond Snail Snatchers** completed 7 organized dives and several people dove individually. 107 people volunteered this year and approximately 50 volunteers participated in several dives. 38 divers are now certified. Season totals for Square Pond Snail Snatchers is 2,418 lbs of snails.

Since its launch in 2022, the Mousam Lake Region Association (MLRA) Dive Team has been actively engaged in removing Swollen Bladderwort from various areas and coves throughout the lake. In 2025, the combination strategy of hired mechanical DASH harvesting and manual harvesting under the guidance of the MLRA Dive Team enabled the removal of 2890 gallons via DASH, and 166 gallons via hand harvesting for a total of 3056 gallons of plant material removed.

ASYCC staff from the IPP/CBI programs also took part in surveying, learning about, and helping to remove this invasive species. The Maine

## 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.*

Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) continues to work closely with MLRA to develop and refine an action plan for ongoing harvesting efforts and future surveys.

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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 and college age 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 crew typically provides the **labor** and the **homeowner is responsible for purchasing** and having materials on site prior to the crew work day. " Starting with the 2024 Season, ASYCC’s/ECC program will include 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.

## Maintenance of Erosion Controls

Keeping erosion control measures in good condition is essential to avoid environmental harm, follow regulations, and protect property. If not maintained, these measures can fail—causing soil erosion, water pollution, flooding, and expensive damage or fines. Regular maintenance helps keep the soil stable, protects water habitats, and ensures safety for nearby infrastructure and communities.

The ECC crew begins each season by completing important maintenance that includes town beaches, boat launches and culvert cleaning. 13th Street culverts were addressed, cleaned and stabilized where needed. The annual Mousam Beach and Square Pond Beach clean-ups were completed in preparation for the summer season.

Three Loon Pond properties received over 10 yards of mulch to help stabilize soil and capture runoff.

Exposed roots and bare soil are signs of and factors of long term erosion.

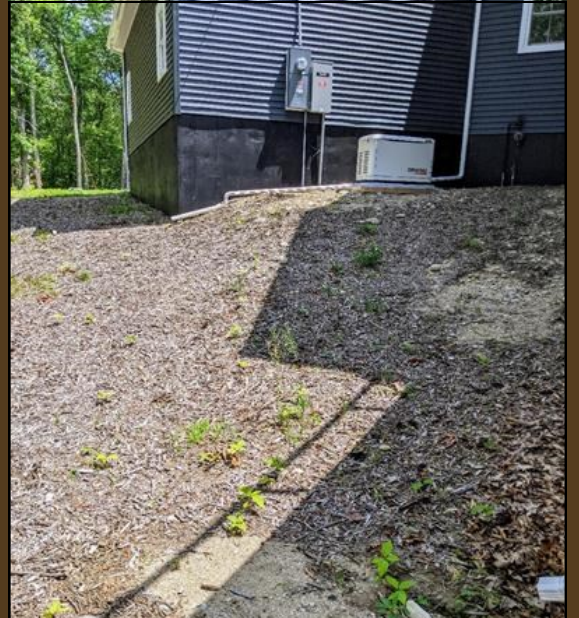


## Erosion Controls

This 2025 season, the ECC crew installed the following:

- 16 Roof Drip line/Dry Well trenches installed.
- 20+ yards of crushed stone placed
- 198 yards of erosion control mulch placed

All the above were installed at 11 residential properties and 5 municipal properties.



Erosion Control Mulch is a simple control to install. Pictured above in addition to mulch is a dry well at the gutter downspout.

## Erosion Control Mulch Applications



The above properties have a similar sloped topography that runoff flows directly towards the lake. Erosion Control Mulch is blend of heavy materials like partially composted bark, wood fragments, gravel, sand, and stone that locks together to protect soil from erosion. The mulch retains moisture, slows water velocity and is an effective erosion control that helps keep soil in place.

# ASYCC Yearly Statistical Analysis

2001-2024

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2001 2010	Total to Date
Erosion Control Projects	17	12	17	0	22	23	18	19	20	30	24	19	30	26	27	191	473
By Town																	
Acton	9	8	3	0	9	7	12	8	6	22	8	11	14	14	11	80	205
Shapleigh	8	4	14	0	12	16	6	11	14	8	16	8	16	12	16	111	256
By Lake																	
Mousam	9	3	11	0	9	12	10	8	6	6	13	9	7	13	14	98	219
Square	7	5	6	0	11	10	6	9	12	23	10	7	15	8	11	46	175
Goose	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	13	17
Loon	1	4	0	0	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	3	4	2	29	52
Technical Visits	30	29	31	44	41	43	43	60	48	37	64	32	35	44	43	385	955
Courtesy Boat Inspections	7804	7314	7074	8295	8211	9323	6666	7870	6650	6638	6009	5354	5336	5303	4169	10,404	95,155
# of inspections per lake	7014	6533	6197	6987	7106	7702	5758	6858	5526	5815	5274	4668	4615	4939	3638	9,598	83,420
Square Pond	790	781	877	1308	1105	1621	908	1012	1124	823	735	668	718	564	531	896	11,735
Plant Samples Collected	110	112	325	233	144	224	385	730	1572	288	297	154	291	233	34	74	5038
Square Pond	13	21	26	44	30	92	95	176	287	84	76	79	75	30	24	9	1039
Loon Pond	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2

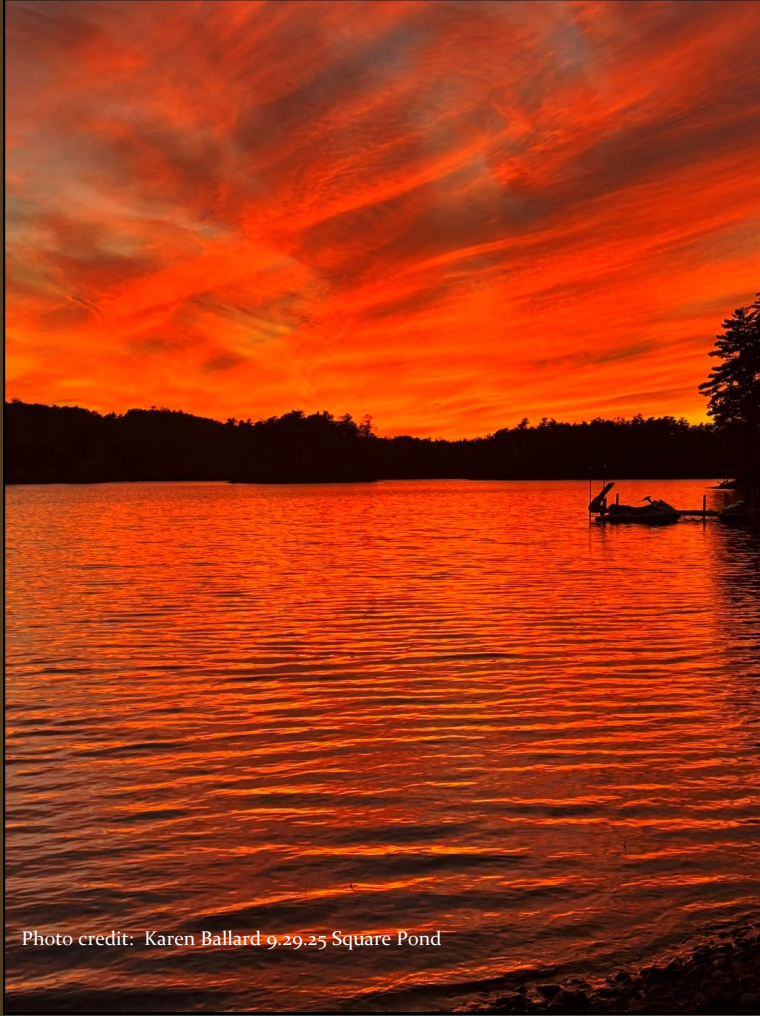


Photo credit: Karen Ballard 9.29.25 Square Pond



“You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference and you have to decide what kind of a difference you want to make.”

—Jane Goodall

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