

Square Pond Improvement Association

2020 Newsletter



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Lee Robator, President, SPIA

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President's Letter

It has been a busy year for SPIA. We had a wonderful turnout for the May 2019 watershed survey starting with training in the morning and site inspections in the afternoon. The survey results were tabulated and forwarded to Maine DEP for their review. The watershed plan has been signed off by both the Maine DEP and EPA setting the stage for applying for a 319 Grant in May of 2020. As of this writing, we have sent letters to all owners of properties sited on the survey encouraging their support in addressing issues observed from the site inspections. We have also approached the towns of Acton and Shapleigh to gain their financial support to address road issues discovered during the survey. Commitment letters from the towns are very important in improving our chances of receiving favorable consideration for grant funds to provide financial support for addressing erosion control projects around the lake.

In addition, we are hoping to roll out the "Lake Dwellers Handbook" this coming year. The purpose of the book is to educate property owners regarding Square Pond, shoreline protection laws and regulations, boat etiquette, "good neighbor" practices, invasive plants and aquatic species, and introduction to SPIA. Our goal is to provide all new property owners a welcoming packet that includes copies of SPIA newsletters, the Lake Dwellers Handbook and gifts. The packet is a friendly reach out from SPIA to introduce them to our lake community and to educate our new residents the benefits of becoming an active member of SPIA.

This past summer the surface breather and boat were put into commission, providing another dimension to our efforts to subside the expansion of Chinese Mystery Snails in the lake. The efforts of the snail snatchers are significant and are allowing us to be less dependent upon professional divers, saving the organization valuable resources. We have a well established group of volunteers that provides a significant resource to the lake in addressing any invasive plant infestation if or when identified. Under the supervision of our Invasive Plant Patrol, we have the capacity to implement an aggressive eradication program in a timely fashion...plan for the worst, hope for the best.

This past year, Japanese Knotweed was identified as an issue on various shorelines. While IPP's primary focus is aquatic invasive plants, they jumped into action creating a community awareness of the plant and obtained permission from property owners to begin the process of eradicating it from the sites. ASYCC has supported this effort and will return to known sites to clip new sprouts each month during the summer. ASYCC is a great partner for us, helping us with boat inspections at the public launch and addressing erosion issues by providing labor and permitting assistance.

We continue to see a broad base of volunteer support from SPIA members. I would encourage you to become involved with SPIA related activities. It is a great way to meet your neighbors from around the lake and have a vested interest in being part of good stewardship. It reminds me of Joni Mitchell's song "Big Yellow Taxi", "Don't it always seem to go that you don't know what you've got til it's gone. They paved paradise and put up a parking lot." Let's collectively protect our valuable resource so that Square Pond remains a special place for future generations to come.

I am looking forward to seeing you at our membership meetings: June 27th 9:00 (providing virus has subsided,) -and August 29th 10:00 at the Acton Town Hall.

*Due to the Coronavirus, both the town of Shapleigh and Acton have cancelled committee meetings, thus, SPIA was not able to present the findings to the town selectmen for their support. In order to apply in a timely fashion, the grant was submitted without supporting letters from the towns, with and explanation. -I am looking forward to seeing you at our membership meetings (6/27 at 9am & 8/29 at 10am) at the Acton Town Hall.

See you on the lake! Lee Robator

**Square Pond Improvement Association Treasurer's Report 2019
Period Ending 12/31/2019**

<u>Income:</u>	<u>FY 2019</u>
Dues & Donations	\$21,018
Newsletter Ads	\$1,625
Earmarked Donations (All)	\$1,000
Watershed Survey Grant (VLMP/LSM)	\$1,000
Amazon Smile Donations	\$124
Bank Interest	\$1
TOTAL INCOME:	\$24,769

<u>Expenses:</u>	
Water Quality Improvement	\$2,233
Invasive Plant Patrol (IPP)	\$294
Watershed Survey 2019	\$1,051
Newsletter	\$1,631
Membership/Invoice Letters	\$409
ME Sec'y of State Annual Report	\$35
Winter Camp Watch	\$2,705
Website/Webcam	\$2,584
Insurance (Officers/Directors Liability & Sign)	\$1,470
Food (June/august Meetings)	\$58;
PO Box Rentals/Postage	\$114
Office Supplies	\$0
Lake Marker/Pontoon Boat/Trailer	\$240
Legal Fees	\$250
SPIA/Sq Pond Signs	\$0
NEW: Welcome Kits for new homeowners	\$0
ASYCC Projects	\$0
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$13,074

<u>Donations:</u>	
ASYCC	\$5,000
LSM (formerly VLMP)	\$250
Acton/Shapleigh Fire & Rescue Depts (\$200 ea)	\$200
TOTAL DONATIONS:	\$5,450

Income Less Expenses/Donations: \$6,245

<u>Account Balances:</u>	
Checking	\$19,933
Savings	\$2,503

TOTAL ASSETS: **\$22,436**

Respectfully submitted: Kari Bracy, Treasurer

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"Good Neighbor Bill of Rights"

As a property owner, I recognize my right to use my land in accordance with existing rules and laws.

As a good neighbor, I equally recognize my Responsibility to respect my neighbors' rights by not allowing any of my actions or impacts, such as storm water runoff, air pollution, light, or noise to leave my property.

**In addition, I commit to build in harmony with my surroundings to preserve the views of the Square Pond watershed.
How do you rate as a "good neighbor?"**

The Brew Shoppe logo features a central illustration of a beer glass filled with beer, topped with a head of foam, and flanked by two stalks of wheat. Below the illustration is a banner with the text "The Brew Shoppe" and "Home brewing supplies, fine wines and better beers!".

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May is the Month to...

By Tori Lee Jackson, Extension Educator, Agriculture & Natural Resources I
In Androscoggin & Sgadahoc Counties

Get ready to transplant cool season crops (onions, leeks, spinach, etc..) into your garden by hardening them off & moving them outside once daytime temps are reliably above 45 degrees

Start your warm season crops (tomatoes, peppers) indoors for transplanting in mid-June, once the threat of frost has passed.

Build raised beds to reduce the amount of bending you need to do to maintain your garden.

Plan for a healthy gardening season by making sure your tools are clean, sharp and designed for a full season of comfortable use. Consider a 3 or 4 wheeled wheelbarrow to make hauling materials easier on your back. Be sure you have well-fitting gloves, sunscreen, and insect repellent that hasn't expired, and a sun hat that keeps your face and neck in the shade.

Finish up your spring pruning. (Crabapple tree, Forsythia, Lilac Bush, and Ornamental trees)

June is the Month to...

By Kathy Hopkins, Extension Educator, U Maine Extension Somerset County

Visit a pick-your-own strawberry operation to find the ripest berries of the season. You can find a farm on the "Get Real Get Maine" website. Closely observe your garden as frequently as possible. Look for leaf, stem, and blossom damage and note any suspicious insects. Make an accurate identification of the potential pest or pathogen before choosing any treatment.

Listen to the weather predictions for night time temps and be prepared to cover any cold-sensitive crops such as tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers when temps go below 40 degrees. Tomatoes perform better with protection from temps cooler than 50 degrees.

Direct sow: basil, beans, beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, corn cucumber, dill, kale, lettuce, peas, pumpkins, radish, Shallots, spinach, Square, and turnip. Ornamental flowers such as cosmos and zinnias can also be direct seeded for an inexpensive pop of color in sunny gardens.

Transplant seedling of warm-season crops such as tomatoes, peppers and eggplant.

Use row covers to protect a wide variety of crops from flea beetles, cucumber beetles, cabbage moths, leaf miners, and other unwanted insects. Be sure to secure the row cover tightly along the edges, check under the row cover frequently for weed growth and sneaky intruders, and remove the row cover when insect-pollinated crops, such as cucumbers, are fully in flower.

Keep an eye on rainfall amounts with a rain gauge. Most annual crops and newly installed perennials do best with 1 to 1.5 inches of rain per week.

Annual flowers will benefit from split, small applications of fertilizer (proportioned every few weeks) during early summer. Don't threaten lakes by over fertilizing. Removing spent flowers will maintain their flowering habit longer throughout the season. Most healthy established perennials (including trees and shrubs) do not require annual applications of fertilizers.

Use mulch wisely in ornamental and edible plantings. Bark, wood chips, straw (not hay), shredded leaves, and pine needles all can work well in a variety of landscape settings, but should not be applied at a depth of more than 2" and not in direct contact with the stems of woody plants. Placing layers of wet newspaper down prior to adding organic mulches can help provide barrier for weed suppression.

July is the Month to...

By Caragh Fitzgerald, Associate Extension Professor, U Maine Extension Kennebec County

Fertilize and remove spent blooms on your annual flowers for a continuous show. Watch for hornworms on your tomatoes. You might also find them on peppers or eggplant! They are well camouflaged. Sometimes you can find them by spotting their droppings or by going out at night with a black light flashlight. Pick beans, peas, and zucchini every 2 days to keep them from getting overly large. Keep planting. Fill that spare garden space with beets, beans, kale, lettuce, carrots, and bunching onions.

Donate extra produce to your local food pantry. Call ahead first to be sure they can handle it (some don't have cold storage) and find out when you can drop it off.

Battle Japanese beetles by hand picking early in the morning into a container of soapy water. If you use a trap, remember that it can attract more beetles to the area, so locate it away from the plants you're trying to protect. Take solace in knowing that populations can vary from year to year.

Set your mower at its highest level and do not remove lawn clippings. This will help keep turf healthy in the summer heat.

Protect yourself from ticks and check yourself, always, after being outside.

IPP News

Thank you to all that volunteered your time patrolling the water, documenting your patrols and submitting paperwork. As you all know it is one of the best ways to detect and allow for early eradication of invasive aquatic plants (IPP). Remember, the more eyes we have looking for invasive plants the better to preserve Square Pond's outstanding water quality.

Our goal is to have 100% of the shoreline patrolled & results reported. If you would like to become a patroller or learn more about it please send an email to ippsquarepond@gmail.com

As a reminder, each Square Pond property owner needs to assure any boats & trailers put in the lake at their home or cottage is free from plant fragments.

This summer I will be starting a youth patrol learning session. It will be a small group of six children. If the session goes well, and there is interest, I may have a second session. Time and location will be posted on the web site and Face Book page.

Looking forward to being at the lake and starting the 2020 summer!

Invasive Land Plants News

Invasive land plants are something that has come to our attention in the last few years. You all were introduced to Japanese Knotweed at last year's annual meeting and received a tri fold with the Newsletter. Purple Loose Strife is another invasive plant that has been brought to my attention. More information will be available on the web site.

I am asking for someone to come forward to help SPIA with Invasive Land Plant coordination. Working on the Aquatic and Land Invasive Plants is too much for one person (me). The job would entail working with home owners & coordinating with ASYCC for trimming. No paperwork is required to be sent to the State. I would work with you to get you started and will be happy to answer any questions you have along the way.

I have created a new email for the invasive land plants. If you are interested in helping rid the lake of the Invasive Land Plants or if you think you might have either of these plants on your property please send an email to: invasivelandplantsqpond@gmail.com

Thank you!

Donna Rosenkrans,

IPP Co-ordinator



(Un) Wanted: Asian Longhorned Beetle

Source: www.maine.gov/alb

The Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB), is a woodboring beetle native to Asia. It attacks, and eventually kills, healthy hardwood trees, including maple, birch, poplar, willow, elm and others. ALB can spread to new areas in infested firewood, and other non-treated wood materials. It is responsible for the loss of more than 80,000 trees.

As of now, the Asian Longhorned Beetle has not been found in Maine. Residents and visitors are being asked to be on the lookout for this destructive insect. It has been found in Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Illinois, Ohio as well as Toronto Canada. It can spread to new areas thru infested firewood and other non-treated wood materials. It can be eradicated, but it is preferred it not be introduced to our area and the State of Maine.

They are active from August to October, and are 1 to 1 1/2 inches long. They are glossy black with irregular white splotches on the wing covers. They sometimes have blue tinge on legs. Their antennae are very long, with alternating bands of black and white. The antennae are as long or longer than the length of their bodies.

What to look for: Round to oval pockmarks in the bark where an adult female has chewed a depression to lay an egg. One female can lay up to 90 eggs, so many can be seen on a single tree. Also, look for exit holes which are 3/8 of an inch in diameter on the trunk or branches where the adult beetles emerge. A pencil can be inserted at least an inch into an ALB exit hole. You might see "Frass," which is a sawdust-like material which the beetle larvae push out as it feeds in the tree. This may be found in exit holes, branch junctions, or on the ground.

What can you do?

Although the beetle has not been found in Maine, residents and visitors are being asked to be on the lookout for this destructive insect. The earlier it is found, the easier it is to eradicate.

Learn to recognize the signs and symptoms of infestation

Be on the lookout for ALB adults from August to October, and for exit holes year round

Report any signs to Maine Dept of ACF 207-287-3891

Catch a suspect insect and place it in the freezer (it can chew its way out of a bag or metal jar lid). Or at the very least, take a photo of it or the exit holes and note location-contact the State of Maine





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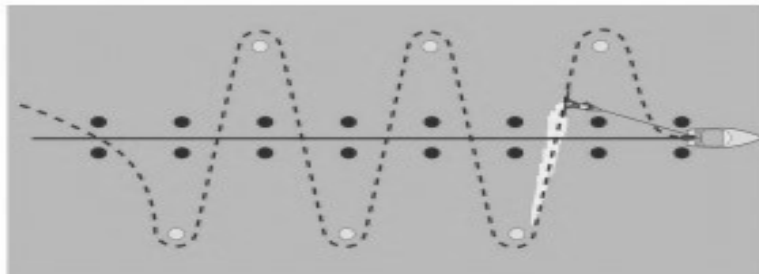




The Water Ski Course on Square Pond

The ski course on the south end of Square Pond is there for all to use. The course is a floating course, meaning it is only anchored to the bottom at the two ends with the drive and turn buoys keeping it floating. There has been a ski course on the lake since the late 1960s. The original course was an anchored type, meaning every buoy and turn ball was anchored to the bottom. As anchors got moved and pulled over the years the course became impossible to maintain. The current course hardware was purchased by the Caron family about 10 years ago. Several families have donated money to help with the annual cost of maintaining it. The course is mainly supported by the Matthews, Beaudoin, Grove, Tessier, Michaud and Johnson families. We always welcome more families to get involved. It is put in in the early summer and removed after Labor Day.

Below is a picture of a basic slalom course. The boat drives through the center buoys at a constant speed. The top water skiers go through at 36 MPH. People ski much slower while learning. The skier must enter the course from left to right to start and must go through the starting gates, which are the first balls at each end of the course. The skier then needs to go around the first turn ball and head directly to the second turn ball across the wake as shown in this picture. After making it around the sixth turn ball the skier must exit through the last two balls. Completing all of this means that you made the pass. Most skiers start learning at 15' off meaning that a 75' ski rope is attached 15' from the end. As skiers get better they start taking more line off. Our ski course has red balls for the 6 turn balls and also has green balls inside or closer to the boat. These are for novice skiers to learn how to ski the course easier.



Since the ski course is floating it is important that all of the balls stay attached. We keep plenty of spare balls and boat guide buoys at our house. The sooner it can be fixed, the better the chance of preventing more damage to other parts of the course.

Ski Course courtesy; some basic rules to follow when driving in or near the course.

- *All driving should be done parallel to the course to avoid cross waves for the skier**
- *When turning around at the end of each run the driver should go straight for a distance then make a 45 degree turn and then a lollipop turn back to the course. The objective is to have your turning wake far away from the course so it won't affect the skier when they enter the course.**
- *If two boats want to ski the course, one boat starts and should make no more than 4 passes.**
- *If the skier falls, take away a pass for each fall.**
- *Once the skier is done, the boat should pull out and away but not make any waves. The next boat's skier should be ready and the first boat should wave them through and then get their next skier ready.**
- *No boat should ever take more than one skier at a time without letting the waiting boat have a turn when another boat is waiting.**

We all want everyone to have fun and enjoy the ski course. If you have questions you can contact anyone in the group. If you see someone abusing the ski course please say something to them. It's not for personal water craft to play in. We all want more families to enjoy the thrill of making it through the course. -See you on the lake!Rob Caron

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Permitting

~Understanding environmental laws and requirements

Purpose: Protection of Maine's watersheds is ensured through the goodwill of residents around the lakes and through laws and ordinances created and enforced by the State of Maine and local municipalities. The following laws and ordinances require permits for activities adjacent to wetlands and waterbodies.

Shoreland Zoning Law- Construction, clearing of vegetation and soil movement within 250 feet of lakes, ponds, and many wetlands, and within 75 feet of most streams, falls under the Shoreland Zoning Act, which is administered by the Town through the Code Enforcement Officer and the Planning Board.

Natural Resources Protection Act (NRPA)- Soil disturbance & other activities within 75 feet of the lakeshore or stream also falls under the NRPA, which is administered by the DEP.

*The above are guidelines to help you understand various Environmental laws in place to help preserve and protect Maine's watersheds.

Contact the DEP and Town Code Enforcement Officer if you have any plans to construct, expand or relocate a structure, clear vegetation, create a new path or driveway, stabilize a shoreline or otherwise disturb the soil on your property. Even if Projects are planned with the intent of enhancing the Environment, contact the DEP and town to be sure.

Seaplanes of Maine

Source: Seaplane Pilots Association

Lying between the white Mountains to the west and the Gulf of Maine to the east, Maine lands hold over 5,000 ponds and lakes giving unique flying opportunities.

Of the 5,000 ponds the majority are available to seaplane use. Restrictions apply in the Allagash Wilderness Waterway System with a handful of pick up and drop off locations specified. In addition, waters of Baxter State Park and Acadia National Park are closed or restricted, Maine has a number of seaplane bases that provide fuel, maintenance services, charters, rental, and training. In addition, the season begins with an annual Seaplane Safety Seminar and closes with the Greenville International Seaplane Fly in September.

Maine is proud of the high quality of its water in the rivers and ponds. Invasive aquatic plants have made their way into 30 of the states ponds located in the southern region. A current map is available at: www.maine.gov/dep/water/invasives/ Maine law requires all watercraft and seaplanes operating on Maine's inland water to purchase and display a "milfoil sticker."

Today, only a small percentage of Maine's waters are affected by invasive aquatic plants while neighboring states waters exceed 30% to 40% threatening the state's water resources.



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In Memory of...

*In memory of Helen C Sholds who passed away peacefully with her family by her side on February 5, 2020. She and her husband Robert purchased a summer home on Square Pond in 1982. They enjoyed making many great memories there while water skiing, tubing and swimming with family and friends. She will forever be loved and missed by all who knew her.

*In memory of Phil "Satch" Worster, 96, died on February 13, 2020 at his home on Square Pond. He and his (predeceased) wife Jean bought that property in 1955. It is staying in the family.

*Muriel P Leary, 70, of Bedford MA died on January 5, 2019 surrounded by her loving family. Often, Muriel could be found fulfilling her sense of adventure on a snowmobile or a Jet Ski on Square Pond. She was a member of the Mousam Valley Snowmobile Club for nearly 15 years. Muriel and her husband Rich lived on West Shore Dr.

*Mildred J (Mulvey) Leary, 96 of Acton, passed away peacefully on Dec 23, 2018, after a brief illness. "Millie" was always very busy, with work, caring for family or at their camps. An avid snowmobiler, she was the active with The Mousam Valley Snowmobile Club for over 20 years and longtime member of the St Therese of Lisieux Catholic Church in Sanford. She was predeceased by her husband of 70 years, Ray Leary. The Leary's lived on West Shore Drive.

*Althea J. Cram, 96, a longtime resident of Acton died on October 21, 2019. Althea lived on Square Pond. She loved her Lake Home, cook outs and outdoor parties. She enjoyed playing cards with friends and neighbors on Saturday nights.

*Scott A. Whatley 62, of Sanford died on October 23, 2019. He spent his childhood summers developing a love of water, alternating time between family camps in Lubec, ME and Square Pond in Shapleigh. Spending time at the camp on Square Pond with friends and family became one of his treasured pastimes and was one of the places he was most happy. Scott was pre-deceased by his mother Kay and his brother Craig Whatley. Surviving are his father Robert Whatley, his wife Cindy Whatley, his daughter Eliza and extended family members.

*Robert M. Pike, 81, of Shapleigh passed away on Sunday August 4, 2019. Bob was a familiar face around Shapleigh, and moreover, his namesake "Bob's Trading Post," is remembered by many of us. The flat "Pike" stone at the top of his driveway at the lake, brings back so many memories, and the photo spot for many pictures. Such a kind man, and the store brings back so many memories of Carl and Catherine, and carrying the gas cans.

*Delores "Dee" Field, 92, passed away August 10, 2019. Dee enjoyed sewing, crafts, Bridge, bowling and golf. What a sweet and kind soul. She is survived by her husband David Field, her daughter, Jane Field, her son, John Field and two grandchildren, Gabriel and Sophia.

Dale K. Mrazik, 61, of Acton, passed away of a heart attack while hunting in his home state of PA., on the first day of the season with his dad, which was always one of his favorite things to do. He met and married his wife, Susan (Dion) Mrazik in 1981. He was employed by Sprague Electric and later at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard happily retiring in 2017. In 1993, Dale and his family moved to Square Pond in Acton which was Dale's Heaven on Earth. He was a dedicated involved and loving husband and father who truly knew how to enjoy life. He was an avid outdoorsman who had a passion for hunting, fishing and boating. Dale loved to include and teach his children about his interest in the outdoors, and they spent countless days at fishing derbies, 3D archery competitions, youth adventure days, youth hunting days, downhill skiing, riding ATV's, snowmobiling, boat riding, and enjoying the outdoors. He will be dearly missed by family and many friends.

Memories remind us that nothing lasts forever. Time is precious and should not be wasted. Enjoy life and remember, "Don't count the days, make the days count." Muhammad Ali





In Loving Memory Of
David L. Carpenter, May 23, 1934-February 23, 2010
and
Nancy J. Carpenter, May 15, 1937- January 6, 2020

My parents created many fond memories for my sisters and I when they bought our camp on Square Pond in 1967. Their favorite activities included sailing, fishing, swimming, skiing, teaching others to ski, playing cards and socializing with neighbors and friends. Mom especially loved sailing in the races. It allowed her hours out on the water alone, and she sailed back in, refreshed and happy. Dad loved fishing for the same reason, enjoyed it on into his early 70's. Everyone in Indian Village knew each other and many remained great friends. Dad served as President of SPIA in the mid 70's with Sandy Kendall and felt strongly about keeping the lake healthy and safe for all inhabitants. I'm lucky to live here all year now, and my parents reminisced about their time on Square every time they came to visit. It's a magical place to be. *Kimberlee Carpenter Caron - Square Ponder since 1967*



ASYCC Information FROM Kent Haake

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. They provide education, community outreach, technical assistance, courtesy boat inspections (CBI), and the installation of erosion control practices in our watershed. The goal of the ASYCC is to sustain and protect the valuable water resources for the enjoyment of the local community, businesses and visitors.

The ASYCC is so grateful to the Towns of Acton and Shapleigh and the SPIA for their ongoing financial support. In addition, fundraising occurs through the annual ASYCC Golf Tournament, grant opportunities through the State and private donations. Using this local support, the ASYCC is able to hire local residents who have a vested interest in protecting the local waterways.

Between the CBI Program and the Erosion Control Crew (ECC) Program, the ASYCC hires approximately 15-20 local residents.

For further information about the ASYCC, visit our web site at:

www.asycc.com

Highlights for 2019 projects on Square Pond include 11 projects for the ECC and 900+ boat inspections conducted by our CBIs, with all plant and animal collections being identified as native. In addition, we are actively working on a 319 Grant for Square Pond in a collaboration with SPIA & YCSCD, with Betty Smith as the grant program director. The ASYCC also participated in several rounds of cutting down Japanese Knotweed at 5 known locations on Square Pond, and plan to do this again in 2020.

Our 15th Annual golf tournament last summer (2019) on Province Lake Golf Course was a great success with 100 golfers and 12 volunteers gathering to help raise over \$19,000 in net proceeds! We truly appreciate our Sponsors, Donors, Golfers and Volunteers involved to help keep our important mission funded and running smoothly. This year's golf event will be held at Province Lake Golf Course on Friday August 7th, 2020.

We are all aware of the major impact Covid-19 is having on our everyday lives and activities. This potentially affects activities for the ASYCC as well. As mentioned above, we still intend to hold our annual golf event, but at this point anticipate some necessary changes such as no BBQ lunch and social distancing requirements at registration. We are hopeful, and will keep our information on our website current for you to refer to.

The ECC program will likely start in late June with a smaller crew. Still, all of these activities may need adjustment or suspension depending on state or federal Covid-19 mandates.

2020 is turning out to be a very challenging year for us all. The ASYCC will do its best in these circumstances, and we wish everyone on Square Pond all the best health and safety.

-Kent

**SAVE THE DATE!
FRIDAY
AUGUST 7, 2020
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8AM**



ASYCC Golf



Cost covers:

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All contests:

Putting, longest drive, closest to pin, skins game and yellow ball competition.

Additional info:

khaake2011@gmail.com

Some information is up in the air



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BUOYS!!
*It is NOT ok to tamper with the buoys!!
Do NOT touch them, and only if you find one—place on the end of your dock for pickup*



Why be a member
Of the SPIA?
Water safety ~(buoys etc)
Water Testing
& Monitoring
Environmental Grants
Support the ASYCC
Protect your investment!
Information on Loons,
Eagles & Wildlife
SPIA is a Non-Profit &
Your donations are tax
Deductable
Support our mission to
Control the Chinese
Mystery Snails
Belong to the SPIA FB page

(207) 636-2431
177 Emery Mills Rd.
Shapleigh, Maine

STONE ROAD SEPTIC



Septic Tank Service
www.StoneyRoadSeptic.com

Let's talk a moment about things we do, and how it affects our environment, and our lake. Fireworks, for one, cause extensive air pollution in a short amount of time, leaving metal particles, dangerous toxins, harmful chemicals and smoke in the air for hours and days. Some of the toxins never fully decompose or disintegrate, but rather hang around in the environment, poisoning all they come in contact with. Research studies show that the loud sounds, of fireworks do have an adverse effect on wild animals as well as domestic animals. The noise from fireworks cause a great amount of fear, stress and anxiety in wild animals. Despite the fact that the visual displays can be quite spectacular, there are growing concerns about the potential for fireworks to pollute lakes and groundwater. They are comprised of a long list of chemicals used to create colors, noise and propulsion into the sky. Once launched, the chemicals can potentially be deposited directly into a water body or washed in from the shore after a rainstorm. In addition, the debris left behind after fireworks explosions can be coated with these same harmful chemicals. The SPIA recommends to keep fireworks for the first two weeks of July.

Please see the helpful chart below to open your eyes to what NOT to put into YOUR lake.



Lyme Disease cases in Maine hit record high last year....

*The state of Maine had at least 2,079 cases of the tick-borne illness in 2019, well above the 1852 cases in 2018.

Source: Portland Press Herald, Joe Lawlor-Staff Writer

**Lyme Disease was found in Nearly 40%
Of Maine deer ticks In 2019**

Symptoms of Lyme Disease-Stage 1 (Detection)

Symptoms start a few days to a few weeks after contraction. The symptoms of stage 1 Lyme disease mimic those of the flu, making them difficult to link to a bit-especially if the sufferer does not remember being bitten.

*Bull's eye rash/severe headaches/neck stiffness/joint pain/muscle pain/dizziness/shortness of breath/nerve pain or numbness/tingling pain/shooting pain/memory loss/swelling

Stage 2

Stage 2 of Lyme disease can start week to months after the *Borrelia burgdorferi* enters the system. This phase is known as the "early disseminated stage" of Lyme disease and the symptoms often overlap with those of Stage 1. Stage 2 occurs when Lyme disease is not detected immediately or initial antibiotic treatment does not kill the bacteria in its entirety. In this stage, the *Borrelia burgdorferi* has started to invade and multiply within the body.

*Rash/fatigue/fever/chills/stiffness/facial palsy/headaches/muscle aches/confusion or memory loss/pain/vertigo/nausea/cough

Stage 3 (Late Chronic)

Stage 3 of Lyme disease can affect patients months to years after initial contraction. By this point the *Borrelia burgdorferi* has multiplied and infected tissues or organs within the body. When symptoms reappear, they often mimic that of other illnesses like arthritis, multiple sclerosis, chronic fatigue syndrome, fibromyalgia, depression, insomnia & other autoimmune disorders.

Even patients who have received treatment for Lyme disease may still be at risk. Stage 3 symptoms are severe and debilitating and can include: Extreme fatigue/Chronic pain and soreness/Depression, anxiety, stress/ Cognitive impairment/Migraines & headaches/Arthritis/Insomnia/Bell's Palsy/Loss of vision/ Hearing Impairment/Irregular Heartbeat.

**This article is intended to inform the reader of the possible danger of Deer ticks and possible Lyme Disease symptoms and stages.

If you think these symptoms pertain to you, please take the steps to see your healthcare professional.

Source: Sponaugle Wellness Institute sponauglewellness.com



The “Welcome to Square Pond” Sign AUCTION!!

As many of you know, our sign was damaged in March. A big “Thank you” to Ray and Paul Beaudoin for repairing and reinforcing the sign. Thankfully, the SPIA did have insurance on both signs, and there is a new one being made. Consequently, this sign will be auctioned off, with proceeds going to the SQUARE POND IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION.

Please watch the Facebook page, (Square Pond Improvement Association) which is for paid members, and also watch the Website, for details. It is expected the auction will end on June 12th.

The link to the auction site: www.32auctions.com

NAUTICAL RULES OF THE ROAD

Buoy and Chart Symbols

UPSTREAM

When headed upstream remember:
Red Right Returning = Even Numbers
Green on Left = Odd Numbers

REMEMBER THESE RULES OF THE ROAD

1. **Head On:** Keep right or steer to starboard. Pass port to port, like cars.
2. **Crossing:** Give way to the boat ahead and to the right, slow or stop.
3. **Danger Zone:** Give way if a boat is in your danger zone.
4. **Passing:** When overtaking another boat, give way and steer clear.

Give Way Boat – must alter course and speed to avoid a collision.
Stand On Boat – must maintain direction and speed unless a risk of collision is imminent.

THE “PECKING” ORDER
Generally, the higher category on list has priority.

- Unable to steer
- Limited in turning ability
- Restricted by draft
- Commercial boats engaged in fishing
- Sail and human powered
- Recreational power driven

Be Courteous
Give way to those less maneuverable.

HORN SIGNALS

Short blast = 1 second •
Prolonged blast = 4-6 sec. —

- Turning to Starboard •••
- Turning to Port •••
- Going Astern ••••
- Leaving Dock —
- Open Bridge —
- Danger •••••

To find a basic or advanced boating course, visit www.BoatUS.org

Acton, Maine....A Bit of History

Acton is a town in York County, incorporated on March 6, 1830 from a portion of Shapleigh; it ceded some land back to Shapleigh in 1831.

It was part of a much larger tract of land purchased in 1661 by Francis Small from Chief Sunday of the Newichawannock Tribe. Settle in 1776, the town's first mill, a grist mill, was built on the Salmon Falls River in 1779 by Joseph Parsons. Prior to incorporation it was the western part of the plantation of Hubbardstown; in 1789 it became the eastern part of Shapleigh. The town was named for Acton, MA, which was named for Acton England part of greater London. Apples have been a significant crop for this western Maine community, though the number of active orchards has declined in recent years. Silver was discovered in 1877, followed by a decade of mining and prospecting, after which the mines were abandoned.

Beginning in 1850, the town's population began a century of decline, reaching its lowest point in 1940.

As have several small communities in York County, Acton has shown significant population growth in recent years. The number of permanent residents has more than tripled since 1970, and doubled since 1980 when its population was the highest it had been in 120 years. The trend continues.

Acton's western border is with New Hampshire and is defined by the Salmon Falls River. It has substantial frontage on several lakes: Square Pond, Mousam, Wilson, and Great East.

*Source-Maine: An Encyclopedia

<p>AUTOMOTIVE</p> <p>CABANA'S AUTO BODY & AUTO SALES <i>Direct repair shop for many major insurance companies!</i></p> <p><i>Best of the best for 18 years!</i></p> <p>\$50 TOWARD YOUR DEDUCTIBLE*</p> <p><small>*Must present coupon. One coupon per customer/vehicle. Call for details.</small></p> <p>1811 Main Street • Sanford, ME 324-5038 • cabanasautobody.com</p> <p>207-324-5038</p>	
	<p>SANFORD</p> <p>FLOORING DECOR & MORE</p> <p>(207) 324-3643 sanfordflooring.com</p>

Shapleigh, Maine....A Bit of History

Shapleigh is a town in York County, settled in 1772 and incorporated on March 5, 1785 from Shapleigh Plantation, once known as Hubbardstown. Shapleigh swapped land with Sanford (1787, 1820), with Lebanon (1793, 1825), and with Acton (1830, 1831). Finally, it ceded land to Newfield in 1846 and annexed land from Waterborough in 1854 to complete its modern boundaries.

After reaching a historic low of number residents in 1940 at 290, the town had nearly ten times that population in 2010, rivaling its 1820 high of 2,815.

Named for Nicholas Shapleigh, a landowner, the town is bordered on the west by Square Pond and Mousam Lake. Maine Route 11 moves up from Sanford through the villages of Emery Mills, Shapleigh, and North Shapleigh near the lake shores.

Shapleigh was first settled in 1772. In that year, Simon Emery established a sawmill near what is now Emery Mills village. In the 1880's, North Shapleigh had its own sawmill, a woolen mill, and a leather board factory. Hargraves Woolen Mill, established in 1844, was a custom carding and woolen mill. Later it produced blue blouse flannels (possibly Civil War uniforms), and cashmere. At one point it employed from 60-75 people. The Mill, closed in 1904, was demolished in 1928.

The Shapleigh Woods, managed by The Nature Conservancy, is a 265 acre preserve that ensures protection for one of the world's largest known populations of the federally endangered small whorled begonia.

*Source-Maine: An Encyclopedia

SQUARE POND DOCKS

**We can design/build an
Aluminum Dock System
That fits your property and personal needs.
Roll in, Cantilevered, Floating System
Can all be fabricated to meet your dreams.**

Marc Lemelin (207) 468-6850



Fishing Derby Results February 2020

The Sanford Elks Club sponsors the Square Pond Fishing Derby fund raiser for the Maine Children's Cancer Program. The weather was absolutely perfect for the derby and attendance was up. There were 481 registered participants of which 113 were kids. They Raised \$23,700 this year. First prize was a 21 5/16 inch Brown Trout. First place prize was \$1,000. Second place was \$500, and Third place was \$250. The kids first place was Armond Couture trap valued at \$160. Second prize was \$100 gift certificate at Kittery Trading Post and third prize was \$50 gift certificate at Kittery Trading Post. Plaques and trophies were given out to the prize winners
The sponsors wanted to thank the Good family for allowing them to access the lake across their property.



**Specializing in
Lakeside sheds**

Factories....A Bit of History

From 1739 to 1829 no factories whatsoever were build along the Mousam River between Mousam Lake and the Atlantic Ocean. There were saw mills and grist mills, of course, but no factories. All that changed in 1829 when a plant for the printing of designs on cotton cloth was built at a waterfall in what was soon to be called Springvale. At the opening ceremony the gentleman who offered a prayer for the mill's success was asked if he could suggest a name for this section of Sanford. Gesturing toward the nearby bubbling spring and the mill's location in a valley between two ridges he replies "Springvale." This part of Sanford ever since has been known by that name. The second factory on the Mousam was Springvale Cotton Mills built in 1842. By the beginning of the American Civil War the production of shoes had become the village's predominant industry. Virtually every shoe factory in Sanford before 1900 was in Springvale; Sylvester Cummings, Butler and Fogg, Mudge Shoe Co., William H Usher etc. Their factories crowded Springvale's Bridge and Pleasant Streets. By the 1870's Springvale was the center of Sanford in terms of employment, shops, professional people (doctors, dentists, lawyers, etc.) and transportation (the Portland and Rochester Railroad was completed through Springvale in 1871). It is therefore not surprising that when the Town of Sanford decided to build a new town hall, it was built in Springvale. It remained Sanford Town Hall for the next 35 years.

Thomas Goodall, Sanford....A Bit of History

A Contribution by Sanford-Springvale Historical Society

Thomas Goodall, was a textile industrialist in Sanford. He was born in Dewsbury, Yorkshire, England, September 1832. He was orphaned at age three, and apprenticed in woolen manufacturing at age eleven. He was placed in charge of the establishment at age seventeen and came to the United States in 1846. After spending short periods in various places around New England, Mr. Goodall settled in Troy, New Hampshire where he first engaged in the manufacture of satinets and beavers. According to local historical accounts, one day Mr Goodall observed a farmer struggling to secure a blanket on a horse, when he realized there was market opening for horse blankets. He soon after started producing woolen cloth blankets and produced bales of them for the Union Army. Is three sons soon joined him and one of his sons, George, figured out how to manufacture cloth from the wool of the angora goat. Called mohair plush, its production commenced in 1883 and changed the face of Sanford. Mohair plush was the ideal material for the manufacture of carriage robes, and continued to be needed in vehicles because early automobiles lacked heat. Many American Automobile manufacturers upholstered their cars in Sanford's mohair plush. In the early 1900's a light weight woolen material called Palm Beach Cloth was created and made ideal suits for men and women. Mohair plush and Palm Beach Cloth were the making of modern Sanford. In 1954 the Goodall Mills closed and the shoe factories were about to disappear. The Sanford/Springvale Chamber of Commerce was formed that year to sustain and expand the community's economy.

To: All SPIA Members

The winter of 2019 was another year with early ice in mid-December but it wasn't safe to ice skate for quite a while and by then the snow came so we didn't get much skating in. My official ice out check was April 2nd. It was definitely an early ice out this year. We had some docks and boats in by April 4th.

2019 Water quality was still very good. Dissolved oxygen dropped off in mid-July, slightly ahead of 2018 but still very normal compared to past years. As a reminder, especially to fisherman, when the dissolved oxygen goes below 5 parts per million, fish can't extract enough oxygen to breath. So. if you look at the DO charts and find the depth that is below 5 PPM that's the lowest depth the fish can go to for any amount of time.

Water clarity in June was low, but a normal low that we see every year from excessive pollen. The water quality came back to a high level by mid-July, almost to the highest levels measured in the past. The quality tapered off slightly in August but still far above the low water clarity in June. Overall, the water clarity was very good and very similar to previous years. We still have to be very vigilant about runoff which is the greatest affect on water clarity.

On the snail front we had a successful year extracting Chinese Mystery Snails. THANK YOU SQUARE POND VOLUNTEERS. We extracted 875 pounds of snails with the volunteers and another 246 pounds by paid divers for a total annual yield of 1,121 pounds of snails. This brings our total since we started to 8,127 pounds of snails. At about 40 snails per pound that's about 325,000 snails picked out by hand.

The surface breather was put in action this summer and we had about 12 people that were checked out to use it. It was a huge success and we will continue to utilize it more this summer. We also had our usual contingent of divers, snorkelers and surface supporters which were all an incredible help.

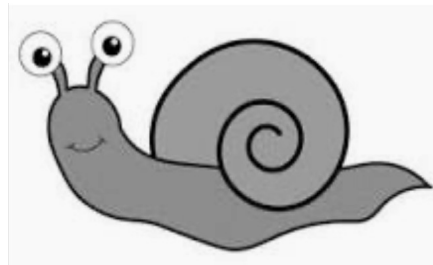
The Lakes Stewards of Maine asked me to write an article about how we have been dealing with the snails so that other lakes can use the information. It was posted in their winter new letter. I will also post it on the Square Pond web site.

I would like to start a Snail Snatching Committee this year. I need more help organizing snail dives as it is consuming so much time along with water quality testing. If anyone is interested in joining this committee, please contact me.

If anyone has any questions, I can be reached at:
rcaronster@gmail.com.

Have a great summer and let's hope we can wish good riddance to Corona virus!

Sincerely, Rob Caron



How do you keep a Lake skating rink smooth?

It will help if the snow is cleared off regularly, and to avoid skating when it's mild (which can chew up the ice), and be

Resurface the rink periodically.

To resurface, you'll have to flood your ice. You can buy flooding tools, or make your own. Another easy option, is to use a plain old hose or bucket. Resurfacing is easier if you have running water...and you can get that water down to the lake easily. If not, you can make a hole in the ice with an auger, and use a pump to draw out the water. Before you resurface, clear off all the snow -every little bit. Flood the rink at night, when it is clear and the air is still..(wind will cause ripples to form), and use only a thin layer of water, just enough to fill in the blade grooves. Of course, make sure the ice is thick enough before you start tromping around on it. Test a few spots with an auger. If you have any doubts, - keep off. Bundle up and enjoy!



Chili's Skillet Queso Dip Recipe



- 1-2lb Brick Velveta Cheese
- 2 Cans of Hormel no-bean chili
- Bags of your favorite chips

Mix in blender
Heat in small crock pot for a couple hours
Serve with heated chips

FIREWORKS!

So many people love fireworks!

...but there are many that don't—for different reasons.

Many animals fear fireworks—and go missing. Fireworks usually “happen” after sleeping time for many..

They POLLUTE the lake...

Can we do our best to be mindful of our neighbors...

Do our best to keep them the first 2 weeks of July...

Keep them before 10pm.

We will all be thankful.

THANK YOU TO ALL THE FIREWORKS SHOWS THAT YOU DO!



Erosion Control Program

www.7lakesalliance.org

Our lakes and streams are the lifeblood of our region. The health of the waters depends largely on what flows into them. Today, our waters are under attack. Seasonal algae blooms and invasive plants plague our waters and are in danger of spreading.

Algae: Some of our lakes have excess phosphorus resulting in annual algal blooms, which not only diminish quality of life on these lakes, but threaten the ecological and economic health of our region. Prevention is our priority-through watershed surveys and erosion control projects we can decrease excess phosphorus from entering the lakes.

Good lake stewardship starts on the land.

Phosphorus is introduced to our lakes through both natural and man-made sources. Nature has designed our lakes to mitigate naturally occurring phosphorus, but the increased phosphorus introduced by humans has pushed nature past the tipping point!!

Buffer Gardens are one of the most important ways you can protect your lake. Vegetated buffers along the shoreline, help slow the flow of runoff into the lake, allowing excess surface water (carrying phosphorus) to infiltrate back into the ground. Buffers can be composed of native trees and shrubs, landscaped gardens of flowering shrubs or perennials, or a combination of these.

Rain gardens can help keep runoff from roofs, driveways, and other impervious surfaces from impacting the lake.

****IT IS ILLEGAL TO ADD SAND TO YOUR BEACH, OR CREATE A BEACH****

Landowners may be allowed to retrieve sand from below the normal high waterline to redistribute on an existing sand beach.

A business card for Thurston and Peters Sugar House. The card features a logo with the text "THURSTON AND PETERS sugar house" inside an oval. To the right of the logo, it says "Harry and Debra Hartford". Below the logo, the address is "299 Bond Spring Road (Rte 11) West Newfield, Maine" with phone numbers "(207)793 8040 / (207)793 8886". It also lists email "tapsdch@metrocast.net" and website "thurstonandpeters.com". At the bottom, it says "A Sugarhouse that shares the history of its Land". The card has a background image of a sugar mill building.

299 Bond Spring Road (Rte 11) W. Newfield

Thinking of adding sand to replenish your beach?

Think again.

Source: Yorkswcd.org

Owners of waterfront property may sometimes want to truck in sand to replenish or enhance their existing beach. After all, many beaches were created this way in years past. However, we now know that adding sand to shoreline areas of a lake can have a huge impact on water quality, wildlife, and the natural beauty of shoreline areas. (It is also illegal.)

Dumping sand along the shoreline can contribute to significant problems in the lake, especially when carried out repeatedly by a number of property owners. Just like other types of soil, sand contains the nutrient, phosphorus. Phosphorus is FOOD FOR ALGAE.

When sandy beaches wash into Square Pond, phosphorus is carried along and essentially “fertilizes” the lake. This reduces water clarity and feeds algae. The sand itself also decreases spawning habitat for fish and provides the perfect breeding ground for invasive plants such as milfoil.

****Many landowners have no idea that they are not allowed to add sand to their beaches.****

Won't a beach add value to my property?

While beach front property may seem like a prime selling point, the effects of replenishing your beach with sand can contribute to the overall deterioration of the quality of the lake.

*****For every 3 ft. decline in water clarity, shorefront property values can decline as much as 10-20%***

Declining property values affect individual landowners and the economics of entire communities.

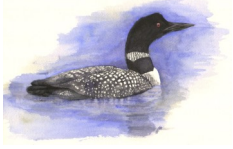
What does the law say about adding sand to my beach?

The Natural Resources Protection Act (NRPA), which is administered by the Maine DEP, specifically prohibits sand being brought in from off-site to replenish an existing beach or create a new beach.

It is illegal to add sand to a beach area. Landowners would be forced to remove any added sand and may be subject to fines and other enforcement action by the Maine DEP or town.

For further information:

Contact York County SWCD at 21 Bradeen Street Suite 104, in Springvale or hdionne@yorkswcd.org 207-324-0888 Ext 217



LAKE LIVING
CONSULTANTS

If you are thinking of building or remodeling, check us out at

www.lakelc.com

For a Free Site Evaluation, contact
Tyler Matthews 207-432-2735

**DO NOT MISS
THE ANNUAL BIG KAYAK!**

Scheduled for:

Saturday

July 4th 9am

(Rain Date)

July 5th 9am

It is a whole lot of
fun!



Acton Emergencies—Dial 911

Town Hall: 207-636-3131

Address: 35 H Road Acton, ME 04001

Transfer Station (Dump): 207-636-3108

**Summer Hours: Sunday 12-4, Monday 8-2, Wednesday 10-4,
Saturday 8-4**

Website: www.actonmaine.org

Shapleigh Emergencies-Dial 911

Town Hall: 207-36-2844

Address: 22 Back Road Shapleigh, ME 04076

Transfer Station (Dump): 207-636-3688

**Summer Hours: Sunday 8-4, Tuesday 9-4, Thursday 9-4,
Saturday 8-4**

Website: www.shapleigh.net

***Square Pond Improvement Association
2020 Meeting Dates:***

***Location: Acton Town Hall
June 27th at 9am***

(tentative to possible cancellation due to virus)

***August 29th at 10am, and followed by a
Pie social***

Please bring a pie to share!

**Plan on attending the meetings to stay informed!
You will also find out about the Water Shed Survey.
Come and sit, listen, or participate & meet your lake
neighbors!**



Serving Maine &
New Hampshire since
the 1930's



Where we have the corner...
...on the Lakefront



20 Emery Mills Rd.
Shapleigh, Maine 04076

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Fax (207) 636-2223

Website: www.EXITKeyRealEstate.com



- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| MOUSAM LAKE | BALCH LAKE |
| WILSON LAKE | LOON POND |
| PROVINCE LAKE | GOOSE POND |
| MIRROR LAKE | HORN POND |
| HIDDEN LAKE | MOOSE POND |
| GREAT EAST LAKE | PINE SPRINGS LAKE |
| ROCK HAVEN LAKE | GRANNY KENT POND |
| SILVER LAKE | SYMMES POND |
| SHAPLEIGH POND | NORTHEAST POND |
| SQUARE POND | LAKE ARROWHEAD |
| LAKE SHERBURNE | SOKOKIS LAKE |
| LITTLE OSSIPÉE LAKE | PICKEREL POND |