

Acton Shapleigh Youth Conservation Corps



2022 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 2022 ASYCC
season successful!**

Program Funding & Support

**Town of Acton, Maine
Town of Shapleigh, Maine
Mousam Lake Region Association
Square Pond Improvement Association
Private Donors
Annual Golf Tournament**

2022 ASYCC Staff

David Burns, Program Director

Courtesy Boat Inspectors

- **Donnie LaLievre - Acton**
- **Carrie Phinney - Acton**
- **Erma Roberge - Rochester, NH**
- **Andrew Stevens - Kennebunk**
- **Simone Gallagher - Acton**
- **Michael Morris - Lebanon**
- **Natalia Rothwell - Acton**

Erosion Control Crew

During 2022, we were unable to assemble an Erosion Control Crew (ECC) for its eight week summer program due to the same labor shortages that plagued many other YCC organizations and seasonal employers in Maine. Technical Assistance was still available from the ASYCC and plans were prepared for several projects that were completed by homeowners.

2022 message from the ASYCC Board

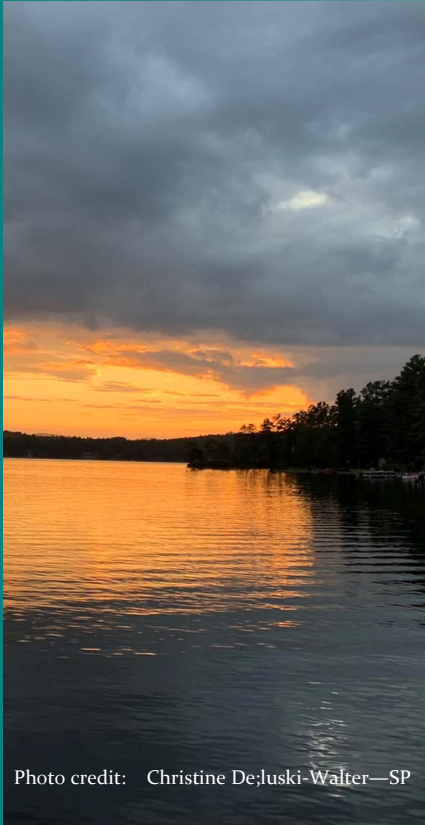


Photo credit: Christine DeJuski-Walter—SP



The ASYCC was created in 2001 after concerned citizens recognized that something needed to be done to preserve and protect the Mousam Lake and Square Pond watersheds from degradation due to erosion of soil into the waters and the likelihood of invasive plants being introduced by visiting boaters at public and private boat launch sites.

As a non-profit organization functioning for 22 years, this year has been perhaps our most challenging and difficult year in our history. The reasons are numerous such as the continuing Covid pandemic dynamics, as well as economic issues. Unfortunately, we were unable to assemble an Erosion Control Crew (ECC) for its eight week summer season due to the same labor shortages that continue to plague many other YCC organizations and seasonal and annual employers in Maine. We are hopeful that ECC in 2023 will be operational again.

In spite of these challenges, ASYCC maintained our key focus on courtesy boat inspections (nearly 8,300), erosion control technical assistance evaluations, invasive plant patrols and public outreach/education.

2022 Highlights Include:

- ◆ We had another very high traffic year for Courtesy Boat Inspections, our 2nd highest total number of inspections in 22 years. All plant fragments found by inspections and “bagged” were determined to be native/ non-invasive.
- ◆ The Golf fundraiser held on August 5th was another very successful event. 100 golfers signed up and our sponsors and donors participation was again excellent, due in great part to the hard work of Jane and Elias Thomas. We especially thank our Gold Sponsors who each donated \$1000 or more - the Rosenkrans Family, SPIA, MLRA, Exit Key Realty, Marc Motors, Dan Davis Sales and John Cole. We also want to thank our new event chairman John Chamberlain.
- ◆ Since we were unable to have an ECC program this summer, we lengthened our CBI season weekend days to include Friday and Monday (September and October)
- ◆ We have two new Board members who have joined us – Margarita and Terry Borgal

Issues for 2023 Include:

- ◆ We will have to get started earlier on hiring next year and will likely need to raise our payroll rate to be more locally competitive in order to attract youth interest (we advertised \$14-\$15/hour in 2022).
- ◆ Our anticipated budget costs in 2023 are therefore likely to be higher than our current funding ability and ASYCC is seeking new funding in the form of venues and grants.

We thank you for your continued interest and especially your financial support of ASYCC's mission of protecting our local watersheds.

Sincerely, 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 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 are pursued 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

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**

ASYCC Management Team

Dave Burns, **Program Director**

ASYCC Advisors

Shri Verrill—Project Manager, 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 look for aquatic plants and organisms like variable leaf-milfoil, Eurasian water-milfoil, swollen bladderwort and marine organisms such as water chestnuts and zebra mussels are just a few invasive species the inspectors look for.

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

Courtesy Boat Inspection Program Con't

- ◆ **Square Pond** coverage began on April 22 and ran 28 weeks ending October 9th with a grand total of 789 inspector hours.
- ◆ **Mousam Lake** coverage began on April 22 and ran for 31 weeks ending October 9th with a grand total of 1382.5 inspector hours.

Total Number Of Inspections and Plant fragments collected throughout the 2022 season			
	Total number of inspections	Number of plant fragments submitted	Number of confirmed invasive plants
Mousam Lake	6987	233	0
Square Pond	1308	44	0
Total	8295	277	0

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 Mousam Lake.

The Square Pond Improvement Association (SPIA) has been working on keeping the snail population under control for 11 years, their knowledge is vast and their operation impressive. In 2022, the **Square Pond Snail Snatchers** completed 7 organized dives and several people dove individually. 72 people volunteered this year and 25-30 volunteers participated in several dives. Season totals for Square Pond Snail Snatchers is 2,360 lbs of snails.

The SPIA Team has mentored a **new Mousam Lake Region Association (MLRA) Dive Team**. This first year (2022) was a great success! The MLRA was able to purchase some start-up equipment and complete 4 dives from Lower Mousam to the Golden Egg area in the Upper Lake. The collected a total of 204 lbs. of snails, which equates to approximately 8,160 of the invasive snails being removed from the lake. The MLRA Dive Team consists of 43 members and their goal is to complete 8-10 dives beginning in early Spring before healthy weed growth hampers visibility.

Chinese Mystery Snails...



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.

- ◆ *During 2022, we were unable to assemble an Erosion Control Crew (ECC) for its eight week summer program due to the same labor shortages that plagued many other YCC organizations and seasonal employers in Maine. Technical Assistance was still available from the ASYCC and plans were prepared for several projects that were completed by homeowners.*

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:

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.

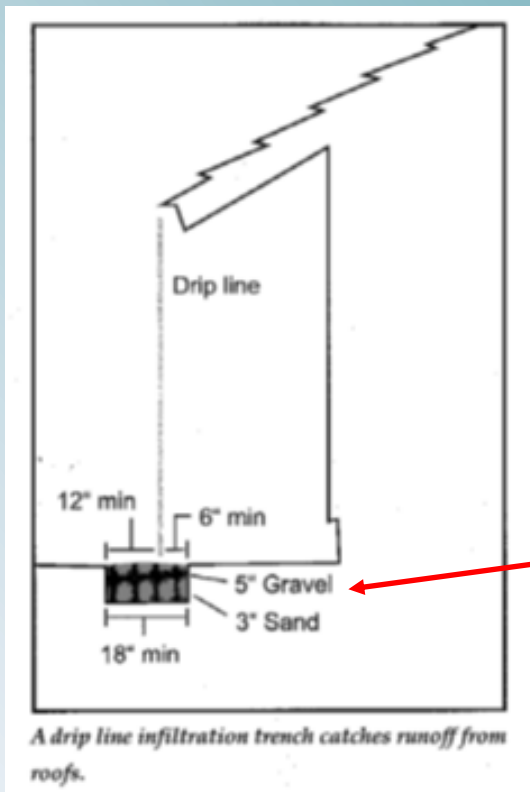
The crew typically provides the **labor** and the **homeowner is responsible for purchasing** and having materials on site prior to the crew work day. Starting with the 2023 Season, ASYCC’s/ECC program will include a labor cost in an all inclusive fee to be invoiced to the landowner upon completion and acceptance of the project. The ECC Director and homeowner will work together to schedule the work.

Commonly Used Conservation 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.



Roof Drip Line Trench/Infiltration Trench

Also Called:

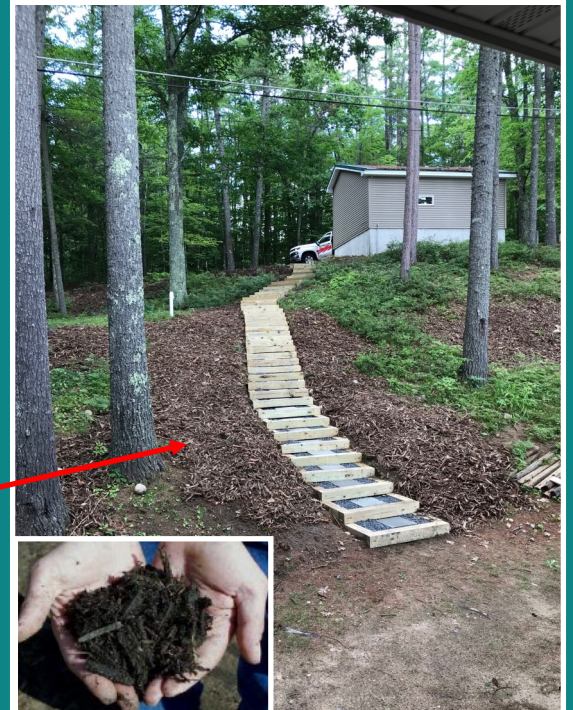
Roof Dripline Trench or Infiltration Trench

Purpose: Dripline trenches collect and infiltrate stormwater, and control erosive runoff from the rooftop. The trenches collect roof runoff and store it until it soaks into the soil. These systems also minimize wear on your house by reducing back splash.

Erosion Control Mulch

Also Called: ECM, Slope Stabilizer, Erosion Control Mulch, Superhumus™, Wood Waste, Stump Grindings

Purpose: Erosion Control Mix is a kind of mulch made of partially composted bark, sand, gravel, stone and wood fragments. It is much heavier than other types of mulch and its mixture of elongated fibers, gravel and soil lock together to protect the underlying soil from erosion. Like other mulches, it also retains moisture, controls weeds and improves the soil as it decomposes. It can be used on paths, slopes and between plantings.



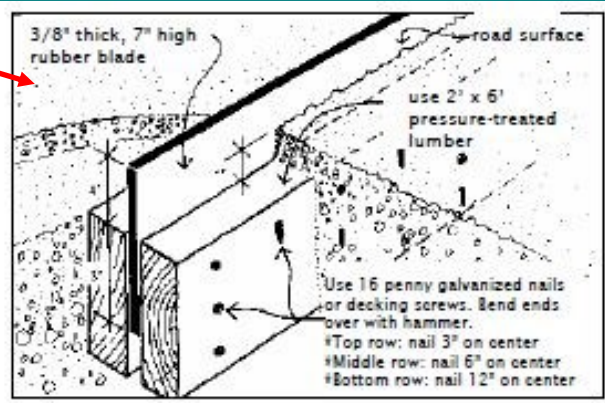
Vegetative Buffers

Purpose: Vegetated buffers are trees, shrubs and groundcover plants that catch sediment and other pollution before it reaches lakes or streams. Trees and shrubs intercept raindrops and reduce their impact on the soil. Low growing plants and the “duff” layer on the ground filter runoff. Root systems hold soil in place and absorb water and nutrients. In addition, buffers can enhance privacy, filter noise and wind, and attract birds, butterflies and other wildlife.

Rubber Razor Blades

Also Called: Rubber Razor Blades, Rubber Blades, Rubber Waterbars

Purpose: Rubber Razors divert water off gravel driveways and camp roads into stable vegetated areas. These structures are well suited for seasonal roads that are not plowed. They can be plowed over if the location is clearly marked and the plow operator lifts the plow blade slightly.



ASYCC Yearly Statistical Analysis

2001-2022

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2001 2004	To date
Erosion Control Projects																				
Totals	0	22	23	18	19	20	30	24	19	30	26	27	24	16	20	18	26	18	69	427
By Town																				
Acton	0	9	7	12	8	6	22	8	11	14	14	11	7	2	6	8	16	11	30	193
Shapleigh	0	12	16	6	11	14	8	16	8	16	12	16	17	14	14	10	7	39	234	
By Lake																				
Mousam	0	9	12	10	8	6	6	13	9	7	13	14	7	9	10	7	10	10	45	196
Square	0	11	10	6	9	12	23	10	7	15	8	11	15	6	6	7	3	1	8	157
Goose	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	2	4	3	17
Loon	0	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	3	4	2	2	0	3	2	11	4	7	47
Technical Visits	44	41	43	43	60	48	37	64	32	35	44	43	34	33	32	48	65	17	156	835
Courtesy Boat Inspections																				
Total	8295	8211	9323	6666	7870	6650	6638	6009	5354	5336	5303	4169	3095	2549	1421	1051	580	617	1091	72,963
# of inspections per lake																				
Mousam Lake	6987	7106	7702	5758	6858	5526	5815	5274	4668	4615	4939	3638	2663	2316	1329	1042	553	616	1079	63,676
Square Pond	1308	1105	1621	908	1012	1124	823	735	668	718	564	531	432	233	182	9	27	1	12	9287
Plant Samples Collected																				
Mousam Lake	233	144	224	385	730	1572	288	297	154	291	233	34	0	14	7	33	5	8	7	4491
Square Pond	44	30	92	95	176	287	84	76	79	75	30	24	3	3	1	0	1	0	1	979
Loon Pond	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2



Photo credit: Dave Carroll, SP



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.

Acton Shapleigh Youth Conservation Corps

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