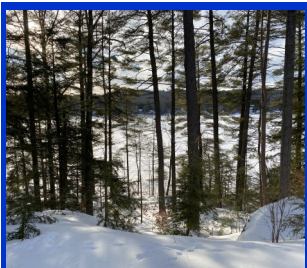




Inside this issue:

Adopt A Highway	2
Annual Meeting Highlights	3
Membership Updates	3
The Mystery of the Chinese Mystery Snails	4
Lake Lowering & Dam Maintenance	5
In Memoriam	6
It Takes a Village in Sutton	7



- ✓ Follow all winter dock de-icer safety guidelines
- ✓ Sutton Police offer a Vacant Property Check
- ✓ Enjoy a safe, warm and healthy winter!

President's Corner

It finally feels like fall. For me that means it's time for apple cider donuts, pumpkin spice coffee, and the addition of facial hair. This particular fall we also have our quinquennial lake lowering and dam repair 'tradition'. Besides keeping your fingers crossed that the repairs will be minimal and as expected, it is a great time to get out on the lake and see what's poking out of the water. Same lake, but very different look when it is four feet lower than normal. I got out last weekend and found my sunglasses that I had dropped in the water in July! I always love to paddle Blaisdell in the fall and this year is even better than usual.

Even though we had a crazy amount of rain this summer (which seemed to always fall on the weekends), the BLPA and its members were busy keeping Blaisdell safe, clean, and a great place to be. Once again, our editor, Dorothy Jeffrey, has pulled together a terrific newsletter chock full of updates, information, and interesting stories. Thanks Dorothy!

One topic you will not see an article on is Camp Wabasso. That's because we still don't have a lot of definitive information that we can report out. I can tell you that the Board has spoken with the Sutton Conservation Commission and Planning Board about our concerns and to find

ways in which we can cooperate to ensure that Blaisdell's water quality remains healthy. We have also spoken with the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust to see if we have common interests - we do. There are still a lot of moving pieces with this and it's an issue that has the potential to have big impacts on the lake, so stay tuned, stay informed, and reach out to your board member with questions, ideas, or information. We'll keep you posted as things develop as well.

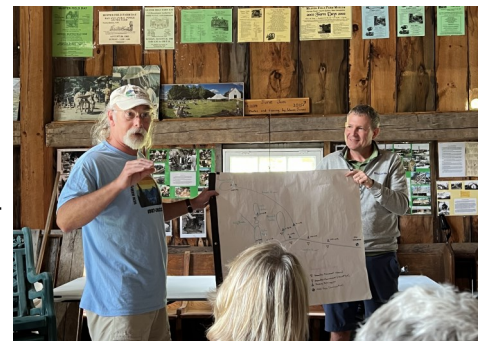
In the meantime, whatever your fall traditions are, get out there and do them.

Steve Domber

NHDES Presentation

BLPA invited NHDES to join us at our annual meeting to share details of its the Warner River Instream Flow study and hear questions and concerns from the membership. Joe Schmidl, Instream Flow Specialist and Nisa Marks, Watershed Coordinator, represented NHDES at the meeting. Joe

shared that DES is required to ensure that all lakes have a voice, and everything is a balance between lake needs and river needs. He said that the Warner River is very resilient,



Joe Schmidl, NHDES Instream Flow Specialist, addresses BLPA Annual Meeting

(Continued next page)

Adopt A Highway At Work

By Gary Dellert

On September 22 volunteers enjoyed another successful morning of beautifying Rte. 114 from the Bradford blinking lights to Russell Pond. Our crew numbered five BLPA Members; some were seasoned professionals having previously worked the road, and they were joined by a few rookies. Thanks to all who

all pitched in and did a great job, including Buster Brown, Kathy Hirschfeld, Heather Turner, Chris Bremer, and Kristine Mozes. We collected a total of 10 big blue bags of trash in about one and a half hours' time. We can't wait to do it again in the spring and hope you will join us next time.

Many thanks to Gary for continuing to manage this important effort and organizing the fall cleanup.



- Please be considerate when working along the shore
- If you cut or trim branches, DO NOT toss them into the lake
- Loose limbs and branches are a hazard to boaters, swimmers and wildlife
- Please be safe around the lake!

NHDES *From Page 1*

and it had been nine years since the river flow level was so low that input was required from the neighboring watershed.

With the Instream Flow Study complete, NHDES's next step is to compile a Water Management Plan that will include a conservation plan with suggestions for conserving water when necessary, a management plan defining when and under what conditions it would be appropriate to withdraw water from lakes in the wa-

tershed, and an emergency plan to implement any necessary releases of water. Because of the excessive rains this summer, it will likely take two years to collect the necessary data and assemble the Water Management Plan. Data collection will include asking the various dams along the river to conduct a test to determine what an "impulse" (release) of water from each dam introduces to the river (at what rate, how does it impact the lakes, etc.).

It was suggested that DES conduct its testing of the Blaisdell dam during the planned lowering later this fall.

Nisa Marks underscored that taking water from lakes is the very last step. She said it is a rare occurrence that would happen only when the river is at an extremely low flow and the amount of water that would be released from the lake is a very small amount. Her job is to look at the impact the lowering would have on the shoreline area of the lake, on recreation opportunities and on the lake ecology.

The presentation ended with a lengthy Q&A with members providing comments, raising concerns, and asking questions. Questions included whether the resulting Water Management Plan once approved would be considered a mandate (yes, as an enforceable water quality standard), what is the critical need for the Warner River, and how can the minimum lake level be determined to insure the best interests of our lake and the boat launch specifically.



The lake was lowered substantially in late September

Raft & Float ID Reminder

NH Administrative Code states: Each swim raft placed in public waters shall display the owners name and shore front address plainly marked on the outside of such raft. Each swim raft placed in public waters shall display 12 square inches of reflective material at least half way up on all sides of the raft.

BPLA Annual Meeting Highlights

The Annual Meeting of the Blaisdell Lake Protective Association was once again held in the historic Pillsbury Barn at Muster Field Farm in North Sutton on July 22. The meeting was attended by thirty-eight folks, twenty-seven of whom were voting members. The membership reelected the current members of the Executive Committee, including President Steve Domber, Vice President Cynde Robbins, Treasurer Kristine Mozes and Clerk Betsy Fowler. Pete Savickas, Susan Kenrick and Bruce Ellsworth were elected to replace outgoing board members Sharon Kenrick, Vicki Willard and Pete Savickas (who was previously filling a temporary term).

The meeting was highlighted by a presentation from NH DES regarding the impact that its Warner River In-stream Flow Study may have on Blaisdell Lake. (Full story begins on Pg. 1)

The group discussed the situation with Camp Wabaso given the Eastern MA Girl Scout Council's decision to "rest" (close) the camp. The membership is understandably concerned and curious as to what might happen to the property if it is no longer used by the Girl Scouts. Steve Domber reported that there has been no real communication, only rumors to date. The board is working to learn facts and make connections both with the Girl Scout organization and other interested town

and local organizations including the Sutton Conservation Commission (SCC) and Ausbon Sargent Land Protection Trust (ASLPT). In the interest of providing ASLPT with input from BLPA membership, Deb Lang conducted an informal show of hands concerning hypothetical preferences should the property be sold. Using the property for another camp was the overwhelming preference with 20 votes, followed by 12 in favor of developing larger estate lots with fewer, bigger homes and 6 in favor of conserving/preserving the property.

Other committee reports included an update from Dam Committee chair Bruce Ellsworth on the planned lake lowering for this fall and

the water quality status from Chris Kelley. Bruce has arranged for the required town notifications and secured a contractor to perform the dam maintenance. Chris Kelley shared that the first of three annual water quality tests performed in May produced acceptable results. Jenn McCourt noted that we still have problems with rising conductivity levels, but we are working with the Town and State on a winter road salt reduction request (see page 7). Henry Howell encouraged all members to review the information on the NH Lakes Association website regarding the NH Lakes LakeSmart Program. The [website contains excellent information](#) on how property owners can manage their land to be lake friendly.



BLPA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

MEMBERSHIPS

82 Paid Memberships to date

87 Paid Members in 2022

84 Paid Members in 2021

DONATIONS, LEGACY DONATIONS, AND BEQUESTS

20 Members sent a donation in with their dues renewal

1 Non-Member donation

11 Legacy Donations in memory of Peg Leightammer, Bruce Kosikowski, Dave Donovan

BOAT LAUNCH AND DOCKAGE

6 Motorized Season Passes

4 Non-Motorized Season Passes

7 Motorized Day Launches

9 Non-Motorized Day Launches

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP

38 Attendees; 27 Eligible Voting Members

With thanks to

Vicki Willard - Membership Committee



NHDES presentation at Annual Meeting



Learn more and support clean and healthy lakes in New Hampshire at nhlakes.org

Why should you become LakeSmart?

What happens on your property affects the lake.

[LakeSmart properties](#) create clean, clear, and healthy water, recreational opportunities, higher property values, and better habitat for wildlife.

The Mystery of the Chinese Mystery Snails

By Kim Henley

Our lovely lake has experienced a bumper crop of invasive Chinese mystery snails this season. The Chinese mystery snail is a large freshwater snail that is an exotic species (meaning that it did not evolve here naturally) which has made its home in some of New Hampshire's waterbodies, including Blaisdell Lake, unfortunately. Once a lake is infected, it's virtually impossible to get rid of the unwanted pests, but other NH Lakes have been successful at reducing their snail populations by having frequent snail cleanups throughout the year. On a semi-positive note, the snails are considered relatively harmless and mostly just an unwelcome nuisance.

We had scheduled an official Blaisdell Lake snail cleanup for October 6 that

was sadly foiled by rain and wind, which made it too murky to see the snails in the water as well as pretty miserable to try to collect them at the water's edge. But now that the lake is finally at its lowest point, please make an effort to try to remove them from your own waterfronts any time you are at the lake. At Mishe-Mokwa, we have been collecting on nice days and just disposing of them in the woods. Live snails are usually found IN the water, or at the water's edge in the rocks and

century or so, the Chinese mystery snail has spread its way into waterbodies throughout the country—it can now be found in at least 28 states, including New Hampshire. They spend the majority of their lives half-buried in the bottom sediment and are sometimes found with their “trapdoors” sealed shut while floating on the water's surface. They seem to prefer the quiet



Close up of the invasive snail



plants. If you collect them from the water, please be sure to dump them at least 25 feet from shore, as they can travel that distance on land and return to the lake.

The Chinese mystery snail can grow up to a couple of inches in length, as measured from the lip of its shell to the tip of its whorl—roughly the size of a chicken egg. During the last

waters of lakes, ponds, roadside ditches and slow-moving streams, which makes Blaisdell a perfect spot. When they die, they are often washed onshore where they can be seen easily, and sometimes, unpleasantly smelled at first. Another good reason to make sure you toss snails a distance from the shore and from your camp or home!

Peggy Dellert reported that she had planned to attend the Wright's Beach cleanup and bring some of what she had collected from down at Camp Kemah for disposal. That's making sure they wouldn't crawl back into the lake! Janice Uhl shared, “I went out Friday and worked on our waterfront and found tons. In my sand I had areas with pine needles, etc. and I ran my hands through them and found lots of very small snails.” It doesn't take much to locate the unwanted guests!

We're encouraging people to collect and dispose of the invasive snails as long as the lake is down this fall, but also throughout the year, especially if you see big rivers of them floating down the lake or washing up on shore. Any effort will help with next year's population.



We want to hear your story!

- [Send us stories](#) to share with our fellow members
- Family stories about your camp or cottage
- Pictures, memorabilia and other lake memories
- History of how you came to Blaisdell Lake
- And much more!

Quinquennial Lake Lowering 2023



Once every five years the lake is lowered per the BLPA By-Laws for the convenience of the membership and to conduct routine dam maintenance. Lake lowering commenced as promised on September 17. Levels steadily declined, allowing inspection and maintenance on the dam to be conducted by mid-October. The final three boards were pulled on the morning of October 14.

We're happy to report that no issues were identified with the dam and only basic maintenance was required at this time. The planks were power washed and checked for deterioration and soft spots. Once the drain is all the way down the boards will be



put back in, replacing some as needed; probably early November. Then we wait for Mother Nature and the springs to refill the lake to normal levels.



Clockwise from top left:

Power washing the exposed dam; signs of lowering at Wright's Beach; crew performing maintenance at the dam; members repairing a dock exposed as a result of lower lake; boat launch as a result of the lowered lake.

In Memoriam

David J. Donovan (1931 – 2023)

David James Donovan passed away in New London Hospital on May 26, at the age of 92.

Dave was born on January 13, 1931, in Providence, RI, to John Christopher Donovan and Helen Murray Donovan. After graduating from Dartmouth in 1953, he went to naval officer training school and became a navy pilot, flying missions in the South Pacific. While stationed in Coronado, California, he married his high school sweetheart, Cynthia Hillery. After Dave left the navy, he and Cynthia settled in Manchester, CT, and had three girls. Dave began a career in finance with Travelers Insurance and earned an MBA from UConn. In 1966 the family moved to Morristown, NJ, where Dave worked for Schering Plough before joining a division of Thomson CSF, eventually becoming its CFO.

Retirement brought Dave and Cynthia to Blaisdell Lake in Sutton, NH, and then to Highland Ridge in New London. An avid sportsman, Dave enjoyed tennis and sailing and golfed and skied into his 90s. He was also a tournament bridge player who achieved bronze life master status at age 91. Dave liked a good Manhattan and was a connoisseur of fried clams, assigning ratings to clam shacks around New England.

But his greatest passion was his family. At Blaisdell Lake, he and Cynthia created the ideal family gathering spot. He loved spending time with his grandsons, teaching them to ski at Sunapee and taking them water skiing, tubing, and golfing in the summer. His nightly cocktail cruise for adults was not to be missed.

Dave loved a good competition, especially the Friends & Family ski weekend and race at Sunapee, which he organized for over 30 years. In most years his carefully curated "super seniors" team would win the race under his somewhat controversial handicapping system.

He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Cynthia Donovan; his daughters, Kim Henley (and husband Joe), Pamela Gehret (Jake), and Susan Donovan; and his four grandsons; two great grandsons; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Margaret DeMone (1937 – 2023)

Margaret Anne DeMone (Peggy) passed away on August 7 surrounded by the New Hampshire woods that she loved while being cared for at the Jack Byrnes Palliative and Hospice Center in Lebanon.

Peggy was born to Archibald George DeMone and Isabelle Alice DeMone (Klim) on April 6, 1937, in Medford, Massachusetts. Peg grew up in Stoughton, MA and attended Bridgewater State Teaching College where she earned a BA (1959) and a Master's degree in teaching. She taught first grade for 35 years at Chemung Hill Elementary School (now Hansen Elementary). A former colleague and friend of 55 years attested that "Peggy's students were all well prepared for the next level of education" and that "she had many friendships throughout the school system".

When she was younger, Peggy loved to travel during her breaks from teaching and shared her explorations with

her students, including a 1967 summer in Japan, Hawaii, and California. She was a devoted New England Patriots fan, attending home games as a season ticket holder for many years. Peg watched every game, collected Patriots team gear, and had enough Patriots Christmas tree ornaments to decorate an entire tree!

Peg enjoyed spending time with family and friends throughout her life at her camp named O' Marge on Blaisdell Lake. One of her favorite things to do was to sleep out on the screened in porch under the quilted blankets. She taught her nieces and nephews how to water ski and enjoy all types of lake activities. Peg was a longstanding BLPA member, protecting and preserving the lake for all to enjoy. Importantly, Aunt Peg was the aunt who kept in touch with her adult nieces and nephews, enjoying their children with them as "Great" Aunt Peg.

Margaret was predeceased by her brother George DeMone. She is survived by her brother A. James DeMone and his wife Sandra, as well as George's wife Joan. Aunt Peg leaves three nieces and four nephews. She was known as "Great" Aunt Peg to 9 great nieces and nephews.

Ruth Gural (1933 – 2022)

Ruth Gural passed away a year ago on September 29, 2022 at her home in Lewisburg, PA, after suffering from a fall. Her son, Harry was by her side.

Ruth was born in 1933 in Milwaukee, WI, to Walter and Ruth Hanson. The oldest of three children, she spent her childhood and teenage years in Teaneck, NJ. She graduated from Douglass College in 1955, where she studied home economics and met her

future husband, Myron Gural. They were married on August 3, 1957, in the Third Presbyterian Church of Teaneck, NJ.

Ruth and Myron were blessed with three children, Harry, Bill, and Kathy. They lived in Park Ridge, NJ, before moving to Bedford, MA, in 1969, which became their home for almost 50 years. Ruth and her beloved husband, Myron were happily married for almost 60 years, until his death in 2017.

The Gurals enjoyed many summer seasons on Blaisdell Lake renting from the Shumway/Taylor families and then staying in their seasonal cabin on Bass Point off what would formally become Gural Road in their name.

Ruth was known for her kind heart, joyful spirit, and boundless generosity. She dedicated her life to caring for family and friends, children, the sick, and the elderly. Ruth was proud of being a homemaker, turning a house into a home. She loved her children unconditionally; it was her greatest gift to them. Her deepest joy was being a mother.

Ruth is survived by her sons, Harry Gural and Bill Gural; her daughter, Kathy Kristjansson-Gural; her granddaughter and grandson, as well as several nieces and nephews.



Thanks to the talented Gretchen Gudefin for the beautiful painting that serves as our newsletter masthead.

It Takes a Village

Sutton may seem like a sleepy small rural town, but there's always something happening! As property owners and taxpayers, it's good to keep informed about town happenings and town politics, especially as they might affect life on the lake. As more folks move to rural communities, BLPA now counts twenty-three year-round residents at the lake, most of whom are registered Sutton voters who can advocate for lake priorities. Here are a few current issues in town that are directly related to Blaisdell Lake.

Village Master Plan In 2021 the Planning Board published a [revised Master Plan for the town of Sutton](#). One of the three key themes

that emerged was to protect, support and promote our historic villages. The plan went on to denote the villages of Sutton Mills, North Sutton, South Sutton and **Blaisdell Lake** as the core of Sutton's small-town atmosphere.

Last month the Planning Board presented its [preliminary proposal for how existing zoning regulations might be modified to meet the Master Plan goals related to Sutton's historic villages](#). Specifically, to nurture a sense of community, protect village histories enable varied housing and improve Sutton's tax base. The board used Sutton Mills as an example and proposed changes such as allowing small



retail and professional businesses (not to exceed 1200 sq ft), allowing cluster homes, smaller lots, and less road frontage for new construction. Any proposed changes would be strictly the landowners choice, not mandated. All modifications to zoning regulations are subject to approval at Town Meeting next March. The Planning Board is currently soliciting input, comments, and questions.

Low Salt Area Designation As we've previously reported, BLPA in partnership with the Sutton Conservation Commission has been pursuing a Low Salt designation for the stretch of Route 114 from Jolly Farm Road to Watkins Avenue.

Thanks to the efforts of members Jenn McCourt, Deb Lang and Henry Howell, we are ever closer to implementing the reduction for this coming winter. Chris Turgeon of NH DOT spoke at a recent Select Board meeting to receive any public comment prior to final approval. The public meeting was attended by several BLPA members and nearby Sutton residents. Chris explained that each application

of salt will differ based on the opinion of the plow driver and shop foreman; it's a judgment call because every storm is different. Nevertheless, the drivers would use less than normal the amount of salt in any case. Signs will designate the area at either end if approved. Andy Jeffrey spoke in favor of the proposal and it was then noted that everyone in attendance specifically for the DOT public session were in favor of the proposal. Pete Savickas asked about the process in the event of any issues and was told to contact the town first. Jenn McCourt thanked NHDOT for working with the town to make this possible.

Stay Informed with Town News Signup for periodic emails from the town in the News Signup Form at bottom of web page www.sutton-nh.org.



BUBBLER SAFETY REMINDER

If you plan to use a winter dock de-icer, commonly referred to as a bubbler, you will need a permit from the town, plus:

- Post the area with a sign that is clearly visible to warn of thin ice/open water.
- Use a timer and thermostat to limit the number of hours and the temperature at which the bubbler operates to confine open areas to the immediate vicinity of your dock.

[Learn more about bubbler safety here.](#)

Blaisdell Lake Protective Association

PO Box 453
South Sutton, NH 03273
www.blpoa.org



BLPA IS A 501(C)(3)
ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO
THE PROTECTION AND
ENHANCEMENT OF BLAISDELL
LAKE AND ITS WATERSHED

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Clerk - Betsy Fowler betsyfowler3@gmail.com

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Back Page Story -- Join BLPA on Facebook

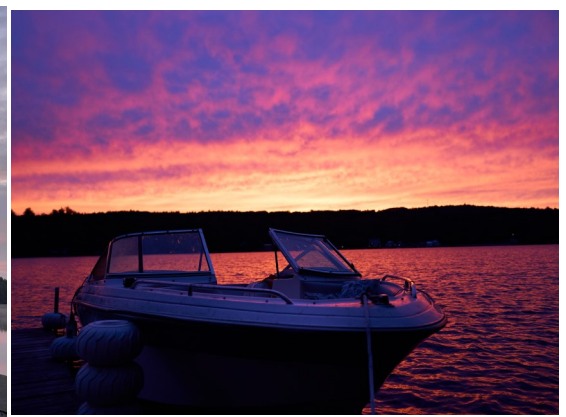
Social media isn't for everyone and it does have its pros and cons. But if you are a Facebook user, you might want to join the private [BLPA group](#). The group has grown to 78 members who enjoy sharing beautiful sunrises and sunsets viewed from the lake, as well as letting the community know about upcoming events, timely meetings and connecting folks with missing lost items that might have drifted down shore. Admins insure that the content is pertinent and polite. Scammers aren't welcome in this private group.

Blaisdell Lake Protective Association

Private group · 60 members



L: Sunrise over Blaisdell,
Sue Solimine photo
R: Sunset over Wabasso,
Jim Singleton photo



Kindly direct omissions, corrections, and suggestions for additional content to Newsletter Editor, Dorothy Jeffrey djeffrey@comcast.net