



President's Corner

It is hard to believe another summer at Blaisdell Lake has passed us by. In the not too distant future, ice fishing will be the predominate activity on the lake instead of kayaking, water skiing, or paddle boarding. Next year is an important milestone for our association. We will be celebrating our 70th anniversary. There are many people to thank for the stewardship of the lake during the past 70 years. While there are many challenges facing us to ensure the pristine water quality of Blaisdell Lake, I am confident that our association will meet those challenges during our next 70 years. As other articles in this newsletter attest, there are many kind volunteers working hard to preserve our little slice of paradise.

I also wanted to take the opportunity to provide the membership with an update on repairing the boat ramp. The Board has retained an engineering firm, which is in the process of completing the land and water surveys that are part of the permits which will be submitted to the N.H. Department of Environmental Services to obtain approval to make the repairs. We will be obtaining permits to conduct dredging of the boat ramp next Fall.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our 70th anniversary celebration next year.

Chris Kelley

Seventy Years and Counting

The year 2020 marks seventy years since the Blaisdell Lake Protective Association was formally organized in 1950 as the Blaisdell Lake Property Owners Association. In keeping with tradition, the association plans to celebrate this milestone during the 2020 summer season.

Several kind souls have raised a hand to get the planning ball rolling this fall, including Sharon Kenrick, Cynde Robbins, Peggy Dellert, Vicki Willard and yours truly (Dorothy Jeffrey). Our goal is to have much of the upfront planning accomplished over the winter so we can shift into implementation gear in the spring.

Any and all assistance is welcome! Whether you'd like to join the planning team or volunteer to organize an activity or simply have some great ideas you'd like to share, we'd love to hear from you. Shoot me an email or call (djeffrey@comcast.net 603-938-2457) if you can join the team or have suggestions to share. Please help make the BLPA 70th Anniversary season a memorable time for all!

Please visit the Blaisdell Lake Protective Association website for more information and resources. blpoa.org

Weed Watch Woes

Another delightful season on the shores of Blaisdell Lake is in the books; another season where we (presumably) dodged the invasive species bullet. Sadly, not entirely because of our diligence, but in part by sheer good fortune. We cannot continue to take such chances and expect that our lake will remain free from potentially devastating infestation.

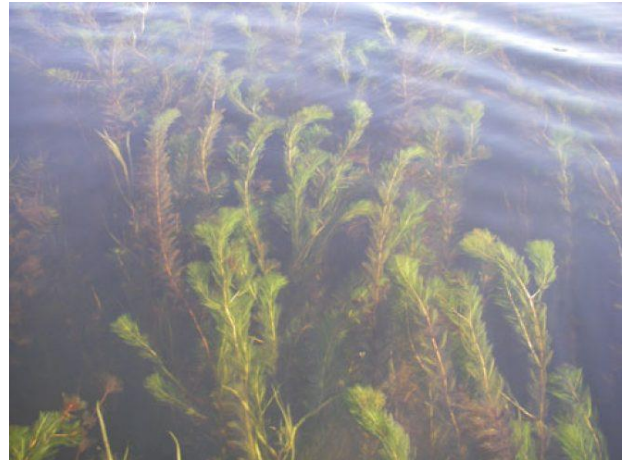
Since relying this year on online sign-up only for Weed Watch (no additional phone solicitation, just a few email reminders), volunteer participation has significantly decreased. This summer 27 people representing 24 memberships filled 52 time slots for a disappointing 59% of required coverage. Over 50% of the actual coverage was provided by generous volunteers who logged more than one two-hour slot; one individual alone volunteered for seven two-hour slots! With membership totaling over 80 households, we can do better! Our schedule called for 88 time slots, so you do the math if every member took at least one slot during the course of the season.



Native Bladderwort

The Board is actively working to address this issue. At the Labor Day weekend Board meeting, Mike Davidson, President of the Lake Massasecum Improvement Association, spoke to

the group about the difficulties and expense they have grappled with for years because of the milfoil infestation at Lake Massasecum. Mike noted, "Everyone strives to be Blaisdell Lake." He stressed that diligence is key, beginning with controlling boat access to the lake. In our case, diligence starts with an effective Weed Watch program.



Invasive Milfoil

Mike also spoke about the need to educate ourselves to know which native, harmless weeds populate our lake and know what milfoil looks like. He confirmed that a sample someone had supplied from our lake was bladderwort, native to the lake and not an invasive species. He brought a healthy specimen of milfoil from Massasecum which we insisted he not leave behind! We hope to have Mike join us at the 2020 Annual Meeting of the association to help further educate the membership.

The Board asks that every member plan to pitch in on Weed Watch for the 2020 season to keep Blaisdell Lake the envy of the 87 bodies of water battling invasive species across the state. The alternatives aren't attractive to our water quality and our pocketbooks.

See pg. 4 for our Weed Watch Honor Roll of fabulous volunteers this season!

O'Neil Easement Enhances Lake Protection

A new conservation easement was established this past June thanks to local Sutton resident and lake association member, Rob O'Neil. Rob generously donated a 22.3-acre parcel along Route 114 and Johnson Hill Road to the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust (ASLPT) for the purpose of creating a protective conservation easement. The new O'Neil easement is adjacent to the existing town owned Russell Pond Conservation Easement, resulting in the protection of more than two thirds of the frontage on Russell Pond.

The advantages of Rob's considerate actions are many, including potential positive impacts on the water quality of Blaisdell Lake. Russell Pond is ½ mile upstream from Blaisdell Lake. The frontage area of the feeder stream that flows from Russell Pond into Blaisdell Lake is among the property protected by this new conservation easement.

According to ASLPT, the property has valuable forestry and agricultural soils and is listed as "farmland of local significance." In addition to protecting several bodies of water, other advantages of the O'Neil easement include the protection of the plentiful wildlife habitat and the scenic view for those traveling along Route 114 and on Johnson Hill Road. The property remains open for low impact outdoor recreation. Our thanks to Rob for his stewardship and significant contribution to our local protection and conservation interests.



Russell Pond looking toward the O'Neil easement frontage
Photo cred: Deb Lang

Proposed Membership Directory

Membership Chair, Vicki Willard, offers a heads up that you should expect a letter during the off season regarding your interest and participation in a proposed BLPA Membership Directory. Several folks have asked if the association would compile a directory of contact information that would enable members to easily contact one another for any number of neighborly reasons. Want to meet your neighbors? Arrange a gathering? Offer condolences? Send a thank you note?

More details will follow in Vicki's letter, but rest assured that any potential directory would not be made public in any fashion or be shared with anyone outside the membership. Each member will have the choice to Opt In or Opt Out and dictate what information might be shared with the membership.

Winter 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. [Click here for more information and safety tips.](#)

By-Law Amendments Approved

The BLPA Board proposed two minor changes to the association by-laws at the 2019 annual meeting held on July 27 at Camp Wabasso. Both proposed changes were accepted unanimously by the membership.

The first modification was the result of a review of the current financial records language in the by-laws, first adopted in 2001. The term “audit” was used in the by-laws when discussing the board’s duty to monitor the association’s financial transactions on an annual basis. In the accounting world, “audit” implies a rigorous independent examination of all financial transactions, recordings and reporting. To avoid any misperception that the association must hire an outside accounting firm to conduct a formal audit, the approved change to the by-laws replaced the term “audit” with “reviewed” and “examined,” which is consistent with the original intention of the by-laws.

The second approved modification added language to the by-laws that more accurately reflects the composition of the Executive Committee. The by-laws previously defined the Executive Committee as the Board’s President, Vice President, Treasurer and Clerk. In practice, the immediate past President has served as a Board and Executive Committee member for a period following the conclusion of their term as President to provide leadership transition and corporate memory. The by-law modification formalizes the addition of the immediate past President as a member of the Executive Committee for a two-year term.

You can [link to the full text of the by-laws](#) including the approved changes at the BLPA website under Useful Links/Useful Documents.

Weed Watch Honor Roll

Many thanks to the amazing individuals who volunteered their time for Weed Watch during the 2019 season. Your efforts are truly appreciated!

- ☺ Mario Abruzzese
- ☺ Chrissy Adzima
- ☺ Annie Ballin
- ☺ Timothy Beale
- ☺ Carol Belliveau
- ☺ Bethany Bourcier
- ☺ Carol Conforti-Adams
- ☺ Steve Domber
- ☺ Peggy Domber
- ☺ Bruce Ellsworth
- ☺ Betsy Fowler
- ☺ Mike Gudefin
- ☺ Kim Henley
- ☺ Nancy Isaacson
- ☺ Andy Jeffrey
- ☺ Sharon Kenrick
- ☺ Deb Lang
- ☺ Josh and Kristine Mozes
- ☺ Cynde Robbins
- ☺ Pete Savickas
- ☺ Doug Southard
- ☺ Marilou & Bruno Steblai
- ☺ Heather Turner
- ☺ Vicki Willard
- ☺ Bob Wright

BLPA Members Working to Protect our Watershed

Not one, but three BLPA members have been appointed by the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) to represent the town of Sutton on the Warner River Local Advisory Committee (WRLAC). Bob Wright, Andy Jeffrey and Pete Savickas are part of the committee tasked with providing local input for managing and protecting the river, its shorelands and contributing watersheds under the state's River and Management Protection Plan statute. Since Blaisdell Lake feeds small streams which drain into the Warner River in Bradford, the work of this committee is of particular interest to our association and local residents.

The committee's newest representative, Pete Savickas, recently reported, "We are spending considerable time to try to determine what exactly defines our river and how much we would define as watershed. For example, Hoyt's Brook, the Lane River, Lakes Massasecum, Todd, and Blaisdell all contribute to the Warner River. What, if anything, should be the LAC's scope in dealing with these bodies of water?" Pete went on to say, "I'm very impressed with the caliber and expertise of the people who comprise the committee and the Conservation and Planning Committees of the neighboring communities are very well represented. There is a genuine interest in sharing ideas, and Sutton has already received significant help in conjunction with the upcoming work on I-89."

The main responsibility of the WRLAC is to develop a corridor management plan that can be presented to local conservation commissions and planning boards, perhaps for inclusion into local master plans. The committee is finalizing a survey for property owners and the public within the river

protection corridor, which includes Blaisdell Lake. Your participation is encouraged when the survey is published.

Get the Lead Out; Save a Loon

It's the law. New Hampshire state law prohibits the use of lead sinkers and jigs with a total weight of one ounce or less in all fresh water in New Hampshire, including lakes, ponds, rivers and streams. The law is designed to reduce mortality rates of the Common Loon, several of whom have died in the Granite State from lead poisoning this summer. The New Hampshire Loon Preservation Committee reports that over the last three decades, lead poisoning from ingested fish tackle accounts for 44% of all documented adult loon deaths in the state.

This is not just a loon issue, but a tip of the environmental iceberg. Scientists and preservationists know of at least 28 different species that will ingest lead sinkers or lead headed jigs and subsequently die of lead poisoning.



The 2019 deadline has passed for the state's lead tackle buy-back program, but you can still safely dispose of old lead sinkers and jigs at the Sutton Transfer Station. There's a drop box on the wall amidst the "Last Chance Flea Market" labeled accordingly and available whenever the transfer station is open for business. Please clean out your old tackle and safely dispose of all prohibited lead tackle. Don't leave anything to chance.

Blaisdell Genealogy Connections

My mother, Elaine, is a genealogy junkie. She transformed her career as a professional research librarian into a full time retirement pursuit, on a mission to assemble a family tree for every relative, friend, and casual acquaintance in her path. Her immediate family was her first victim, so when Andy and I took interest in property on Blaisdell Lake, I already knew that my two daughters had a band of Blaisdell ancestors in the recessed branches of their family tree. But was there a connection between the Blaisdells of our soon-to-be forever home and my daughters' paternal forefathers?

I didn't have to ask twice to have Elaine on the case. As you guessed, the answer is a definitive yes, but explaining the connection isn't for the faint of heart. To cut to the chase, the first Blaisdell in Sutton, Hezekiah Blaisdell, is my daughters' third cousin seven times removed. Hezekiah is descended from my daughters' 10th great grandfather, Ralph Blaisdell, who arrived at Pemaquid Point off the coast of Maine in August, 1635. The entire branch of the tree nearly ended there, as the ship carrying Ralph, his wife Elizabeth and three year-old son Henry sank during the Great Colonial Hurricane of 1635 the day after the family had come ashore.

Fast forward, little Henry grew up in Amesbury, Massachusetts where he fathered five sons to carry on the family name in the new world. My daughters' paternal lineage descends from Henry's youngest son, Jonathan. Our lake's presumed namesake, Hezekiah, is a descendant of elder son Henry, Jr. (who shares my birthday as it turns out).

According to The history of Sutton, New Hampshire : consisting of the historical collections of Erastus Wadleigh, esq., and A.H. Worthen published in 1890, "Hezekiah Blaisdell came from

Amesbury, Mass., about 1795, and located in the extreme south part of Sutton, near Bradford. He built a small house of two rooms, such as most people built at that date, got his farm in good condition, and then erected a saw-mill on his own premises, after which it was easy for him to build his large two-story house, which has been occupied by his descendants ever since, till within a few years [*today the home of Fritz Pratt on Blaisdell Hill Road*]. He was an industrious, useful man, and accumulated a good property. The Blaisdells, in all their generations, in Amesbury as well as in Sutton, have been known as very capable, honorable, reliable men and women."



*Burial place of Hezekiah Blaisdell at the historic
Old South Sutton Cemetery*

There's more to discover about my daughters' distant relatives and I bet the answers lie in the heads and homes of some of our BLPA elders. I'm curious about when the lake formally took the Blaisdell name, as just prior to the arrival of Hezekiah in Sutton at the turn of the 19th century, the lake was known as Peaseley's or Long Pond. This could keep Elaine busy for a while.

Dorothy Jeffrey

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

Welcome New Members

- Mike and Joanne McGroarty (bought the Youngs cottage) Bailey Road
- Cindy and Jeff Jangel (bought the Holmes cottage) Route 114