



President's Corner

By Chris Kelley

As another summer slips into the history books, I sit here to reflect on why I enjoy my time at Blaisdell Lake so much. The natural beauty of the area and the refreshing, clear water are certainly major factors. Letting life slow down and focusing on the call of a loon rather than the beep of a phone is another reason. However, I believe the main reason I enjoy my time at Blaisdell Lake are all of the people I have met who create such a strong sense of community around the lake.

If I have needed help putting in my dock or getting a new refrigerator into my cottage, someone has always been nearby to lend a helping hand. When I take my dog for a morning walk down Route 114, it is nice to stop and chat with Ann Hallahan on her morning walk or to stop by Harrie and Marsha Rand's porch to soak up some morning sun before continuing on with my walk. The Dog House also reinforces the feeling of a tight knit community as I sit under the tent to eat a Special and chat with people from all corners of the lake.

Although winter may seem to go on forever for those of us who prefer the ideal weather of a New Hampshire summer, I just need to remind myself that once I get past January 4th, I am only six months away from another fantastic Fourth of July celebration at our lakeside community.

Lake Lowering

Dam Maintenance

By Bruce Ellsworth

Pursuant to the by-laws of the Blaisdell Lake Protective Association, the water level at Blaisdell Lake was dropped approximately five feet beginning August 27, 2018 and reached its low point on or about September 21. During the period from September 27 - 29, Roscoe Bartlett pressure washed and treated the sides and top of the dam, fulfilling a commitment made to, and approved by, the membership of the Association at its 2018 Annual Meeting.

The water remained at its low point into late October. However, due to the nearly six inches of rain that fell in the first half of November, the lake rose about a foot and a half above the lowered boards. Jeff Ellsworth and I added boards to bring them up to the lake level, but held at that point so all dock repairs around the lake could be completed. After checking to assure that everyone was finished, we replaced all the boards on November 17.

From the Dam Committee's standpoint, it was a very successful lowering. The earlier flushing of the culvert that goes through the dam revealed no damage inside the pipe and the pressure washing showed no breaks or cracks in the dam structure.

With all the recent rains (and snow!), we can be assured of a full lake next spring. We did leave two boards out for the winter so that, as requested by the membership at the annual meeting, the lake will be about a foot lower than normal in preparation for the spring run-off.

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

Remembering the Hurricane of 1938

By Chan Blodgett

The weather this fall has been grey, rainy and cold but nothing compared to the hurricane in late September, 1938. Referred to as the Great New England Hurricane long before female (and later male) names were used to identify storms, the hurricane of 1938 was one of the deadliest hurricanes in recorded history in this region. After heavy rains softened the soil, the severe winds of the hurricane uprooted and flattened large areas of woodlands. The hurricane did not spare our lake, as shown in these photos. The photo below is looking toward Wright's Store from Rt 114 near Watkins Avenue. The photo to the upper right looks northeast from the same spot. Now maybe the weather doesn't seem so bad!



Winter Dock De-Icers

While winter has already arrived, it's not too late to share this reminder about the use of winter dock de-icers, commonly referred to as bubblers. To reduce impact on the lake ecosystem and minimize open water and thin ice for winter recreation, please observe NH statute, including:

- ✓ 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 so open areas are confined to the immediate vicinity of your dock

Observing best practices and adhering to state law can also help you save money in energy costs and reduce the noise impact for you and your neighbors.

Wright's Beach Boat Ramp

There is significant erosion in the area of the boat ramp on Wright's Beach because of the continual severe rainstorms we have experienced since the lake lowering earlier this fall. BLPA does not currently have a Beach Committee, but the Officers and Directors are investigating our options for making repairs to the boat ramp. We'll keep you posted.

It Takes a Village The Return of the Dog House

By Gail Olson

Perched directly across Rt 114 from Wright's Beach, the original Dog House restaurant operated for nearly forty years from 1947 - 1985. Owned by Estelle (Wright) and Pat Rooney, the beloved Dog House was the epicenter of food, community and fun on the summer shores of Blaisdell Lake for generations.



Thanks to the generosity of former Dog House employees and many dedicated volunteers, the Dog House lived on to the delight of

the greater Blaisdell Lake community this past July 13 - 15. Amazing volunteer commitment from the Bailey, Olson, Ellsworth, Young and Willard families has brought the Dog House back every other summer since 2004. This past summer was no exception.



Hungry customers came from far and wide, including many throughout New Hampshire and

out of state. Dog House fame remains legend! Volunteers throughout the weekend ranged in age from 8 to 80, including eleven



former Dog House employees (probably on the higher end of the age spectrum!). While there was much hard work and many aching legs, there was no shortage of laughs and reminiscing as Supers and Specials flew off the grill.



Thanks to the generosity of all the hard-working volunteers and very

well-fed patrons, the Dog House raised \$5,000 for BLPA and remains the single most important fund-raising event for our association. BLPA in turn contributed to the Warner Fall Festival and the Sutton Homesteaders for their generous donation of tents and picnic tables, respectively. It takes a village.

Shoreline Protection

Relevant NH State Statutes

Thanks to Bob Wright for extracting these important statutes reminding us of our responsibilities to protect our shorelines.

RSA 483-B:5-b Permit Required:Exemption. No person shall commence construction, excavation, or filling activities within the protected shoreline without obtaining a permit from the department (DES). A notification (RSA 483-B-9) form signed by the owner of the property, the name and address of the property owner, the address of the site on which work will occur, the name of the jurisdictional waterbody, the tax map and lot number on which the proposed work will occur...project criteria shall include: (1) Construction, excavation, and filling or other activity that impacts less than 1500 square feet and adds no more than 900 square feet of impervious area within a protected shoreland area.

RSA 483-B-9 Minimum Shoreland Protection Standards. '...designed to minimize shoreland disturbance..the following restrictions shall apply: (b) Primary structures shall be set back behind the primary building line which is 50 feet from the reference line (shoreline=high water mark), (c) '...dock, wharf, pier...built over, on or in the waters of the state, shall be constructed only as approved by the department...(RSA 482-A. (d) No fertilizer shall be applied to vegetation or soils located within 25 feet of any public water. Beyond 25 feet, slow or controlled release fertilizer, as defined by rules adopted by the department (DES) may be used.

RSA 483-B-9-V (a) Maintenance of a Waterfront Buffer (1) The waterfront buffer shall be those protected shorelands within 50 feet of the reference lines. The purpose...to protect the

quality of public waters while allowing homeowner discretion with regard to water access, safety, viewscape, maintenance and lot design. (2) Within the waterfront buffer all the following prohibitions and limitations shall apply: (A) No chemicals...or fertilizers of any kind. (B) Rocks and stumps and their root systems shall be left intact in the ground unless removal is approved. (C) No natural ground cover shall be removed except...a footpath. (D) Owners of land within the waterfront buffer shall measure, calculate and maintain the tree, sapling, shrub and ground cover point score. (This is based on the size of each as follows (1-3 inches=1point), (3-6 inches=5 points, (6-12 inches=10 points, over 12 inches=15 points.

RSA 483-B-9-V (b) Maintenance of a natural woodland buffer. (f1) A natural woodland buffer shall be maintained within 150 feet of the reference line. (2)(A) Within the natural woodland buffer of a given lot, except lawn, within at least 25% of the area outside the waterfront buffer shall be maintained in an unaltered state or improved with additional vegetation. Owners of lots legally developed or landscaped prior to July 1, 2008 that do not comply with this standard are encouraged to, but not be required to comply, but no changes can be made. (B) Any person applying..for a septic system construction approval...shall include photographic documentation of any areas of the natural woodland buffer in which impacts would occur. (C) Dead, diseased, or unsafe trees, limbs, saplings or shrubs that pose a hazard to structures or have the potential to cause personal injury may be removed. (D)...preservation of dead and living trees that provide dens and nesting places is encouraged. (E) Planting efforts that do not introduce exotic or invasive species and are beneficial to wildlife are encouraged.

BLPA Officers Contact Information

President - Chris Kelley	kelleylawofficenh@gmail.com
Vice President - Doug Deland	dkkjdeland@comcast.net
Treasurer - Kristine Mozes	kristine.mozes@gmail.com
Clerk - Betsy Fowler	tinkerf@mcttelecom.com

With Tremendous Thanks To our Beach Protectors!

Blaisdell Lake is a public lake with a private boat launch and beach. Since the Wright family generously deeded Wright's Beach to the Blaisdell Lake Protective Association in 2006, Carrie and John Godkin have graciously served as Beach Manager and protector extraordinaire. At the conclusion of the summer of 2018, we were sad to learn that Carrie and John announced their retirement from this important role in our lake community.

From beach maintenance, sand raking, grass mowing - to overseeing the boat launch, collecting fees and enforcing rules - and so much more - it will take many volunteers to replace the long list of duties that Carrie and John faithfully discharged. Please join us in extending a warm and heartfelt thank you to Carrie and John. Thank you, Carrie and John!

Off Season Contact Information

No doubt you take steps to winterize your summer property when you close up for the season. In addition to emptying your refrigerator and draining the pipes, you may wish to notify the Sutton Police Department so they know how to contact you should any issue arise during your absence.

The Department offers a Vacant Property Check service. The service does *not* guarantee that your property will be free from damage during your absence, but the Department will keep a closer watch and be able to contact the appropriate person in case of an emergency. If snow limits access to the property, the Department is unable to conduct physical inspections.

If you wish to request a Vacant Property Check, please call the Sutton Police Department at 603-927-4422 and ask to have the application form emailed to you. Please note that it will be important to keep the Department apprised of the status of people and vehicles in residence while the property check remains in effect. Be sure to notify the Department when you wish to have the check removed for the season.

Welcome New Members

- o Faith Harris and Marianne Getchell
- o Glen and Susan Kerkian
- o Sara Wilmott and Zack Lamott
- o Chris Bremer and Sarah Baas

Shout out to Julie Mundy for helping with the BLPA Newsletter for the past several years! Thank you, Julie!

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