



President's Corner

As Labor Day has passed us by, I find myself grateful for the 'normalcy' that Blaisdell Lake brought to our lives during this very abnormal summer. Social distancing on a boat, kayak, tube or paddleboard, enjoying the sounds of the ever-present loons, watching the bald eagle fishing, or smelling the campfires around the lake, all helped reduce the stress.

We will begin a temporary lowering of the lake on October 13, 2020 to allow for repair work to be performed along some shoreline walls and culverts from Route 114. After the water has been lowered approximately 18", and the new gate and adjacent fencing at the beach is in place, there will be a work party to reset the curbing at the gate, as well as inspect and tidy up the beach and boat ramp areas. Once completed, planks will be placed in the dam for the normal winter water level.

I hope when we all return to the lake in the spring of 2021 that we find our world has returned to pre-Covid-19 'normal'. In the meantime, I wish you all a healthy and happy fall and winter.

Doug DeLand

Important Winter Bubbler Safety Reminder
See page 8

Zooming Along

The BLPA Annual Meeting was held on the morning of July 25 per the association by-laws "at a place designated by the Board of Directors," which this year translated into a spot with a decent internet connection. A total of 32 member households were represented on Zoom for the 2020 Annual Meeting, which flowed very smoothly all things considered. Special thanks to BLPA Clerk Betsy Fowler for moderating the meeting supported by her trusty back-up squad counting raised hands for voting and requests to speak. We managed to get through all of the official business, elect a new slate of officers, listen to reports from committee heads and share updates around the lake - all in a little over an hour.

A few updates and additions since the meeting:

- **New Gate**. We expect the new gate/fence section at the boat ramp on Wright's Beach to be installed no later than the week of Oct. 4
- **Temporary Lake Lowering**. As Doug mentioned, the Board approved a temporary lowering of the lake later this fall for environmental reasons. Water level should decrease by 12 - 18", not 4 - 5' as seen every five years. **The next scheduled lake lowering is 2023**. Plan accordingly for 2023; obtaining necessary permits takes time.

Zooming Along from Pg 1

- **Beach Property Tax.** BLPA expects to see a decrease in our tax bill thanks to Cynde Robbins efforts to insure that the town tax card reflects the correct amount of lake frontage. We will know the exact decrease when assessments are updated this fall.

An important note for all Sutton property owners:

The Town of Sutton is not responsible for errors that appear on tax cards; every property owner should monitor their own tax card each year and follow the town process to discuss any discrepancies. Find your [tax card online here](#).

BLPA Member Directory

We hope you're enjoying the new BLPA Member Directory that was emailed to all members earlier this summer. If your information is not included in the directory and you'd like to be added, please contact:

Vicki Willard, Membership Chair
vepwillard@mac.com

Thank you, Vicki, for a great job!

Soaring with Eagles

Eagles. A symbol of grace, beauty, courage and pride. For the past month, folks have enjoyed watching a bald eagle (perhaps a pair of eagles?) soaring high above the waters of Blaisdell Lake and perching majestically atop the towering pines that dot the shoreline. We're thrilled to have the larger-than-life bird(s) take up residence on Blaisdell Lake, if only temporarily. It's difficult to get a decent photo, but it sure is fun just plain birdwatching. For what it's worth symbolically, if an eagle appears, it bestows freedom and courage to look ahead by showing you how to tap your inner strength and fortitude.

Once More, and Always, to the Lake

Laurie Morrissey of the Robinwood and Ferngate cottages off Bass Point Road has a wonderful essay on lakes in the July-August 2020 issue of New Hampshire Home magazine. Laurie's featured *At Home in New Hampshire* column is entitled Once More, and Always, to the Lake. While not mentioning Blaisdell Lake by name, Laurie shares memories that will resonate with many of "our" lake residents. Laurie has published articles, essays and poetry in many magazines. She is a frequent contributor to Northern Woodlands and its syndicated ecology column, "The Outside Story." [Link to Laurie's lakes essay here.](#)



Bald Eagle perched atop a majestic pine at Camp Wabasso on the shores of Blaisdell Lake

In Memoriam - Anne F. Higgs

Anne F. Higgs, 90 of Florida, NY passed away peacefully at St. Peters Hospital in Albany, NY on August 23, 2020. She was born November 14, 1929 in Manhattan, NY to the late Herman and Margaret Urquhart Forster.

Anne grew up spending summers on Blaisdell Lake with her sister Margaret and brother Stephen at the southern end of the lake closest to the dam. She continued to spend time on Blaisdell Lake throughout her lifetime, raising her children here as well. In the Fall 2016 edition of this newsletter, Anne shared her memories of growing up at the lake. "We parked on land across the lake at Vega Cottage and rowed across the lake to get to our cottage. Everything was rowed across the lake (kerosene, ice, food furniture, etc.). Kemah Lodge, Mason Blake's, Vega, George Hubbard's, and Hob+Nob and ours were the only cottages at our end of the lake. We played all over our end of the lake. We rowed, swam, sunbathed and chased turtles. And we went to sleep on the screened-in porch. We would listen to the whippoorwills and bullfrogs (which we had named!). ... When we would get a phone call, the Sargents would blow a horn and my mom would row across the lake to Vega to take the call. We did not get electricity until after World War II. This was after Mr. Ellsworth had built his cabin and the electricity was brought that much closer to our property. Before that time, it came only as far as the girls' camp."

A retired teacher, Anne taught kindergarten and third grade for over 30 years. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Florida, as well as the Queen Esther Chapter 163, Order of the Eastern Star. Anne was predeceased by her husband, Alvin Durland Higgs; her brother, Stephen Forster of GA; her sister, Margaret Swentzel of NJ; and two nephews, John and Stephen Swentzel. She is survived by her daughter, Anne Margaret Oldick and husband,

William of Berne, NY; her son, Alvin "Ed" Higgs and wife, Amanda; her grandson, Oliver, all of Newburgh, NY, and three nephews and their families. Memorial contributions may be made to The First Presbyterian Church of Florida, PO Box 94, Florida, NY 10921 or The Autism Society of America, 1 Surrey Lane E, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590.

Weed Watch Report

There were 105 two-hour Weed Watch sessions on the calendar from May 23 through Labor Day this summer. Sadly, nearly one third of these sessions went unattended, with just 61 of the available slots covered. Nearly 80% of the covered slots were filled by our amazing Weed Watch All Stars - individuals who volunteered multiple times throughout the season. In total, only a quarter of member households were represented for this critical community service. We can do better.



The board is concerned about the low level of Weed Watch participation and that we are currently without a beach manager. A committee has been formed to explore options.

With thanks to the kind volunteers whose names appear on the next page; extra special gratitude to our All Stars who head this list. (This list was compiled from the Weed Watch sign-up section of our website. Apologies if you did serve on Weed Watch but did not register with the site.)

Weed Watch Honor Roll

★ ★ ★	Betsy Fowler	7
★ ★ ★	Sharon Kenrick	7
★ ★	Cynde Robbins	5
★ ★	Heather Turner	5
★ ★	Tim Beale	4
★ ★	Steve Domber	4
★ ★	Bruce Ellsworth	4
★ ★	Jenny Wright	4
★	Peggy Domber	3
★	Annie Ballin	2
★	Joe Henley	2
★	Susan Murphy	2
	Al Byam	
	Will Caldicott	
	John Cragin	
	Henry Howell	
	Nancy Isaacson	
	Dorothy Jeffrey	
	Matthew Lindholm	
	Laurie Morrissey	
	Kristine Mozes	
	Bill Turner	
	Vicki Willard	
	Sara Wilmot	

Water Quality News

We are fortunate to have a dedicated committee that monitors the water quality in our lake. Steve Domber, who works with Chris Kelley in this effort, provided a detailed report to the membership at our annual meeting. Here are some highlights from Steve's report. See the [full report on our website](#).

In general, the water quality in Blaisdell Lake remains stable and good. However, there are negative or worsening trends in chloride and conductivity for sheep dip, Bum Carter, Russell inlet and Russell Pond. DES indicated this could be the result of winter road salt application.

What We Can Do: Blaisdell's water quality is a function of the cumulative actions of every property owner in the watershed and especially of those with lake front property. Keeping native vegetation and plants on the shoreline and inland areas, maintaining septic systems, not using fertilizers, and limiting impervious surfaces are simple but critical steps that everyone can take to help maintain the lake's water quality.

Preventing invasive species from entering the lake is also critical as these can degrade water quality and limit recreation. Maintaining and cleaning your watercraft, especially if you use them in other lakes, is critical.

Weed watch is also a key part of protecting the lake's water quality.



[Click here to read DES's Volunteer Lake Assessment Program](#) 2019 Individual Lake Report on Blaisdell Lake for a great summary of the data and what it means.

Labor of Love

There are so many entwined tales from end to end of Blaisdell Lake, whether your family has spent generations on the lake or you just recently landed on its welcoming shores. As a member of the latter group, I'm fascinated by the lake's rich history and its many amazing connections, and I struggle to keep score as to who's related to whom.

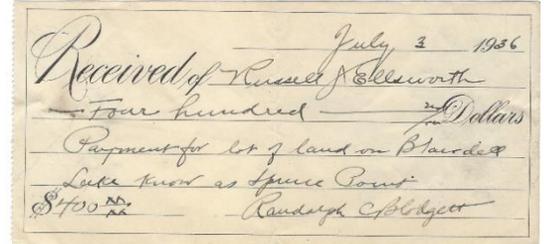
Recently I chatted with Bruce Ellsworth to learn about his family's legacy on the lake. Needless to say, we could fill several newsletter volumes with Ellsworth family lore. There are many romantic stories to share, but this one is about the showplace log cabin on Spruce Point toward the southern end of the lake almost to the dam. The cabin was built by Bruce's parents back in 1937 and 1938.



Pud and brother-in-law, Mason Blake stripping logs in 1937

In the early 1930's, Russell J. Ellsworth (known as Pud) began courting Louise Ela Blake, a school teacher in Warner. Louise was a descendent of the Ela family that owned the Ela Cottage adjacent to the dam on Blaisdell Lake (now the site of the Brown camp). The couple fell in love with the lake and one another, often rowing to the area known as Spruce Point to enjoy a picnic among the pines. Pud and Louise married in 1935 and learned that Spruce Point was for sale just shy of their one-year anniversary. Demonstrating the interwoven nature

of our lake community, the seller of Spruce Point in 1936 was Chan Blodgett's father, Randolph C. (Randy) Blodgett. Randy bought a parcel of land in the area between Blaisdell and Billings Pond in 1926 and added to that purchasing an adjoining parcel from the E. H. Carroll estate in 1927. Randy and wife, Florence, started Twin Lake Camp on the acreage, a boys' camp taking its name from the location between the two bodies of water.



Pud and Louise were only too happy to purchase Spruce Point in the summer of 1936 from Randy when he decided to sell the unused parcel.

Pud didn't waste any time making plans to build a log cabin summer home for his bride. Over the winter of 1937, he contracted to purchase a significant quantity of logs that were "delivered" on the shores of Wrights Beach early in the summer of 1937. The logs were floated down the lake and ponded in the cove at Spruce Point where a boathouse now stands. Chan Blodgett recalls watching logs being floated down the lake that summer in what had to be an unusual and exciting sight for then nearly five-year-old Chan!

The log cabin at Spruce Point was built exclusively by one man and his Model T Ford truck; no mechanical tools, not even any electricity. Each evening after work, Pud dragged wood out of the lake,



Pud and his trusty Model T truck

one large log at a time. Each log was peeled by hand, cut to size with a buck saw, ends hewn with an axe. With a cable attached to his trusty Model T truck, Pud hauled each log into place. If he was lucky, Pud managed to place one log each night. By late in the summer of 1938, the entire log cabin structure and roof were in place, just in time for the arrival of Bruce and the Great New England Hurricane.



Log Cabin amidst the fallen trees after the Great New England Hurricane, 1938

The hurricane was a huge force to be reckoned with, but the log cabin at Spruce Point proved stronger - or luckier! While numerous trees were toppled all around the cabin by the hurricane's tremendous winds, the log cabin stood intact. The same cannot be said for

the trusty Model T, however, as several trees fell directly on the truck.

The log cabin at Spruce Point became the Ellsworth's summer residence from June to September each year while Pud commuted to the mill at the Ela Box Company in Warner. As a small boy, Bruce recalled helping his father drive the oiled oakum strands into the chinks and crevices between the logs and not so enthusiastically applying creosote to the exterior walls when he was older.

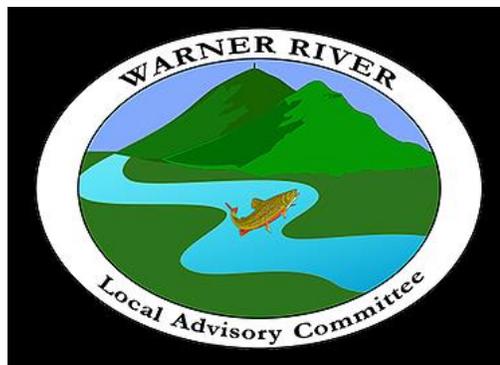
Much has been added at Spruce Point through the years, including electricity when Bruce was about 10. While that addition made many things possible, an indoor toilet topped the list! Yet in

most respects, Spruce Point remains much the same as it was when Pud first erected the cabin, including keeping it all in the family. Bruce's son Jeff and daughter-in-law Jennifer happily sit by the large stone fireplace each summer in the log cabin built by their grandfather. And yes, Pud erected that fireplace by himself.

Dorothy Jeffrey

Protecting our Watersheds

Last fall we reported on the newly formed Warner River Local Advisory Committee, known as WRLAC, highlighting the fact that the three Sutton representatives are all BLPA members; Peter Savickas, Andy Jeffrey and Bob Wright. To refresh your memory, the Local Advisory Committee is a partnership between the state and local volunteers to help protect the designated river and its shorelands. WRLAC has statutory authority to advise state and local governments on DES permit applications and other issues within the Warner River Protected Corridor, which is ½-mile wide (¼ mile as measured outward from each river bank) as the river flows through our five riverfront towns. One other important aspect of our Warner River duties is to provide basic water-quality monitoring at several points along the



Warner River and selected tributaries during the warm months of the year. While the group has been limited in what it could accomplish this year, WRLAC now has a web site created by one of our BLPA members. For more information, [visit the new WRLAC website.](#)

BLPA Executive Board Contact Information

President - Doug DeLand	dkkjdeland@comcast.net
Vice President - Steve Domber	steven.domber72@gmail.com
Treasurer - Kristine Mozes	kristine.mozes@gmail.com
Clerk - Betsy Fowler	tinkerf@mcttelecom.com
Past President - Chris Kelley	kelleylawofficenh@gmail.com

Sutton Old Home Day Video

In case you missed it, the Sutton Historical Society produced a video tribute to Old Home Day, which could not be held in person at the historic meetinghouse this summer. The video is a great depiction of the traditional Old Home Day service, but it also includes some spectacular drone footage of Sutton and its many historic landmarks and buildings. Catch a link to the video at the [Sutton Historical Society website](#).



Cover banner thanks to BLPA board member Jo-Ala Barney-Markson and daughter Erica Markson

Lake Links

There are lots of great resources to share about lake life and being a responsible lake resident. BLPA is a member of the nonprofit New Hampshire Lakes Association (NH Lakes). They produced a number of webinar series throughout the summer that remain available online. Links to the series are provided here:



- [Lake-Friendly Living Webinar Series](#)
- [Working for Clean and Healthy Lakes](#)
- [Ecology & Management of NH's Lakes](#)

The NHPR Exchange radio program aired a show in late August looking at efforts to keep NH's lakes healthy and accessible. [Listen to the conversation here.](#)

The Watershed Management Bureau (WMB) of New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) released a new report entitled "New Hampshire Lake Trend Report: Status and trends of water quality indicators". The report documents long-term trends and short-term changes to the ecological condition of 150 lakes and ponds in New Hampshire that participate in the volunteer lake assessment program (VLAP). Blaisdell Lake is a participant. [Read a summary of the report here.](#)

Welcome New Members

Mike DelRossi (Upton house on Route 114)

Jenn and Bob McCourt (Pratt lake house on Camp Kemah Road)

Susan Kenrick Murphy (Andrews Avenue)

Erin and Tucker Farenwald (Foothills Road)

Jenny and Rick Wright (Wright property on 114)

Patrick Skeffington (Route 114)



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.](#)

With Much Appreciation

Please join us in thanking Carrie and John Godkin for their dedication to keeping a watchful eye on Wright's Beach during their many, many years of Beach and Boat Ramp Management. We will miss them around the lake and wish them all the best as they retire to Florida year round.

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

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

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