



Inside this issue:

Membership Updates	2
Annual Meeting Highlights	3
Nature's Gift	4
In Memoriam	5
New and Improved Weed Watch	6
Camp Wabasso's Twelfth Season	6
Blaisdell Water Quality	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

A big thank you to the BLPA members, board and committee members, and the contractors who worked to get the boat ramp repaired so quickly after the incredible storm that washed out the ramp and most of the beach. We were able to obtain emergency approval from the State to make repairs to the ramp, including some structural reinforcement to the base, as suggested by a BLPA member. That reinforcement may prove to be very important should we experience another storm similar to the July 29 event this year, or the one that damaged the ramp three years ago.

Conversations have been started between BLPA committee volunteers and the State to address the flood volume capacity of the two culverts under Route 114: one near the boat ramp, and the other a couple hundred yards south. Hopefully the State can implement changes to these areas to accommodate the amount of water coming down the hill. The time and effort put in on this committee is very much appreciated!

The new gate padlock was a huge success. The gate is still being used this late in the season by some 'diehards'. It's been a few decades since I was a 'diehard', waterskiing while there was ice on the lake. We plan to implement the

same lock program again next year. Once the first snow arrives, the lock will be removed, and the gate will remain open for the winter.

It's always sad for me to close up the camp knowing how long the winter can be. We will, however, come to Blaisdell to do a little snowshoeing once the deep freeze has set in. We are looking forward to what the spring of 2022 has to offer and look forward to seeing you all at the lake.

Doug DeLand



The calm before the storm

Flooding Washes Out Wright's Beach

On the evening of July 29, 2021, 4 plus inches of rain fell over a few short hours on Blaisdell Lake and its watershed in South Sutton. That event would have been bad enough by itself, but it came on the heels of

four weeks of unprecedented above average precipitation throughout the month of July. At the time of the July 29 event, rainfall totals were already well over 10 inches for July, on the way to making it the rainiest July on record.

The torrential rains caused the Andrews Ave Brook to overflow the culverts under Brown Road and Route 114. The resulting out of bank flooding caused extensive beach and boat ramp damage to Wright's

Continued on Page 2

Boat Launch Destruction *from Page 1*

Beach, in addition to wash out and destruction to the abutting section of Route 114. In the light of day on July 30, NHDOT was quick to repair the damage to 114, but repair to the privately owned boat launch and beach was left to BLPA.

As luck would have it, our current BLPA board is stacked with individuals whose day jobs include project management, civil engineering and state permitting. Leveraging this expertise and working quickly, BLPA received an emergency permit from the state Dept of Environmental Services (DES) for an immediate temporary re-

pair to the boat launch area, including the area from the side of Rte 114 to the water's edge and shoring up the damaged fence. For anyone who has sought permitting of this nature, you know that's a heck of an accomplishment.

While the boat launch remained out of commission until the end of August, the permitted repairs were performed in time to get boats out before Labor Day. And the project doesn't end there. The BLPA board continues to work with NHDOT to implement a permanent fix paid for by the state to address the culvert breach flooding that has plagued Wright's



Wright's Beach the morning after, July 30, 2021

Beach for the past several years. In support of that cause, Jen McCourt met with NHDOT at Wright's Beach in mid-October. Principle among the discussion is that the culvert that flooded is at the end of its natural life and should be replaced on the state's

dime. Stay tuned for the next chapter in this saga and thanks to those who worked quickly and efficiently to repair and restore the beach and boat launch.



BLPA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

MEMBERSHIPS

84 Paid Memberships (61 PIN Codes generated)
82 Paid Members in 2020
84 Paid Members in 2019

DONATIONS, LEGACY DONATIONS, AND BEQUESTS

37 Members sent a donation in with their dues renewal
1 Non-Member donation
16 Donations in Bill Hallahan's memory as of September 15

BOAT LAUNCH AND DOCKAGE

8 Motorized Season Passes
2 Non-Motorized Season Passes
11 Motorized Day Launches (20 in 2020)
4 Day Trippers and 7 Lake Renters
7 Non-Motorized Day Launches (10 in 2020)
(Slight drop in 2021 due to boat launch closure)

With thanks to

Vicki Willard and Gail Olson - Membership Committee



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.](#)

BPLA Annual Meeting Highlights

For the second year running, Covid forced the BLPA Annual Meeting to be hosted virtually on Zoom. Camp Wabasso's Girl Scout Council leadership was taking special precautions to keep campers safe and healthy, eliminating our usual gathering spot. Without the convenience of a nearby venue, the Executive Committee determined that meeting on Zoom was the best option and one that would likely allow greater participation. Thirty-five people attended the meeting representing twenty-seven voting members.

The July 24 meeting began with an interesting discussion led by Phil Keefe, the Sunapee Region field staffer for the Loon Protection Committee (LPC). BLPA invited LPC to speak to the membership about loon nest rafts in general and the potential for placing one on Blaisdell Lake. Phil shared that he has been actively monitoring the loon activity on Blaisdell Lake and believes we could be suitable location for a nesting raft. Phil's presenta-

tion was informative and served to educate the group and allow subsequent discussion based on the pros and cons of man-made intervention to encourage loon nesting on our lake.

Other highlights from the meeting include:

Weed Watch/Smart Lock Update.

Kristine Mozes, who has kindly been overseeing the new smart lock system at the boat launch, reported on the successes and challenges of the process. She shared that we plan to continue the smart lock pilot for the remainder of 2021 and the 2022 season to fully assess the viability of the new system. (For more about Weed Watch and the new smart lock, see page 6.)

Dam Report. Bruce Ellsworth reported that it's been a busy summer monitoring lake levels, especially with the steady rains in July. With the unusually high-water levels there is more debris in the lake, which members should remove whenever possible. It was also noted

that wake damage was more likely under these conditions, so boaters should be mindful. The next scheduled lake lowering will be 2023.

Water Quality Report.

Steve Domber and Chris Kelly summarized their efforts regarding water quality testing over the past two years. They reported that the water quality remains stable and good, but there are some worrisome trends. They shared what property owners in the watershed can do to help mitigate concerns. (For more about Blaisdell's water quality, see page 7.)

Adopt A Highway.

Betsy Fowler conveyed that the lake associate Adopt-a-Highway effort is still in need of a new person at the helm. She urged anyone interested in picking up the torch from Tim Beale to contact her.

Establishment of By-Laws Subcommittee.

The formation of a subcommittee to review current BLPA By-Laws was proposed at the suggestion of members who believe the existing lan-



Pud Ellsworth boat parade on a sunny Fourth of July

guage is too vague regarding membership privileges and beach use. The membership approved establishing a subcommittee that will compile recommendations and report at the 2022 annual meeting.

New Board Members.

President Doug DeLand thanked outgoing board members Gail Olson, Pete Savickas and Dorothy Jeffrey for their service. The members unanimously approved the nominations of Jen McCourt and Buster Brown to serve on the board. An open position remains on the board. Please contact Betsy Fowler or Doug DeLand if you would like to fill the vacancy.



Lake-Friendly Living

Lakes can't take care of themselves. BLPA relies on our partnership with NH LAKES for educational resources, lake protection tips and more. [Visit the NH LAKES website](#) for all sorts of free resources including e-newsletters and informative webinars.

Winter is approaching and with it comes snow and ice removal. The November webinar tells why road salt is a problem for our lakes and what you can do to help put our lakes on a low salt diet this coming winter, which is something your BLPA board is actively pursuing.



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

Nature's Gift Keeps on Giving

By Al Byam

My life at Blaisdell Lake began back when I was a toddler. In the early fifties my father, John Byam, rented a cottage on Blaisdell Hill Road from his minister, Dr. Leslie Johnson. That cottage has since been significantly updated and is now the year-round home of Libby and Henry Howell.

From the very start, my brothers and I had a blast vacationing at the lake. We enjoyed the two-a-day hikes from the cottage down to the shore to swim. We loved playing in the woods and fields, hiking to Simmons Pond long before it was a state remote access facility and so much more.

Our family's second rental was the Wright's cottage also on Blaisdell Hill Road, which has again been updated and is now the year-



Dragonfly Cottage, now the site of Al and Carol's year-round home.

round home of Marilou and Bruno Steblai. The best part of this location was the eerie march every evening to the bunkhouse out back! We

had the pleasure of playing with the Wright children, Bob, Jonathan, and Linda and of course Blitzen, the family Great Dane. Another highlight was driving down to the shore each evening to go fishing with my dad in his rowboat with the powerful 3hp Johnson outboard motor. Fishing was fun, but we also loved looking for wildlife on the ride back up the hill, hoping to see deer, fox, moose, and other critters crossing our path.

As the 50's rolled over to the 60's, we moved down to Frank Wise's three cottages directly on the lake immediately adjacent to Wright's Beach. Mr. Wise owned the Amoco gas station in Bradford. We rented the Wise cottages for most of the sixties and loved being directly on the lake, close to the beach and near the Dog

House and Chet Wright's general store. Of course, you had to try and pick up the nickel Chet had glued to the floor and watch him laugh and slap his knee as he delighted in fooling another youngster. The beach was truly crowded during those years, as was the Dog House. The

long pier that extended off Wright's Beach was great to jump off. It was great to see the seaplanes land on the lake with their occupants dropping by for a Super

(hamburger) or Special (hotdog) from the Dog House.

There were three active camps in the summer during the 60's that certainly contributed to a very busy scene on the lake. The Girl Scouts at Camp Wabasso added to the lake traffic with canoes and sailboats. Camp Blaisdell, the girls camp a bit past Wabasso where the Friedmans now live, had two ski boats going all day long. At the far end of the lake, Camp Kemah, now owned by Gary and Peg Dellert, also had their own flotilla down by the dam. Water-skiing was a major occurrence on the lake during my teenage years. We spent each day on the water dodging boats and skiers as we sped back and forth. A gang of us would tie six or seven boats together in the middle of the lake and hang out, chat, swim, and simply enjoy the beautiful lake. I was fortunate that one of my water-skiing buddies, Dave Carnes, invited me to stay on at Vega Cottage with his grandmother after my family's rental period was up for the summer.

In 1968 my dad went to Bradford to get gas for the boat. He saw Frank Wise at his station and Frank mentioned he was thinking of



Al with his dad, John Byam on his first lake visit

selling his cottages. Dad bought the parcel with the two cottages on it, and I continue to thank him every day for making that decision!!

Between serving in the Navy and attending college I got to the lake as much as I could, but unfortunately missed many summers in the 70's. On one special visit I brought then girlfriend Carol Belliveau and she loved the lake so much that I knew she was a keeper! When Carol and I decided to get married there was no question that the ceremony



August 29, 1981

In Memoriam

William J. (Bill) Hallahan, 91, of Sutton NH and Blaisdell Lake, died peacefully on August 4, 2021. He was born on April 6, 1930, in Yonkers, NY. A graduate of Yonkers High School, Bill enlisted in the Marines at the age of 17 and served until 1951. Under the GI Bill he went on to graduate from Boston University in 1955 with a degree in Business Management. Bill spent most of his professional career as Vice President of Marketing and subsequently VP of World Wide Sales for Data Terminal Systems in Maynard, MA. After retirement, Bill worked at Freedom Data Systems in Newport, NH and as a consultant through his company, Blaisdell Associates.

Bill met his wife of 61 years, Ann Colombosian, while at BU. Bill and Ann settled at Blaisdell Lake, first in a cottage they purchased in 1969, then living for nearly 40 years in their current home on the lake. Bill was a very active leader and supportive member of the Blaisdell Lake Protective Association throughout the years, serving BLPA and the lake community in many roles. He was instrumental in originating the lake water quality testing program, serving as the chair of that effort from 1989 – 2006. In recognition of his contributions in that area, Bill was awarded the 2006 NH Outstanding Limnologist Award.

Bill dedicated years of service to the BLPA Board, serving as President from

1984 – 1985, Vice President in 1983 and a member of the board from 1977 – 1980, 1987 – 1990 and in an Ex Officio capacity from 1990 – 2004. Bill was the recipient of the BLPA Achievement Award in 1993 and served on the Beach Management Committee in 2006. Consistent with his sales professional role, Bill quarterbacked the sale of flares for the annual Fourth of July celebration, not missing a beat up through this recent 2021 season.

In addition to his wife, Ann, Bill is survived by their three children, William (Nancy) of Arlington, MA, Robert (Kathy) of Syracuse, NY, and Laura of Sutton, NH, beloved grandchildren and great grandchildren, many

nieces, nephews, his sister Patricia Porach of Lecanto, Florida and sister-in-law Mary Webb of Newbury, NH.

In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy in Bill's name may be made to the Sutton Rescue Squad, PO Box 158, North Sutton, NH 03260 or Blaisdell Lake Protective Association, PO Box 453, South Sutton, NH 03273

Paul d'Entremont

We are saddened to learn of the passing of BLPA member Paul d'Entremont on July 22, 2021. We extend our condolences to Paul's family during this difficult time.

Nature's Gift *from Page 4*

would take place in front of the cottages on the lake. On a perfect August day forty years ago in 1981 we celebrated in this special spot.

Two years later our daughter Lyndsy was born. Because Carol worked as a teacher, she and Lyndsy were able to spend their summers at the lake. Lyndsy had a great time learning to swim, playing at the beach and voraciously reading all day and night. I would join them on the weekends and share in the fun.

When my dad died in 1989, Carol and I assumed the responsibility of caring for

the cottages. In 1992 my mom gifted the property to us. We fixed up Damselfly, the smaller cottage and began to rent it out during the season. The majority of our renters were great and we made a lot of new friends. My mom and her lifelong friend, Marion would come every summer to the cottage around the time of the League of NH Craftsman's Fair. They loved to play card games with Lyndsy, sit on the dock reading books, and go for a dip in the lake.

My mom died in 2015 at the age of 98. I was recently retired at the time. Carol and I traveled extensively looking



August 29, 2021

for where we might settle down and enjoy our retirement. Of course we always came back to the lake. The beauty, calmness, and friends always drew us back. We decided to build our forever home here, the place we love the most, and the place where we had been married.

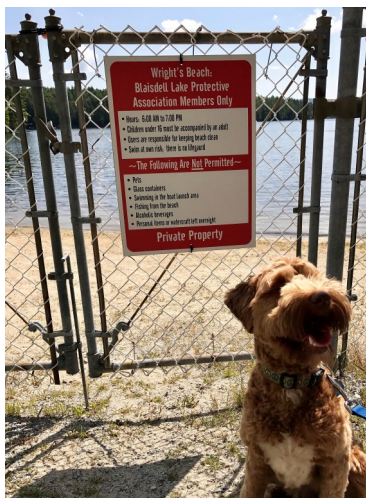
Carol designed our new home. She made it fully accessible, one floor living, with views of the lake from practically every room. She created an absolutely gorgeous, cozy, and functional forever home. Carol teases that I can't walk from one room to the next without looking out a window to the lake! We have named our home Nature's Gift. We celebrated our fortieth anniversary this summer in the very spot we were married, with our new home in the background. We are blessed that will be here forever and I'm very grateful to my parents for first bringing me to Blaisdell Lake years ago.

New and Improved Weed Watch

We knew we were in for changes at Wright's Beach and boat launch during the 2021 season, although perhaps not quite what we actually experienced. Yet despite the devastating impact from an unanticipated storm, the transition to a new boat launch smart lock system and new weed watch protocol was relatively smooth.

BLPA has Kristine Mozes to thank. She researched possible solutions and when we decided on the new smart lock approach, Kristine managed the project from education to implementation to lots of tech support. About 61 BLPA members requested and were issued codes for the new system and about a dozen day trippers/renters put boats in and received temporary codes. As with all new systems there was a learning curve, but all in all the transition was a grand

success and the impact on the weed watch program is a significant improvement.



Thanks to the new system, we were able to eliminate the need for onsite, in person weed watchers. Boaters either had their own previously issued access code or scheduled a launch time in advance. The new weed watch phone number meant some issues could be han-

dled remotely. Weed watch duty translated into being accessible by phone and being able to head to the beach only when meeting a scheduled new launch for inspection or addressing the rare issue. Many thanks to Betsy and Tinker Fowler, Dorothy Jeffrey, Pete Savickas and Jenny Wright who were on Weed Watch from May through July. Thanks also to Cynde Robbins and Vicki Willard who signed up for August duty but were sidelined after the big beach washout.

Turns out the biggest challenge was protecting the lock from the rain – because it rained and rained and rained throughout July! The original lock sustained water damage but was replaced at no charge. Thanks to Tinker Fowler's persistence and ingenuity we devised a protective

"home" for the new lock to safeguard it from water. We sure got a LOT of water this summer!

Thanks to the new system we no longer require as many people on weed watch duty as in previous years, although we can still use more volunteers next season. Under the new system several people are on duty at the same time so no single individual is tied to their phone or the beach. Please consider volunteering for the 2022 season and help us protect Blaisdell Lake from the spread of aquatic invasive species.



Rainiest July in recorded history!

Camp Wabasso's Twelfth Season

Bruce Ellsworth recently uncovered an intact brochure advertising the twelfth season of Camp Wabasso under Director Christine Smith Rawson. If the camp was started in 1921, the brochure would be from 1933, although it is not dated as such.

According to our resident lake historian, Chan Blodgett, Wabasso origi-

nated in 1921 when Christine Smith (later Rawson) purchased the land from the Willey Farms Co. who owned most of the land on the western side of Blaisdell Lake from Wright's Beach to Spruce Point.

Miss Chris, as she was known to campers, developed Wabasso as an elite equestrian girls camp with its own stable



Lake Blaisdell from the Road

Surroundings

THE country surrounding Lake Blaisdell has almost one hundred miles of fine dirt roads and bridle paths running over hills, along the shores of lakes and ponds and through the woodlands.

Nowhere is there country offering more delightful trips for the rider or hiker.

Blaisdell Water Quality

Designated Use	Parameter	Category	Comments
Aquatic Life	Phosphorus (Total)	Good	Sampling data is better than the water quality standards or thresholds for this parameter.
	pH	Slightly Bad	Data periodically exceed water quality standards or thresholds for this parameter by a small margin.
	Oxygen, Dissolved	Encouraging	Limited data for this parameter predicts water quality standards or thresholds are being met; however more data are necessary to fully assess the parameter.
	Dissolved oxygen saturation	Encouraging	Limited data for this parameter predicts water quality standards or thresholds are being met; however more data are necessary to fully assess the parameter.
	Chlorophyll-a	Good	Sampling data is better than the water quality standards or thresholds for this parameter.
Primary Contact Recreation	Escherichia coli	Very Good	All sampling data meet water quality standards or thresholds for this parameter.
	Chlorophyll-a	Very Good	All sampling data meet water quality standards or thresholds for this parameter.

BEACH PRIMARY CONTACT ASSESSMENT STATUS

BLAISDELL LAKE - CAMP WABASSO BEACH	Escherichia coli	Encouraging	Limited data for this parameter predicts water quality standards or thresholds are being met; however more data are necessary to fully assess the parameter.
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NH DES Volunteer Lake Assessment Program Blaisdell Lake 2020 Summary Table

Water quality testing continues to be a priority for BLPA with Steve Domber and Chris Kelly managing this important effort on our behalf. Their report presented at this year's annual meeting is reassuring but not without some cause for concern and attention.

Overall, the water quality in Blaisdell Lake remains stable and good, representative of oligotrophic, or high quality, conditions and the improving phosphorus and transparency (clarity) conditions are a positive sign. Drought conditions and subsequent low flow and stagnant conditions during 2020 in many tributaries

resulted in organic matter in samples which contributed to higher phosphorus levels. Russell Inlet and Russell Pond phosphorus levels have been above



average in recent years potentially due to changes in the sub-watershed or excessive road salting in winter.

For a great summary of the complete data and what it means, refer to [DES's Volunteer Lake Assessment Program 2020 Individual Lake link here.](#)

Most importantly, what can we do? What actions can individuals take to ensure continued favorable water quality at our lake?

Blaisdell's water quality is a function of the cumulative actions of every property owner in the watershed and especially those of us 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.

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



Camp Wabasso from Page 6



Every Girl Learns to Swim

of horses. Its twelfth season offered "a well-balanced program of recreational, educational and cultural activities." The charge for the season, which ran from July 1st to August 30th, was \$375. Chaperonage

could also be arranged by the camp for those traveling by rail from NYC to Claremont Junction and on to Bradford.

Ownership transferred to the Eastern MA Girl Scout Council in 1956 who continue to operate the camp to this day.

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!

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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Back Page Story -- Mishe-Mokwa Turning 100

Save the date – Sunday, July 24, 2022 – and plan to join the Henley and Gehert families as they celebrate the 100th anniversary of their camp Mishe-Mokwa, located on Old Blaisdell Road along the shore just past Camp Wabasso. (Is it any coincidence that the names of both camps come from Longfellow's "*The Song of Hiawatha*?")

Mishe-Mokwa's owners know that reaching a centennial milestone is special and worthy of a celebration that will bring the lake community together. The Henleys and Geherts have been working together with



BLPA to plan a community gathering and hope that you will plan to join in the fun. More details of the celebration itself will be shared next summer.

Mishe-Mokwa was built in 1922 by Victor Brook. The Brook family sold to veterinarian Dr. Leo Dube in the mid 1970s, who then sold to Dave and Cynthia Donovan in 1996. It's the Do-

novan's daughters, Kim and Pam, who now own the property as Mishe-Mokwa LLC together with their spouses, Joe Henley and Jake Gehert. The owners have reached out to Victor Brook's grandchildren, John Gulick and Diane Conger, as well as Leo Dube and his family, and hope that they will be attending the celebration next summer. We hope you will, too.

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