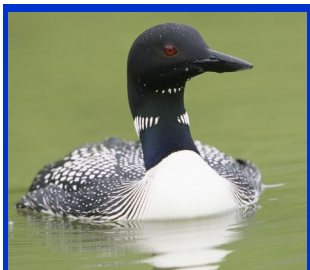




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- ✓ Follow all winter dock de-icer safety guidelines
- ✓ Sutton Police offer a Vacant Property Check
- ✓ Plan ahead! Lake lowering Fall 2023
- ✓ Enjoy a safe, warm and healthy winter!

President's Corner

Happy Thanksgiving! I hope everyone is still basking in the glow of a summer that felt pretty much like normal. I, for one, can't wait until the bluebird days of sun and snow and hitting the slopes of Sunapee and skiing (a term applied generously to my actual skill level) down Upper and Lower Ridge. Wherever you spend your non-summer lake season, I hope you are out and about and taking advantage of whatever your community has to offer.

Even though the summer may be over, your volunteer and member-elected Board of Directors has been and will be busy making sure that Blaisdell remains Blaisdell. With all that has gone on the last couple of years and the fact that we didn't have a boat ramp washout or other emergency repair to deal

with (knocking on wood as I type), the Board thought it would be a good idea to use the next couple of newsletters to reflect on all that the Blaisdell Lake Protective Association has accomplished over its 72-year history.

Since our association's founding in 1950 as the Blaisdell Lake Property Owners Association, you the members and your elected and volunteer Board of Directors have done a lot. And by a lot, I mean a lot. The BLPA has handled everything from dam maintenance and repair, to water safety, to water quality testing, to weed watch, to boat launching, to ownership of the Wrights Beach property, to beach management, to the Dog House fundraiser, to Adopt a Highway, to website design, to low road salt ad-

vocacy, this newsletter and more. All of this was done by you, the BLPA members and volunteers, and it was funded by your dues, generous donations, and fundraising efforts. We couldn't have done this work and we can't continue to do this work without your participation. We are by no means perfect, but we are so much better off with the Blaisdell Lake Protective Association members active and engaged.

Please enjoy the fall newsletter and take a moment to reflect on all that we have accomplished as an association. More on this will come in the spring newsletter too. My thanks to you the BLPA membership and its Board of Directors and committee members. Let's keep up the great work!

Steve Domber

Blaisdell Welcomes Nesting Loons

A first on Blaisdell Lake, we welcomed a nesting pair of loons who gave birth to two chicks late in the season on July 19. Sadly one chick did not survive more than a few days, but the remaining chick has thrived and provided lots of intrigue and entertainment on the lake

throughout the summer. Junior has been practicing takeoffs this past week and we expect will be departing for its winter home soon. We hope Momma and Papa Loon return next summer to continue the new tradition!



Two chicks immediately after emerging from the nest on July 20. Al Byam Photo

BPLA Annual Meeting Highlights

The BLPA Annual Meeting resumed in-person, although Camp Wabasso's Girl Scout Council leadership continued to keep our usual gathering spot unavailable because of Covid concerns. The meeting was held instead in the iconic Pillsbury Barn at Muster Field Farm in North Sutton. Thirty-seven people attended the meeting representing twenty-six eligible voting members. Highlights from the meeting include:

Financial Discussions and Dues Increase. BLPA Treasurer Kristine Mozes reviewed the association's current financial report and presented the 2023 – 2024 proposed budget. With dues remaining at \$85, the proposed budget results in a

slight deficit, although Kristine felt confident that other line items would likely balance out and she was not reporting concerns at present. This raised a discussion about BLPA's operating and capital incomes and ultimately a member motion to increase annual dues to \$100 beginning in 2023. The motion passed by a vote of 16 – 10. (*Learn more about BLPA finances on page 6*).

Revisions to By-Laws Approved. Chris Kelley, a member of the subcommittee reviewing current BLPA By-Laws, led a discussion about the proposed changes to the By-Laws that had been distributed to all members in advance of the meeting. The revisions were unanimously

approved and a copy of the By-Laws Revised as of July 23, 2022 has since been distributed to the membership via email. If you did not receive the revised version or would like it resent, please contact [Betsy Fowler](#).

Dam Report. Bruce Ellsworth, who heads the Dam Committee, reported that he had obtained the signatures of 10 voting members on the petition to be submitted to the state to permit lowering of the lake in 2023. Next spring Bruce will request a meeting with the Town of Sutton to solicit public input regarding the planned lake lowering for the fall of 2023. Bruce is in conversation with a new contractor to perform the scheduled maintenance, as our longstanding contractor has retired.

Water Quality Report. Steve Domber shared an update on water quality testing, with the first sampling conducted in June and the second scheduled for late July. Steve promised to analyze data from the state and share results with the board as soon as the data be-

comes available. Jenn McCourt reported on efforts made on behalf of BLPA with the town and the state regarding establishment of a Low Road Salt area between Watkins Ave. and Jolly Farm Rd., as well as issues with culverts feeding into the lake. Water quality data over the last several decades shows an increasing trend in conductivity; NHDES has identified road salt as likely cause.

New Board Members. Outgoing President Doug DeLand explained that there were five open positions with three members leaving the board, one board position left unfilled for past year and one current board member being proposed to move to an officer position. Kate Bailey, Doug DeLand, Gary Dellert, Paul Ezen and Pete Savickas were nominated and unanimously approved. Steve Domber and Cynde Robbins were approved as President and Vice President, respectively, with Kristine Mozes and Betsy Fowler remaining as Treasurer and Clerk. Doug will serve as Ex Officio.



BLPA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

MEMBERSHIPS

87 Paid Memberships to date

84 Paid Members in 2021

82 Paid Members in 2020

DONATIONS, LEGACY DONATIONS, AND BEQUESTS

33 Members sent a donation in with their dues renewal

1 Non-Member donation

11 Legacy Donations in memory of Peg Leightammer

BOAT LAUNCH AND DOCKAGE

9 Motorized Season Passes

3 Non-Motorized Season Passes

11 Motorized Day Launches

14 Non-Motorized Day Launches

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP

37 Attendees

26 Eligible Voting Members

With thanks to

Vicki Willard - Membership Committee



Annual Meeting in the historic Pillsbury Barn at Muster Field

Adopt A Highway Returns

By Gary Dellert

Wow! What a fantastic time! What could possibly beat an hour and a half walking along a three mile stretch of Rte. 114 picking up trash to help beautify our neighborhood? With a group of eight or so BLPA members on a beautiful fall day, each attacked a short section of the roadside to fill up 13 brilliant blue bags of stuff that had been thrown out of a car window or blew out of the back of a pick-up truck while speeding along the highway! Can you imagine a more exciting way to spend your morning?

OK, maybe I've been watching too many political commercials and their embellishment of the truth has infected me! Yes, it was actually a little fun, good people, good exercise, and a job well done with coffee, cider, and donuts as a reward.

Just in case you felt left out of all the excitement this time, we will be tackling the clean-up of our adopted section of Rte. 114 again next spring. Look for an email with details at the end of winter.

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



Roadside clean up crew (L to R) Hunt and Vicki Willard, Henry Howell, Heather Turner, Gary Dellert, Rob O'Neil and Kristine Mozes



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

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



Heron resting on a float that went adrift later in the summer.

Blaisdell Lake Protective Association

Private group · 60 members



Find Us on Facebook

Facebook users are invited to join the newly formed Blaisdell Lake Protective Association group. The private group is an online community for people who share an interest in the preservation and enjoyment of Blaisdell Lake. Mem-

bers are encouraged to use the group to share lake experiences, suggest fun activities, ask questions, and engage with fellow BPLA friends and neighbors.

Since its inception, the group has successfully reunited members with a lost cat and a wayward float cast adrift in a storm. We've enjoyed watching

the baby loon grow and seeing the colorful transformation from summer to fall from various corners of the lake. The group is private, where only members can see who's in the group and what is posted. Search Facebook for Blaisdell Lake Protective Association and click on the blue +Invite button to request to become a member.

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.

Loon Vocalizations: More Than Meets the Ear

By Laurie D. Morrissey

On the New Hampshire lake where I spend much of the summer, loon calls are so common that I sometimes take them for granted. The sounds of the common loon (*Gavia immer*) are iconic of wilderness and have been described as haunting, plaintive, maniacal, other-worldly, even wolf-like.

Recently, I've started listening more carefully to the beautifully patterned black and white birds – and wondering what they were communicating. Not surprisingly, there is far more to loon language than meets the ear. Their varied sounds are acoustically complex and serve different purposes. They even have different meanings, depending on the environmental and social context.

The comparison of loon voices to wolf howls makes sense, according to Harry Vogel, senior biologist with the Loon Preservation Committee. "Both creatures evolved in the northern forested landscape and have to overcome the same challenges to communicate over long distances," he said. "These are the sounds that work in these conditions."

Ornithologists describe four types of loon vocalizations: wails, yodels, tremolos, and hoots. The most often heard (and most wolf-like) is the wail: three or four drawn-out notes serving as a location check-in. (I'm over here! Where are you? I'm over

here!) Wails are typically heard at night, Vogel says, when the lake is quiet and visual cues are not available. Both adult male and female loons make this sound.

The yodel is an aggressive call a male loon makes when disturbed by an intruder. It consists of an introductory phrase of three or four as-

male's yodel is unique in terms of timing, frequency, and frequency modulation. It's possible that it communicates three types of information: not only about identity, but about how big and bad he is, and how motivated he is to escalate a conflict."

Scientists have uncovered

many nuances of loon communication. For example, the male's yodel changes with age, indicating size and condition. It also changes when he moves to a new territory, becoming distinct from what he sounded like before

and also distinct in his new neighborhood. As Mager says, "Communication is a beautiful way to avoid a fight." Which is critical to survival, since loon confrontations can be fatal.

The "laughing" call that thrills Ethel and Norman Thayer in "On Golden Pond" is the tremolo. This call is usually a response to a perceived threat such as a boat, an intruding loon, or an eagle or other predator. Loons use the tremolo during territorial interactions, or while flying over a territory occupied by other loons.

The last call, and the one least often heard by humans, is a hoot or coo used over short distances between partners or between parents and chicks. Chicks are generally able to vocalize within one day of hatching and will peep or yelp when in distress. By one week of age, chicks can produce high-frequency wails. By three months, they have traded peeps and yelps for hoots and tremolos, and males are able to yodel by two years of age, which is when they reach sexual maturity.

Loons vocalize most frequently during breeding season – especially with wails, yodels, and tremolos. These sounds are often made during nighttime, when conditions allow for better long-range transmission. Loons overwinter on the New England coast and rarely make their signature calls, mainly using hoots to communicate.

As for how loons produce their singular sounds, scientists are still studying the anatomy of the loon's syrinx to determine the exact mechanism. While much has been discovered, Mager says, "The more you learn about it, the less you know. There's so much more to understand."

Laurie is a writer who lives in Hopkinton, NH and has enjoyed many summers on Blaisdell Lake with husband, Dan and family. Reprinted with permission.



Our Blaisdell loon family in mid-August

ending notes, followed by a series of two-syllable repeat phrases – as many as 28. Male loons may extend their necks parallel to the surface of the water during yodeling, either keeping their bodies close to the water or rising out of the water and extending their necks forward.

"In effect, the yodel of a male loon is his voice, recognizable to humans who know it and probably also to other loons," says Jay Mager, a behavioral ecologist at Ohio Northern University who has studied loons for more than 30 years and has focused on the yodel. "Each

In Memoriam

Peg Leichthammer

Margaret "Peg" Nelson Leichthammer passed away peacefully on June 12, 2022 at the incredible age of 106. Born March 23, 1916 to the late John and Emma Nelson, Peg was the beloved wife of the late Frank O. Leichthammer; she is the loving mother of Margaret Domber and Frank Nelson Leichthammer (Laurie); cherished Grammy of Steven Domber, Gregory Domber, Carl Leichthammer, Mark Leichthammer, Andrew Leichthammer, Ali Haydock; and great-grandmother of 9.

Peg worked as a legal secretary and was an active member of the Norristown, PA Garden Club and the Antiquists and a life-long member of the First Presbyterian Church of Norristown. After Frank's retirement and with Peg as the driver, they explored England and Scotland for 5 weeks at a time for 5 years. Peg had the pleasure of spending May through October at their summer home on Blaisdell Lake.

As we shared on the occasion of Peg's 105th birthday last year, Peg's sister, Isabelle, married a NH man, Earl Little, which drew Peg to NH just after the Hurricane of '38. Peg and Frank began vacationing at the lake in 1947 with their children, Frank and Peggy, first staying at Little by Little, then at various rentals around the lake including Lazy Lodge and Frank Wise's camps. They eventually bought their camp on

Bass Point in 1968 from the original owners, the Caldwells. After Frank's passing in 1990, Peg came to Bass Point by herself for four years, then continued coming with daughter, Peggy, until just past her 97th birthday.



Ann Hallahan

Ann C. Hallahan of Sutton, NH, who lived an extraordinary 95 years, died peacefully August 22, 2022, surrounded by family in the home she loved on Blaisdell Lake.

Ann was born on January 8, 1927, in Andover, MA to Sarkis and Rose Colombosian, Armenian immigrants and founders of Colombo Yogurt. She loved school and learning and was employed by two prominent doctors in Boston until her marriage to William J. Hallahan. They enjoyed almost 61 years together before Bill's passing in August, 2021.

Ann and Bill first settled at Blaisdell Lake in a cottage they purchased in 1969, then lived for nearly 40 years in their current home on the



Rob Friedman

Dr. Robert H. (Rob) Friedman of Newton, MA died on September 6, 2022. Although Alzheimer's marked his last decade, Dr. Friedman never lost his infectious smile nor the twinkle in his eyes. A proud native Californian, and son of Nathan Jay and Virginia Friedman (Hamerslag), he graduated from Harvard College and Stanford Medical School. He married his medical school classmate, Dr. Rochelle Friedman (Rame), and together they raised four daughters, Jordana, Alissa, Heather and Tamar Friedman.

A pioneer in the field of medical infomedics, Dr. Friedman led a novel program in computer applications of medicine at Boston University Medical School. As a practicing physician in internal medicine, he cared for patients with warmth, compassion, and humor.

In the late 1970's, Rob and his wife purchased a subdivided portion of Camp Blaisdell, the former girls camp on Old Blaisdell Road. Rob enjoyed many years at the lake with his daughters and grandchildren and served on the BLPA Board of Directors from 2007 - 2009.

Dr. Friedman is survived by his wife and cherished daughters, sons-in-law, nine grandchildren, and siblings, John Friedman and Diane Brett.

lake. Ann and Bill "retired" to New Hampshire in 1982 and in 1984 she obtained her real estate license and in 1988 opened her own office, Ann C. Hallahan Real Estate. She worked until she was 93 years old and was honored as local board Realtor of the Year in 1993 and received a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2018. Ann took excellent care of her health after recovering from a stroke in 1995. Many around Blaisdell Lake would see Ann walking daily, rowing her boat and cross-country skiing.

Ann is survived by her three children, William (Nancy), Robert (Kathy) and Laura as well as several grandchildren and great grandchildren, many beloved nieces and nephews and sister-in-law Patricia.

BLPA By the Numbers

By Kristine Mozes

With the first increase in dues in seven years, the BLPA Executive Committee would like to review the advantages and benefits of being a member of the association. While it may not seem evident, running a nonprofit organization like BLPA is a big job. And is

memberships). This fund is used as it sounds; to pay ongoing yearly expenses necessary to achieve the BLPA mission. Operating expenses (as shown in the graph below) include administrative costs, insurance and property taxes, dam registration, water quality testing, and website hosting. Owning, operating, and

dues increase in the prior twelve years. A dues increase was proposed this summer and approved by the membership to rebuild the reserve account and to cover increased expenses. Annual dues will be \$100 starting in May, 2023.

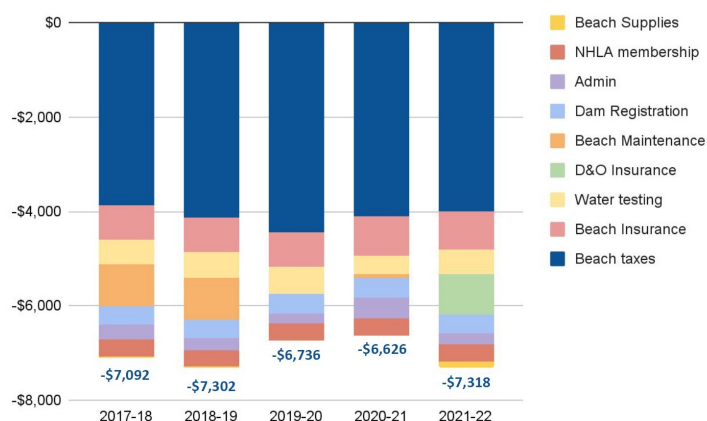
The Capital Fund pays for non-operating beach and dam expenses. Income for this fund traditionally comes through BLPA fundraisers, unrestricted donations, market gains and excess operating income shifted from the Operating Fund. The stock market is unpredictable, although performance has been in our favor with BLPA funds gaining an average of \$3,835/year. Past fundraisers have been the Dog House, sales of logo merchandise and flares. Flare sales revenue is minimal and in fact has not produced a profit in several years. The last logo fundraiser was in 2018, as was the final Dog House event.

The graph at the bottom of this page shows how BLPA has spent over \$9,000 more in capital expenses than we have raised over the past five years. The board has formed a subcommittee to discuss fundraising ideas or perhaps a capital campaign that could replace the very profitable Dog House fundraiser.

Beach and dam expenses covered by the Capital Fund include legal fees, dam maintenance and repair, new fence at the beach, repair of storm damaged beach and boat ramp, and other repair work that impacts the beach. Dam maintenance and repair is done every five years when the lake is lowered, with the next scheduled maintenance in the fall of 2023. The cost for dam work has been about \$6,600, but that could go up as we move to a new contractor following the retirement of our existing contractor. And the dam isn't

Continued on next page

Operating Fund: Annual Expenses



often the case, managing finances can be the biggest challenge. This article will familiarize you with how BLPA finances are organized, where funds currently stand, and outlines concerns and actions for the future as we collectively support the BLPA mission (see *Back Page Story on page 8*).

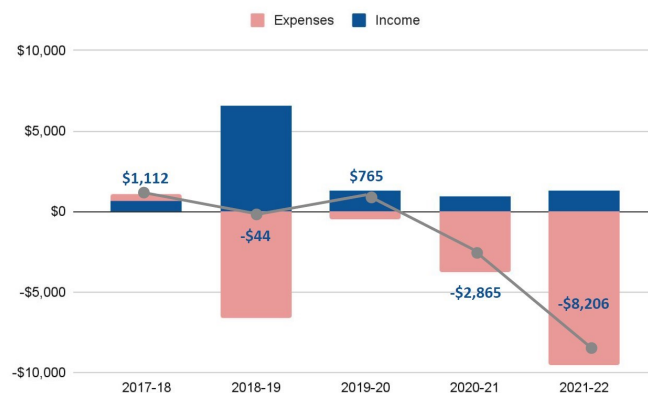
BLPA finances are structured in three distinct funds – **Operating, Capital and Legacy**.

Income for the Operating Fund comes from annual membership dues and beach revenue (boat launch, dockage fees and seasonal

maintaining Wright's Beach accounts for an average of 70% of the yearly expenses over the past five years. We strive for a balanced fiscal year budget, but since budgets are created up to nine months before the fiscal year begins, it can be difficult to predict some expenses. We also strive to maintain a liquid operating fund reserve available for unforeseen expenses that can be covered without selling stock from the Capital fund.

The last BLPA dues increase was seven years ago, and it was the only

Capital Fund: Expenses vs Income



Spent \$9K+ more than raised in fundraisers/donations

Protecting Our Lake

BLPA, in partnership with the Sutton Conservation Commission, submitted a proposal to the Sutton Board of Selectmen, Sutton Police Chief, Sutton Fire Chief, Rescue Chief and Superintendent of Schools requesting that the New Hampshire Department of Transportation designate the section of NH Route 114 from Watkins Avenue north to Jolly Farm Road as a "Low Salt" area. While salt is a critical tool that helps keep our roads safe for travel, the amount applied can be reduced in ways that benefit water quality and still allow for safe travel.

Water quality data collected by Blaisdell Lake Protective Association volunteers since

the 1980s and compiled and interpreted by the NH Department of Environmental Services show increasing or worsening water conductivity. One of the primary causes is likely increasing chloride concentrations from road salt application on NH Route 114 near Blaisdell Lake and Billings Pond. Billings Pond discharges into Blaisdell Lake.

At the August 29 meeting of the Sutton Select Board, Selectman Dane Headley executed a letter of support for the BLPA and SCC request. A letter of support from the Kearsarge Regional School District was also enclosed with the Select Board letter. With town approval,



Recommended Section of Rt 114 for Low Salt Application Area (in red). Watkins Avenue north to Jolly Farm Road

the request now awaits approval from the state.

Kudos to BLPA board member Jenn McCourt for her efforts in putting together the successful proposal to the town and to SCC members

Deb Lang and Henry Howell (who are also BLPA members) for staying on top of this project on behalf of our lake community.



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.](#)

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Lucas & Elena Brown
Sean Fitzpatrick
Mark & Martha Lennon
Dick Manuel, Jr.



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!

By the Numbers From Page 6

getting any younger and could require major repairs at any time. Beach maintenance and repair is conducted as necessary and is unpredictable and can be expensive, as the washout of the beach and boat ramp demonstrated last summer.

The Legacy Fund was created to honor the memory and love for Blaisdell Lake for friends and family of BLPA members who have passed away. Legacy funds have not been used to date. We began investing the funds in fiscal year 2016/17. We hope to use gains from Legacy Funds when necessary, leaving the principal intact. The organization must decide how the funds might be used and a subcommittee of the board has been established to address the issue.

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 -- BLPA Mission and Purpose

Formally established in 1950, the mission of the Blaisdell Lake Protective Association is to promote educational, environmental, safety, and general welfare objectives related to Blaisdell Lake including:

- Operation, inspection, and maintenance of the dam to optimize water level and conformance with state regulations
- Monitoring and testing water quality to maintain the highest quality possible and promote and support activities to protect the lake and its environs
- Promoting safe boating practices and recreational activities on and around the lake
- Conserving the Blaisdell Lake watershed in partnership with abutting property owners, adjoining areas, and the community at-large
- Owning, operating, and maintaining privately owned Wright's Beach and boat launch

Plan Ahead! **Fall, 2023**

The next scheduled lake lowering will be a year from this fall. Per the BPLA By-Laws, the lake level is temporarily lowered no more than every five years for the convenience of the membership and to conduct dam maintenance. **PERMITS TAKE TIME.** Most shorefront projects require a NH Department of Environmental Services SWQPA (Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act) and/or or NHDES Wetlands Bureau permit. Plan ahead!

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