



President's Corner

As I write this article, it is 39 degrees and raining outside my office window. While I am hoping that the snow of April does not continue into May, I am sure that the warm days of summer are not in the too distant future.

It is a unique time we are living through at the moment. One that nobody could have imagined just a few short months ago. I am quite certain that most of us had never heard the term "social distancing" prior to the outbreak of the Covid-19 virus. However, I am also confident that we will adapt to ensure the safety of all those around us, without diminishing the strong sense of community around the lake.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the lake this summer, and I promise I will do my best to "social distance" as I refine my reverse cannonball with my good friends Rocco and Mario.

Stay safe and be well. *Chris Kelley*

Summer of Seventy Uncertainty

As Chris shared, this is a very unprecedented time. The Covid-19 crisis has upended so many lives and so many plans. Not surprisingly, the 70th Anniversary celebration of the Blaisdell Lake Protective Association is no exception. While we had initiated a number of ambitious plans to

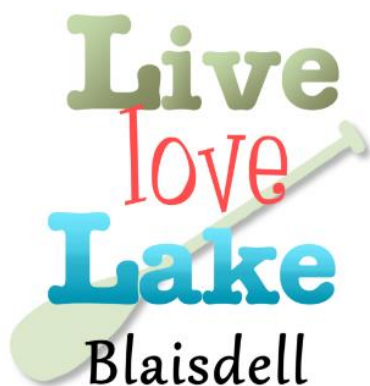
gather throughout the summer to celebrate this milestone, we have been forced to put those plans on hold. The health and safety of our members and community is our most important concern. Without specific treatments or a vaccine to prevent the virus, the only strategy to address health and safety is to be smart and be safe.

While businesses are beginning and will continue to reopen, the Stay-at-Home order in New Hampshire has been extended to May 31 with some modifications. Current guidance includes social distancing, wearing masks in public where social distancing is not possible, limitations on the number of people who can gather, and recommended self-quarantine for those arriving from out of the area, particularly from areas of high infection.

The BLPA Board of Directors will meet via the ubiquitous Zoom video conference service as scheduled on May 23. The board will discuss plans and protocols for the summer, including the 2020 BLPA Annual Membership Meeting scheduled for July 25. The state currently prohibits scheduled public gatherings over 50 people, not to mention that Camp Wabasso will remain closed for the 2020 summer season, so other plans must be made. Stay tuned for news about summer dates and plans following the May 23 board meeting.

Summer of Seventy Uncertainty from Pg 1

We can all come together to find creative ways to enjoy Blaisdell Lake this summer while being respectful of all and staying safe and healthy. One way we plan to bring us together is with colorful new lake apparel. Here's a sneak peek at a new design that is coming to a t-shirt or sweatshirt near you. We'll be taking orders online, so keep your eyes peeled for an email with more details.



Membership Dues are Due

If you haven't already done so, please submit your BLPA membership dues for the 2020 season. Dues are essential to fund operating expenses, including beach taxes, water quality testing, dam registration and more. New members are welcome. Please share this invitation with any new friends or neighbors who are interested in joining our lake community. Send your check made out to BLPA for \$85 to:

BLPA
Attn: Membership
PO Box 453
South Sutton, NH 03273

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

Weed Watch Needs YOU!

As we reported last fall, volunteer Weed Watch participation has declined over the last couple of summers. We all know now more than ever that it's a lot easier to control the spread of unwanted infestation with proactive preventative measures! If every member volunteers for at least one weed watch block at Wright's Beach during weekends and holidays throughout the season, we won't have a curve to flatten. [Sign up online](#) and learn more about what weed watch duty entails. For the most part, it's as simple as sitting in a chair enjoying the scenery, something we've all been practicing a lot these days. And until the gate is repaired, it's more important than ever to have lake access monitored by weed watch volunteers! Please do your part and thank you for helping keep Blaisdell Lake free from invasive species!

New! Membership Directory

The BLPA Board of Directors has approved the publication of a BLPA Membership Directory that will be emailed to members in good-standing. Because of privacy concerns, we will **not** be publishing the directory on the BLPA website. This is a "Members Only" directory and we expect that our members will not share the information with outsiders or use it for business purposes. The 2020 membership renewal form that was emailed in mid-April includes a field where you indicate your preference for whether you wish to have your contact information included in the directory. We hope to publish the directory in early June, so please return your dues renewal with the directory information by May 15. If you did not receive the membership email or would prefer to have a form snail mailed to you, please contact a membership representative.

Vicki Willard, Membership Chair

vepwillard@mac.com 603-938-2547

Betsy Fowler, tinkerf@mcttelecom.com 603-938-5367

Gail Olson, g_olson@tds.net 603-938-2446

In Memoriam

Michael Gudefin

We are saddened to announce that Michael T. Gudefin, 64, of Blaisdell Lake passed away unexpectedly in January of a heart attack. He and his wife Gretchen moved to the lake in 1997 and had just recently rebuilt their home here. Michael served on the BLPA Board for several years and assisted Bill Hallahan with the water quality testing as well as volunteered many hours as a weed watcher. Michael will always be remembered for his generosity and happy, upbeat personality and for his famous hand dipped chocolates which he delighted in handing out by the bags full wherever he went. He will be incredibly missed. Memorial donations can be made to the BLPA in Michael's memory.



Frederick (Fritz) Pratt

It is with deep sadness that we share the news of the passing of Fritz Pratt. Fritz, 89, passed away December 30, 2019 after a battle with cancer. Social, good natured, and generous, Fritz was loved and appreciated by all who had the pleasure of engaging with his jocular personality and biting sense of humor.

Fritz and his wife Jane's love for their children and the outdoors brought them to Sutton in 1971, where they made a home at Blaisdell Hill Farm. Fritz was actively involved with the Blaisdell Lake Protective Association, serving three terms on the board (1973 - 75, 2003 - 05 and 2011 - 13) and

serving as Vice President in 1976. Together with Jane, Fritz hosted many lake association gatherings at their beautiful home atop Blaisdell Hill. One member fondly recalls working closely with Fritz on two BLPA anniversary events held at his house. Fritz would often stop to shoot the breeze with folks sitting at the beach on weed watch. If you wanted to know what was going on around town, you could just ask Fritz.

Fritz is also fondly remembered for so many contributions throughout our community, both recognized and not. Did you know Fritz kept the candy jar at the South Sutton post office well stocked? Or that he mowed the roadside stretch at the end of Johnson Hill by 114? Or dressed in authentic garb to remember Sutton on each Old Home Day in August?

Fritz is survived by his older brother Mark S. Pratt (Deloris) of Washington, DC, and his three children; Jonathan (Johnna) of North Kingstown, RI, Jennifer McCourt (Bob) of Henniker, NH, and Jeffery (Sherry) of Somersworth NH, plus four grandchildren, Trevor (Kelsey), Joshua, Sophie and Addison.



The family plans to hold a celebration of Fritz's life at the South Sutton Meetinghouse at a date yet to be determined. Memorial gifts in Fritz's memory may be sent to the Sutton Historical Society, P.O. Box 457, South Sutton, NH 03273 or to

Home Instead Senior Care of Manchester, NH or the Sunapee Visiting Nursing Association.

In Memoriam from Pg 3

Emil Baur

The Domber family is sad to share that Emil Peter Baur, 77, of Kinnelon, New Jersey died December 21, 2019. Peggy Domber's fiancé of fifteen years, Emil was a Certified Valuation Analyst and a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants. He generously offered his accounting services to BPLA throughout the years. Emil enjoyed time at the lake, traveling the world with friends, annual trips to New Orleans with Peggy, and spending time with their grandchildren.

He is survived by his fiancé and longtime companion, Peggy Domber; his daughters, Kim Figaro (Roy), and Dawn Baur; Peggy's children, Steven Domber (Robyn), and Gregory Domber (Mira); his brother, Christopher Baur Jr.; his sisters, Ida Agaman and Josephine Trotter; his grandchildren, Kyle and Kelsea Figaro, and William, Courtney, Tillie and Lulu Domber; and his great-granddaughter, Jocelyn Figaro. In lieu of flowers donations to a charity of your choice would be greatly appreciated by the Baur family.

All in the Family

The Wright-Rooney property overlooking Wright's Beach on the shores of Blaisdell Lake is staying in the family. The property was purchased in December by locals Rick and Jennifer Wright of Newbury. Rick is a third cousin to the cottage's former owner/occupant Estelle Wright Rooney. Estelle's father, Chet, was Rick's great uncle.

In a respectful nod to their ancestors, the Wrights have elected to restore the cottage on the grounds and not demolish it as many suspected was its fate. Since taking ownership just before the holidays, Rick and Jenny have been carefully removing many historic treasures from the cottage prior to gutting the interior down to the

studs. Working most weekends by themselves, occasionally with help from friends, the couple has hauled tons of sheetrock, wood and old insulation out for disposal. The Wrights were sporting industrial strength face masks long before they became popular this spring to protect themselves from the mold and other irritants that had built up inside as the cottage has been unoccupied since Estelle's death in 2006.



At first Rick and Jenny came across old photographs that they put aside to restore with plans to adorn the newly refurbished cottage walls with family memorabilia. The couple unearthed a wealth of surprises as the interior demo proceeded. They found old collectible yard sticks used as spacers within the walls, including one advertising Wright's Store, once operated on the property by Rick's great uncle Chet. In addition to discovering all kinds of creative building techniques - one worked with what one had in those days - the couple also found several vintage greeting cards from the 1920's pressed behind the walls.

It's been nice to see lights on inside the cottage and it will be wonderful to have this historic lake icon humming with life once again. No one will be happier to reach that milestone than the new owners, who deserve great credit for all the sweat equity they are putting into the restoration efforts. Please welcome Rick and Jenny, our newest BLPA members!

Boat Ramp Update

BLPA President Chris Kelley provides this update on the board's efforts to address the erosion at the boat ramp: Since our last annual meeting, an engineer was retained to explore options for repairing the boat ramp. This past fall, the engineer completed a survey of the beach and lake bed immediately in front of the beach. The engineer then had a follow up meeting with members of the Executive Committee to discuss some potential steps to protect the beach from future erosion and options for installing a new boat ramp. The engineer reviewed some of the issues that could be addressed: runoff from Route 114, dredging of the lake, adding sand to the beach, and whether to install a permanent boat ramp in the water made of concrete, gravel, or other State-approved material. The Board is meeting on May 23 to discuss the options presented by the engineer. We will share our findings with you following that meeting.

Weed Watch Needs YOU!!
Please take your turn! [Sign up here.](#)

Cell Tower in the Neighborhood

Indeed, a cell tower has appeared on private land atop Wright's Hill at the end of Wright's Hill Road. Visible from the lake, the tower clearly has equipment mounted, presumably by AT&T who had obtained the required variances and permits from the town. The jury is still out regarding whether there is any boost in service signal since the equipment was attached, nor is it known if other carriers will choose to piggyback on the new tower. Let us know what you know!

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

Life at the Lake

You have to admit that there are worse places to dutifully comply with stay-at-home orders than by the shores of Blasidell Lake. For those of us who live at the lake year-round or who have returned to hunker down in seasonal residences, this spring has been quiet and unseasonably cool and rainy. Following an unusually mild winter with ice out on March 21 a full month earlier than 2019, there was reason to hope for warm spring days. No such luck. April showers (and snow) were plentiful with colder-than-normal temperatures throughout.

The chilly weather made staying home more appealing, not a bad thing as the Covid-19 pandemic swept the country. As of this writing, Sutton continues to have zero positive test results for the virus. Neighbors are adapting and supporting one another, as you would expect in a small community. BLPA board member Jo-Ala Barney-Markson and daughter Erica Markson created the colorful display of solidarity and support for our lakeside community, shown in the newsletter banner. Thank you, ladies! The Transfer Station continues to operate normal hours, but is completely self-service. The Market Basket at Exit 9 has been exceptionally well stocked (until the threatened meat shortages arrived), and otherwise not overly crowded.

Local is the way to go. The Sweet Beet Market in Bradford has adapted its operations to address concerns and step up its services. You can order online, drive to the front door and have fresh produce, meat, dairy, eggs and more loaded into the trunk of your car. Spring Ledge Farm in New London has a similar online order ahead operation for pick up next day. Local restaurants offer curbside pickup; The Appleseed now delivers to the lake. As New Hampshire "reopens," we'll practice new guidelines that are designed to continue to slow the spread of the virus while making more services accessible.

BLPA Executive Board 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
Past President - Bruce Ellsworth	ellsworth@conknet.com

Lead Tackle Buyback Expanding

In 2019, seven adult loons in New Hampshire were confirmed to have died from lead poisoning from ingested fishing tackle. It is no longer legal to use lead tackle with a total weight of one ounce or less in all fresh water in New Hampshire. To address these issues, two years ago NH Fish and Game teamed with the Loon Preservation Committee (LPC) to launch an exchange program for old lead fishing tackle. The program offers the opportunity to safely dispose of lead fishing tackle in exchange for a \$10 voucher good for loon-safe or other fishing supplies at participating tackle shops.



Locally, Clarke's Hardware in New London and the Tackle Shack in Newbury have been participating retailers. The Sutton Transfer

Station also has a drop box for safe disposal of lead tackle. For more information about the program, visit [LPC's Loon Safe website](#). Given uncertain operating hours and regulations at this time, check with retailers before heading out to dispose of unsafe tackle.



Stay tuned for a chance to order new Blaisdell Lake merchandise.

Be well. Stay safe.

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