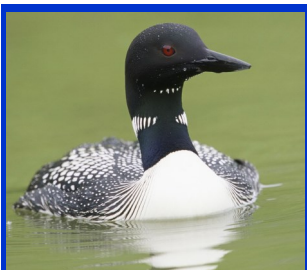




Inside this issue:

Membership Reminders	2
Fourth of July Festivities	2
Camp Wabasso Report	3
Warner River Instream Flow Study	4
Lake Lowering and Lower Salt	5
Adopt-A-Highway	6
In Memoriam	7



- ✓ Pay your BLPA membership dues
- ✓ Plan ahead for lake lowering Fall 2023
- ✓ Buy new LED flares
- ✓ Get your smart lock pin code
- ✓ Always LOCK THE GATE behind you

President's Corner

Happy Spring BLPA! After what felt like a normal summer, complete with our first in-person annual meeting since 2019, and a Labor Day board meeting where business-as-usual was the plan for the off season, life gave us some surprises. Some of those surprises were good news, others are yet to be determined, and all of them kept your board members busy over the winter. I guess that saying "sometimes things don't always go as planned" really is true.

First came the rumblings of Camp Wabasso and its "resting"- which is official news now. We always knew that the potential for changes to the largest property on the lake were possible, but now that seems more likely. We don't know much, and it sounds like we are in a couple year wait-and-see period until the Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts figure out what to do. *[Read more on Pps. 3 and 8]*

Then came the Warner River Instream Flow Protection Study. This DES project had been on our radar screen but was one we didn't expect the board would have to address this winter. We did and

just like the Camp Wabasso story there is more to come. *[Read more on Pg. 4]*

Lastly, but which is good news, is that we finally had a breakthrough with DOT and our request to make a section of Route 114 a low salt roadway to help address degrading water quality in Blaisdell. DOT recently informed us that they conducted a field review of the road and will schedule a public hearing this summer to get any final public input. Hopefully an affirmative decision will be made before next winter.

What the Board of Directors did plan to address this winter, and which all of the above events reinforce the need for, is a solid plan to ensure we have the funds needed to address the unexpected, e.g., beach/boat ramp washouts, dam repairs, legal fees, or the complete unknown. While we have a very solid investment account and many mem-

bers have been extremely generous in their donations over the years, we haven't raised much from annual fundraisers recently. The board is addressing questions like how much should an organization like ours keep in reserve, how much could a major dam repair cost, what kind of event should we be planning for, and how can we raise money annually to maintain/increase our funds consistently. Your board is working to address all of these questions and more. They are not done yet but are hard at work. We'll keep you posted.

Enjoy the Spring 2023 edition of the Newsletter. I am looking forward to seeing everyone this summer.

Steve Domber



Ice Out on a sunny April 11, 2023.



BLPA Membership Reminders

A reminder to all that the membership voted to increase annual dues to \$100 beginning this season. Thank you to all who have submitted your BLPA membership dues to date. It's not too late to join BLPA for the 2023 season.

Dues are essential to fund operating expenses, including beach taxes, water quality testing, dam registration and more. New members are always welcome. Please share this invitation with any new friends or neighbors who are interested in joining our lake community.

If you had a pin code for the boat launch last year and renew your membership promptly, your pin code will remain the same.

The latest edition of the BLPA Membership Directory will be emailed to members in good-standing later in the summer. Because of privacy concerns, we will not publish 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.

Membership renewal forms were emailed last month. The form allows you to denote whether you want to request a pin code for the smart lock (if you do not currently have one) and if you wish to be included in the member directory.

For more info, contact:

Vicki Willard, Membership Chair
vepwillard@mac.com
603-938-2547

Betsy Fowler,
betsyfowler3@gmail.com
603-938-5367

Send your check made out to BLPA for \$100 to:

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

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

BLPA Fourth of July Celebration

With the Fourth of July on a Tuesday this year, we have decided to hold the annual BLPA boat parade and flares event on Saturday, July 1 (with a rain date of Sunday, July 2). Show your spirit, decorate your boat and come in costume for the Pud Ellsworth boat parade. Boats will line up as they each arrive at Spruce Point for one full lap around the lake.

We will not be selling flares this year and encourage everyone to go green and purchase battery operated [LED flares like these](#). They are a safe and reusable option that still puts out a great display.

Note that Bradford is returning to its traditional Independence Day celebration and fireworks also on July 1. The 5K road race kicks off at 9 AM and Nick's Other Band will be performing from 7 - 9 PM before the fireworks start at 9 PM.

Saturday, July 1

4 PM Pud Ellsworth Boat Parade

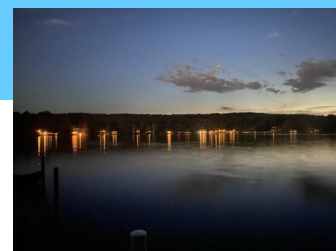
Line up at Spruce Point; show your spirit!

9 PM Flares and Fireworks

Please consider fireworks for this night only to minimize impact* on our community; clean up all debris.



The Sutton Historical Society will sponsor the traditional Fourth of July parade on Tuesday, July 4. Meet up at the corner of Roby Road and 114 at 11 AM if you want to march. Otherwise don't blink as the parade passes by!



* Fireworks impact our pets/ local animals, lake quality, and people suffering from PTSD and respiratory illnesses.

Camp Wabasso “Resting”

The Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts (GSEMA) have notified BLPA that after several years of declining participation, they have made a difficult decision to “rest” Camp Wabasso. In a communication from GSEMA CEO Barb Fortier, resting means GSEMA will not schedule summer camp sessions, and will suspend all council-organized activities, and will no longer accommodate service unit or troop overnights at the property.

“The decision to rest a camp is difficult, and it is done with a great deal of consideration supported by a cost-benefit analysis of the property,” stated Fortier. “As you can imagine, property management is very complex and expensive, and it is important that we maintain our camps at a level that continues provide an unmatched camping experience to meet



the needs of today’s Girl Scout.”

As of January of this year, GSEMA’s property site managers began the process of closing down and resting the camp. The equipment and memorabilia at Camp Wabasso will be relocated, and the property will be minimally maintained.

Not much else is known beyond what has been shared by

GSEMA to date. Wabasso will be silent this summer, apart from Thursday, June 1. The NH State Police and Sutton Police will be conducting training exercises on the camp property that day, so expect to see and hear lots of activity, but there is no cause for concern at Wabasso on June 1.

NOTICE:

Sutton and State Police will be conducting training exercises at Camp Wabasso on Thursday, June 1

Save the Date - BLPA Annual Meeting



Beautiful Pillsbury Barn at Muster Field Farm in North Sutton

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

The BLPA Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, July 22 at 10 AM in the Pillsbury Barn at Muster Field Farm in North Sutton (same venue as last year).

SAVE THE DATE!

BLPA Annual Meeting

July 22 @ 10 AM

**Pillsbury Barn
Muster Field Farm
North Sutton**

We hope to see you at this important meeting. We have invited a representative from NHDES to speak to us about the Warner River Protected Instream Flow Study. This is a good opportunity to learn more about the proposal and how it impacts our lake and to share our concerns directly with DES.

Blaisdell Lake and the Warner River Instream Flow Study

By Steve Domber

Over the winter, BLPA worked with Kezar, Todd and Massasecum to comment on DES's Warner River Protected Instream Flow Study Report. This report assessed in-stream flow needs (e.g., how much water do fish need to spawn, what flows are ideal for swimming or kayaking, and what flows keep riparian plants healthy) and quantified the range of stream flows that have occurred since records began in 1951. It also identified certain low streamflow levels where Blaisdell (along with Todd, Kezar and Loch Lyndon) could be asked to release water (in our case by removing boards from the dam) to help shorten the duration of those low flow periods.

Now that the Instream Flow Study Report is wrapping up, DES will be shifting their focus to developing a water management plan. This is the plan that will say when a

specific low flow is seen in the Warner River, Blaisdell will remove boards from the dam. Presumably Kezar, Todd and Loch Lyndon

with the river needs. And this is where they need to hear from all of us. They need to know what levels create hazardous boating or swimming

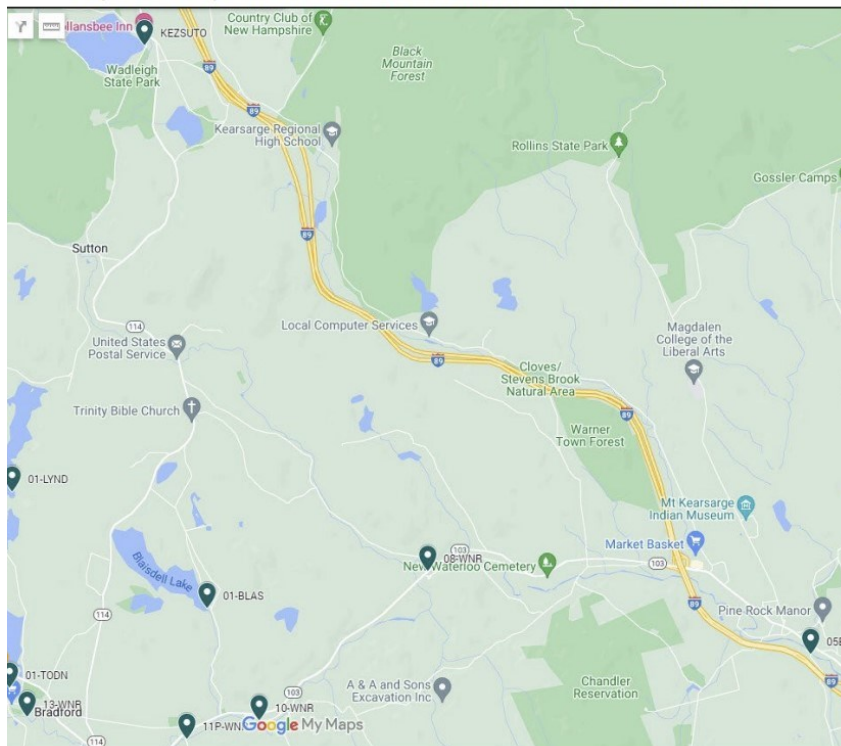
DES will be joining us at the annual meeting to provide details on the process, to answer questions and to hear your concerns. Please

take advantage of this opportunity. While the instream flow report may be wrapping up, DES is just beginning to figure out what to do about it. The more of us they hear from, the better the outcome of this process will be. Thanks you in advance for attending your annual meeting.

We know this is a very technical process, but there are some good resources available to help explain why this program exists and what it might mean for Blaisdell. Start with this YouTube video: <https://youtu.be/rQ9Pvxf-AoE>.

Then go to <https://www.des.nh.gov/water/rivers-and-lakes/instream-flow>. Details on the Warner River Study can be found here: <https://www.des.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt341/files/documents/r-wd-22-03.pdf>

Figure 2e: Proposed Baseline Data Collection Stations on the Warner River



would be asked to do the same thing (Massasecum doesn't have a dam at its outlet). As part of this process, DES is tasked with balancing the in-lake needs

conditions, make it difficult to remove boats, negatively impact our loons or fish, cause shoreline erosion, or whatever else you know about.



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



BEACH RULES REMINDER

Please, **NO DOGS** on Wright's Beach and **NO FISHING** from Wright's Beach

It's the Year for Lake Lowering ...



Shoreline heading south toward Bass Point when lake was at its lowest in late September, 2018.

Another five years has flown by! The lake will be lowered this fall of 2023. 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. Bruce Ellsworth, chair of the Dam

Committee, has started the ball rolling by informing the Sutton Town Clerk of our plans as required by statute and has met with our new contractor to discuss proposed work and budget for the scheduled dam maintenance.

Bruce shared that five years ago in 2018 we began to lower the level of water in the lake on August 27. Water levels dropped about a foot a week and dam maintenance efforts started on September 27 and were complete on September 29. After about a month to allow new concrete to cure, the boards were placed back in the dam on November 17.

With warmer days on average, members appreciate

leaving the water levels up for as long as practical to allow for boating into the foliage season. Bruce believes that if the weather cooperates, we can delay dropping water levels into mid-September and have time to get the water levels back up in mid-November before colder weather moves in for the winter.

Please be aware that if you intend to conduct work along your shoreline while the lake is lowered, it is quite likely that work will require a permit and 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. Time is running out!

... and for Lower Salt

As we've previously reported, BLPA, in partnership with the Sutton Conservation Commission has been working to have the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) designate the section of NH Route 114 from Watkins Avenue north to Jolly Farm Road as a "Low Salt" area. The lake association's proposal received a series of local approvals from the Sutton Board of Selectmen, Sutton Police Chief, Sutton Fire Chief, Rescue Chief and Superintendent of Schools last fall. In addition, the NHDES Watershed Coordinator submitted a letter of support to NHDOT. These approvals and endorsements help advance

the proposal closer to being accepted and implemented.

The remaining steps in this process include a site visit from NHDOT and a final hearing to be held in Sutton for public comment prior to receiving DOT approval of the proposal. As of this writing the hearing date has not been set. BLPA will be sure to get the word out when the hearing is scheduled and

hopes that everyone will plan to attend in support this important issue. Several members, including Jenn McCourt, Henry Howell and Deb Lang have invested considerable time on behalf of BLPA to enact this proposal. Let's show our appreciation and support the designation of a Low Salt Roadway for the health of our lake.



FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

Blaisdell Lake Protective Association

Private group · 60 members



Keeping It Clean

By Gary Dellert

Another spectacular morning of picking up trash along our wonderful section of Route 114. This year we successfully timed it just before the black flies arrived! Nine folks gathered on a sunny April 28 morning to do our civic duty and beautify three miles of Route 114. A big THANK YOU goes out to Pete Savickas, Heather Turner, Marilou and Bruno Steblai, Kim and Joe Henley, Al Byam, and Betsy Fowler (cruising the strip) for pitching in and helping me out. With this dedicated gang we made short work of the task, and we gathered 16 beauti-

ful blue bags stuffed with debris. Bruno demonstrated that this type of volunteer activity can really pay off, as he found a winning lottery ticket along the roadside! We will round-up the troops again this fall, probably late September, for more good times. We hope you will plan to join us.



(left) A smiling Bruno Steblai with his new found winning lottery ticket. Worth TWO whole bucks!

Important!

Always shut and LOCK the gate

both after launch and upon return to shore. Fully push up on the shackle to lock.



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!



SPEAKING OF TRASH

Sutton Transfer Station

NEW HOURS

TUES 7 - 11:45 AM

THURS 12 - 4:45 PM

SAT 8 AM - 3:45 PM

Resident Stickers Required!

Plastic NO LONGER recycled



Our first nesting pair and surviving chick on Blaisdell, shown last August, 2022.

Loon Rumors

Ice Out for 2023 looked to be on or about April 11 and literally within hours we were serenaded by loon wails and yodels. Initial observations spotted three loons in residence, but they weren't exactly getting along swimmingly. It's speculation, but we think that our mating couple (Mom and Dad) from last year returned and were joined by a third interloper. Deb Lang reports, "I watched and listened to Mom and Dad (we think) showing their displeasure with the third loon that ap-

peared on the lake right after ice out. We guess that another male or female was looking to invade and take over the territory. The third loon seemed to have gotten the message after a few days as the fighting has stopped." Folks now report seeing just two mature loons. Fingers crossed that it is Mom and Dad and they will soon be taking turns on the nest. It would be wonderful to have a second summer with little chick(s) on Blaisdell Lake after so many years without little ones.

In Memoriam

Bruce Kozikowski

Bruce A. Kozikowski, 64, of South Sutton passed away from complications with leukemia on January 7, 2023. Born on October 13, 1958, Bruce married his longtime partner of twenty-five years, Vicki (Mandell) Kozikowski in early January of this year. The couple had planned to wed at the lake this July.

Bruce came to the Sutton area from Long Island 40 years ago and worked as an independent contractor helping neighbors in Sutton and at Blaisdell Lake with building and repair projects. Bruce and Vicki first met when he agreed to renovate and expand Vicki's Ice House cottage on Camp Kemah Road twenty-five

years ago. Bruce fell in love with the lake and Vicki and spent the remainder of his life working in the area and enjoying life at the lake. Bruce was the site manager for Camp Wabasso for a dozen years until the camp was forced to suspend operations during the pandemic. He especially enjoyed working at the camp and keeping the facilities and grounds in top shape for the campers.

Bruce enjoyed slow toodles in his boat around the lake, first in his Bayliner, but eventually trading for the comforts of a pontoon boat. He was a regular at morning coffee gatherings at Freedom Hall with local friends, where his presence will be missed.



Thanks to Rick Wright for rescuing the Wright's Beach sign following a blustery Christmas event. We are working to repair the sign or replace with a similar rustic look, hopefully by July 1.

In the Weeds at Wright's Beach

A few reminders about use of the beach and boat launch at Wright's Beach:

- If you have a pin code to the lock and renew your membership promptly, your pin code remains the same.
- Swim bouys will return off the beach.
- **When using the boat launch, PLEASE make sure you close and properly lock the gate after you at all times.** Fully push up on the shackle to insure the lock is engaged. Do this both after you launch and after you take your boat out of the water.

Weed Watch is now virtual, but no less important! Please do your part and sign up for On-Call Weed Watch. For more information, visit the [BLPA Weed Watch website](#) page and the [BLPA Boat Launch page](#). Help protect our lake!

The BLPA Board of Directors is seeking new members. If you are interested in helping out and would like to serve on the board, please contact

Betsy Fowler.
betsyfowler3@gmail.com
 603-938-5367



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

BLPA Executive Committee Contact Information

President - Steve Domber steven.domber72@gmail.com

Vice President - Cynde Robbins cynde.robbins@comcast.net

Treasurer - Kristine Mozes kristine.mozes@gmail.com

Clerk - Betsy Fowler betsyfowler3@gmail.com

Past President - Doug DeLand dkkjdeland@comcast.net

Back Page Story -- A Century of Wabasso

Photos depicting two white rabbits on early Camp Wabasso signs likely attest to the fact that the camp took its name from Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's epic 1855 poem, *The Song of Hiawatha*.

*From the regions of the North-Wind,
From the kingdom of Wabasso,
From the land of the White Rabbit.*

From its origins as an elite equestrian girls camp in 1922 to its final season as an outdoor adventure destination for Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts in 2022, Camp Wabasso has been the scenic mainstay of the western shores of Blaisdell Lake for a full

century. Purchased by Christine Smith (later Rawson) from Willey Farms Company in 1922, the private camp operated for thirty-five years

under the leadership of "Miss Chris."

In 1956, the camp was

purchased from Miss Chris with funds received by the Newton (MA) Girl Scout Council during its "new camp" drive.

Wabasso became a popular choice



among Eastern MA Girl Scouts, attracting more than 350 girls in its second year in 1958. Concord teacher and astronaut Christa McAuliffe attended Wabasso in the 1960's as a Girl Scout from her native Framingham, MA. Christa's House, a cottage used during the summer as the camp infirmary, was dedicated to McAuliffe's memory in 1988. As attendance at overnight camps declined and Covid closures strained camp operating budgets, the Girl Scouts of Eastern MA have decided to "rest" Camp Wabasso a century after it was first established.