



Inside this issue:

Lake Life Updates	2
75th Jubilee Celebration	3
The Queen Mary	4
In Memoriam	5
From Sawmills to Stewardship	6
Warner River Instream Flow	7
Bags, Bugs and Banter	7



SAVE THE DATE!

Join the BLPA 75th Jubilee Celebration on Saturday, July 26 from Noon - 3 PM at Sunset Hill Educational Institute
222 Blaisdell Hill Road

President's Corner

Greetings, fellow Blaisdell Lake lovers,

I'm looking forward to moving back into camp in just a couple of weeks. My garden is finally planted and will soon be mulched so it can do its thing while I'm away enjoying lake life.

This summer is sure to bring plenty of fun—especially for those who can attend our 75th Anniversary Celebration! Plans are shaping up nicely, and we'll have lots of

great things to see and do. A special treat: the Olson family will be grilling up their famous "Dog House" hot dogs just for us. It's a delicious blast from the past you won't want to miss.

Recently, our historian Doug Deland uncovered the original Articles of Incorporation for the Blaisdell Lake Property Owners Association among Bruce Ellsworth's meticulous records. That founding document, ap-

proved by the State of New Hampshire in November 1950, was signed by my grandfather, Earl Little, along with Estelle Rooney, Red Boutwell (who lived near the beach), and Edgar Winslow, who built my camp. We owe Bruce a debt of gratitude for preserving this im-

portant piece of lake history so carefully.

I'm especially proud that my grandfather played such a key role in establishing the Association. He and my grandmother loved the lake. They spent their summers at camp, even while my grandfather was still working—he would commute to Concord every day. Back then, most families only had one car, so the four men working off Spruce Point coordinated to leave one car behind for their wives to use. My grandmother never minded staying at camp—those were the days she baked her incredible oatmeal bread every week. As a child, I'll never forget the joy of being handed a warm slice, slathered in butter. Some memories just stay with you.

I hope you all get to make some unforgettable memories of your own on the lake this summer.

See you soon,
Cynde Robbins



The Dog House crew on Wright's Beach back in 2018. Look for them at our 75th Jubilee party at Sunset Hill Educational Institute (SHEI).

The Gift of Wright's Beach: A Lasting Legacy

In 2005, during the 55th anniversary of the Blaisdell Lake Protective Association (BLPA), members voted unanimously to accept a remarkable and generous gift: Wright's Beach, donated by longtime lake supporters

Estelle Wright Rooney and her brother Don Wright.

Wright's Beach holds deep historical and emotional significance for the lake community. It was first opened and developed in 1945 by Don and Estelle's father,

Chet Wright—five years before the official formation of BLPA. For decades, it served as a welcoming shoreline hub for summer fun, swimming, and neighborhood connection.

Continued on Pg. 5



Lake Life Updates

Tidbits & To-Dos Around Blaisdell

Wabasso Property Update

The new owner of the former Girl Scout Camp Wabasso—Kearsarge Community Commons LLC—is just beginning to explore the possibilities for this vast property, officially purchased in late January. While the land remains under private ownership for now, the goal is to open select areas to charitable organizations as early as this summer. Broader public access will likely come later, pending formation and approval of a charitable entity. Stay tuned for updates as this interesting transformation unfolds.

Beach Sand Watch

We *almost* had our sandy summer beach—until the rains came. After the sand delivery, back-to-back-to-back-to-back storms raised lake levels too high to spread it. The dam outlet crew (Doug, Gary, Buster, Jeff & team) has been working hard to return things to summer norms. Our new target: **Sand Spreading Day – Saturday, June 21 @ 8:30 AM** (Rain date: Sunday, June 22—because, of course, it always rains on Saturday!) Bring shovels, rakes, and wheelbarrows if you can lend a hand. Let Sue Kenrick know you're in: email Sue at murphysusang@gmail.com.

Loon Watch

We're hopeful for loon chicks again this year! Last summer, Gail Olson's granddaughter Paige was the first to spot our nesting pair, and we're keeping an eye out for signs of a repeat performance. Paige just returned from spring skiing in Colorado, so she hasn't had a chance to check yet—but early observations suggest there's a nest. Only one loon has been seen at a time on the lake lately, often near the cove, which is typical nesting behavior. With all the recent rain, though, we're crossing fingers that the nest stays intact. Time will tell!

Porta Potty Rules Near the Lake

Heads-up for lakeside events and construction: **new** NHDES regulations limit where porta potties can be placed. The key takeaway—**they must be at least 50 feet from surface waters.**

Additional requirements include:

- Must be serviced or removed within 2 weeks of use (or up to 30 days with an agreement).

Welcome New Members

Chris McGillicuddy bought the Ryan property on Route 114. He is also a dock owner.

Doug and Sue Roberts bought the Godkin property on Andrews Avenue. He is Jenny Wright's brother.

Celine and Donald Hatch and Brandon and Linda Hatch bought the Kosloff/Moore property on Old Blaisdell Road.

We welcome back V. Nico d'Entremont on Billings Pond on Old Blaisdell Road.

Bradford Independence Day Celebration

Saturday, June 28th

5K Road Race at 9 AM

Nick's Other Band Performance from 7-9 PM

Fireworks at 9 PM



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

Fourth of July Parade

The Sutton Historical Society will sponsor the traditional epic Fourth of July parade on Friday, July 4. Meet up at the corner of Roby Road and 114 at 11 AM if you want to march or cheer from the roadside!

Boat Parade & Flares

BLPA will celebrate the Fourth on the Fifth with our annual boat parade @ 4 PM and LED flares @ 9 PM.

BLPA Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting will take place on Saturday, July 26 at the site of our 75th Jubilee Celebration - Sunset Hill 222 Blaisdell Hill Road @ 9 AM.

75th Jubilee Bash

Members and guests are invited to celebrate 75 years of BLPA following the Annual Meeting on July 26. See more details on pg. 3.

Fireworks can impact our pets and local wildlife, affect lake quality, and pose challenges for people suffering from PTSD and respiratory illnesses. Thank you for your consideration and cooperation.

BLPA 75th Jubilee Celebration - Get Ready to Party!

BLPA 75th Celebration at SHEI on Saturday, July 26 from 12–3 PM:

What to Expect!

Join us at the scenic SHEI campus for an afternoon of fun, food, history, memories, and community spirit!

Food & Fun:

Enjoy Dog House hot dogs, beverages, and tasty member-provided potluck salads, appetizers, and desserts. Play cornhole, bocce, and other lawn games, plus arts & crafts and activities for kids!

History Comes Alive:

Don't miss a special oral history session with Chan Blodgett and friends in the pavilion, sharing stories of Blaisdell Lake through the decades. Bring your own stories to add!

Lake Memories:

Explore Jenn McCourt's new illustrated map of Blaisdell Lake and visit the memorabilia table—bring photos, maps, or keepsakes to share!



Where?

Sunset Hill Educational Institute (SHEI)
222 Blaisdell Hill Road

Hosted By:

BLPA and Carol Conforti-Adams



Freebies & More:

Pick up your free 75th anniversary sticker and express interest in possible BLPA swag!

Parking:

Limited parking at SHEI. Overflow at the Jeffrey (formerly Pratt) field by 153 Blaisdell Hill Road with shuttle service organized by Gary Dellert.

Bonus:

Got musical talent? Let us know—impromptu performances welcome!

What to Bring:

Lawn chairs (we'll have about 25), your potluck dish if you signed up, memorabilia to share, and your lake-loving spirit!

Don't forget to RSVP!

Help us plan—and sign up to volunteer—via [the RSVP survey link](#).

All free for BLPA members and their guests!

Volunteers needed! [Please sign up today!](#) Email Kim Henley kdhenley@comcast.net

Become a BLPA Member

It's not too late to join BLPA for the 2025 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 anyone interested in joining our lake community.

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



BLAISDELL LAKE PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION

SATURDAY

5TH OF JULY

4 PM PUD ELLSWORTH BOAT PARADE
9PM ELECTRONIC (LED) FLARES
BOATS LINE UP AT SPRUCE POINT

PROPERLY DISPOSE OF ALL FIREWORKS DEBRIS

PLEASE LIMIT FIREWORKS TO JULY 5
MINIMIZE DISTURBANCE FOR PETS AND IMPACT ON OUR LAKE COMMUNITY

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION AND COOPERATION

“The Queen,” “Freedom,” and a Family Legacy on the Lake

By Jeff Ellsworth

There are many stories about the Queen Mary—so named because for many years it was the longest boat on our lake.

A 1928, 24-foot triple-cockpit mahogany runabout made by the Chris Craft company, the Queen began her life as a tour boat on Lake Sunapee. She was damaged by falling trees during the hurricane of 1938 and was later repaired in the contemporary style of the newer Chris Crafts. This led to confusion among antique boat experts, who often misdated her as a 1930s model.

My grandfather, Russell J. (Pud) Ellsworth, purchased the Queen in 1956. The sight of the oversized boat arriving on a tiny Willys Jeep must have been something to behold. Backing it down the steep hill at Spruce Point for launch took no small amount of courage.

The Queen became a regular sight on the lake. Her deep, rumbling engine could often be heard before she came into view. My grandfather—and later my father, Bruce—used her for lake tours, water-skiing stunts, and thrill rides.

My father even proposed to my mother in the Queen. She said yes—though

when he looked forward after a celebratory hug, they were on a direct course toward what is now Cynde Robbins's boathouse! A near miss, followed by raucous cheers from the “Point Gang” on shore.

In 1997, I proposed to my wife, Jenn, in the Queen. She also said yes (though perhaps she has second thoughts!), and again, our lakeside community offered cheers.

By the early 2000s, the Queen's original wooden bottom had deteriorated. Despite extra pumps and repair efforts, serious restoration was needed. With heavy hearts, our family sold her to a qualified restoration expert. I'm happy to report that he's making great progress—she's now called “Hurricane” in honor of her Sunapee origins, and I've been promised a ride in her this summer.



Bruce at the helm of the Queen Mary with his father, Pud, and young Sara and Dylan Strachan in 2012.

In July 2023, Dad and I visited an antique boat auction in Wolfeboro and spotted a beautifully restored 1928 Chris Craft. At first, we kept our distance, assuming it was out of reach. But after it didn't sell, we approached the owner and arranged a private sale. “Freedom,” from

Bristol, Rhode Island, came home with us a few weeks later.

It was right around that time Dad was diagnosed with ALS. I'm deeply grateful he had the chance to enjoy a few rides in our new boat before passing away that fall. A photo of us together in the front seat—touring the lake in “Freedom”—is a memory I'll always cherish.

Restored to modern standards in the original pre-hurricane style of the Queen, “Freedom” has a distinctive rumble of her own. We hope she brings joy to the lake for many years to come—just like her legendary predecessor.

(L) Jeff pilots Freedom with co-pilot Dad Bruce in 2023.



Celebrating 20 Years: Wright's Beach and BLPA *from Pg 1*

Estelle and her husband, Pat Rooney Jr., later ran the beloved Dog House restaurant, another cherished landmark in the lake's history. Through the years, Estelle and Don remained loyal supporters and benefactors of BLPA, always committed to the health and happiness of Blaisdell Lake and its families.

In recognition of their extraordinary gift, BLPA dedicated the beach on July 22, 2006, with a ceremony led by then-President Chan Blodgett. The beach was officially named Wright's Beach in

perpetuity, honoring the Wright family and ensuring their legacy would continue to bring joy to generations of lake lovers.



Today, Wright's Beach is maintained by the BLPA with that very intention—to provide recreational access and protect the shoreline for all members to enjoy. It remains a symbol of generosity, community spirit, and the enduring bond between one family and the lake they loved.

(Above) Bruce Ellsworth, Estelle Rooney and BLPA President Chan Blodgett at the 2006 dedication.

(L) Estelle Wright Rooney accepts the BLPA commemorative plaque

In Memoriam

Annie Ballin
(1962 - 2025)



Annie Ballin, a vibrant presence at Blaisdell Lake and in the greater Sutton and New London communities, passed away on March 19, 2025, surrounded by family and her beloved dogs, Birdie and Gracie.

Annie first came to the lake with her husband Larry to visit good friend Mark Loehr and quickly fell in love with the community. Summers on Blaisdell became a joyful tradition—kayaking, paddleboarding, waving from the dock, joining the Fourth of July boat parade, and volunteering as a weed watch monitor. She especially loved Sutton's Old Home Day and visits to the Dog House. Her ties to the lake grew deeper when her sister Kathy Hirschfeld purchased a property on Camp Kemah Road, anchoring their family in the heart of the lake community. Though she didn't own property on the lake, Annie and Larry

paid for a BLPA membership every year.

A creative leader and former trustee at Proctor Academy, Annie brought warmth, vision, and connection to everything she touched. She was an artist, a teacher, a farmer and an entrepreneur whose positive spirit made life a better place for all. Her joyful spirit and ability to bring people together will be deeply missed by all who knew her around Blaisdell and the Kearsarge region.

A celebration of Annie's life will be held on August 3, 2025 in New London. Memorial gifts may be made to The Anne Reynolds Ballin '82 Endowed Scholarship Fund for Nursing at Colby-Sawyer College.



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

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

From Sawmills to Stewardship: Living History of Blaisdell and BLPA

Long before it became a beloved summer retreat, Blaisdell Lake played a vital role in Sutton's early growth. The 1890 History of Sutton records that Hezekiah Blaisdell arrived at the lake "about 1795 ... and then erected a sawmill on his own premises, after which it was easy for him to build his large, two-story house." However, local historian Jack Noon suggests that timeline is misleading: evidence shows Blaisdell likely lived by the lake for at least 25 years before building that sawmill or grand house up on Blaisdell Hill Road.

The first known damming of the lake likely came from Joseph Greeley, who built the earliest documented sawmill at the outlet and was taxed for it as of April 1, 1809. He ran the mill through 1812 before relocating for a few years. It's believed that Hezekiah and John Blaisdell bought part ownership in Greeley's mill in 1821 and acquired it fully by spring 1824—securing the Blaisdell name in the lake's story.

Over the next century, the lake continued to support local industry. Eventually,



The Fourth of July Boat Parade is a beloved lake tradition.

the dam and water rights were controlled by the Kearsarge Reservoir Company, which regulated outflow to power mills downstream, like the Ela Box Company in Warner. This arrangement lasted until the 1940s, when the mill switched to electricity and the dam fell into disrepair, causing unpredictable lake levels and concern among property owners.

In 1950, a group of dedicated shorefront owners stepped up to stabilize the lake's future. They formed the Blaisdell Lake Property Owners Association, now known as the Blaisdell Lake Protective Association (BLPA), with a mission to purchase and maintain the

private entity that has signaled plans to reopen parts of it for community use.

Back in the day, Blaisdell was the place to be. The legendary Dog House sold famous "Supers" and "Specials" hot dogs and burgers, while Chet Wright's General Store—across Route 114 from Wright's Beach—was a favorite stop for supplies and gossip. Wright's Beach itself was a hub for families and thrill-seeking water skiers launching off its pier. In its heyday, the lake was even an FAA-recognized water landing strip, welcoming seaplanes whose passengers came for camp events or a quick bite at the Dog House.

Thanks to the stewardship that began with those early neighbors—and continued gifts like the donation of Wright's Beach in 2005—Blaisdell Lake remains a cherished community gem more than two centuries after Hezekiah Blaisdell first made it home.

Respecting Wright's Beach: Guidelines for All

Per the BLPA By-Laws, Wright's Beach is reserved exclusively for voting members of the Blaisdell Lake Protective Association. Please note that if you rent your property, renters may only use Wright's Beach when personally accompanied by the voting member.

- Family members of voting members may use Wright's Beach.
- Family members and guests of voting members sixteen years and younger must be accompanied by an adult while they are using Wright's Beach.
- Guests of voting members may use Wright's Beach while visiting the voting member.
- The voting member must accompany tenants, renters, lodgers, and/or boarders while they are using Wright's Beach.



BEACH RULES REMINDER

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

Update: Warner River Instream Flow Study and Blaisdell Lake Plan

By Steve Domber

Remember that riveting article you read about the Warner River Instream Flow Study in the Spring 2023 BLPA Newsletter and heard about at last year's Annual Meeting? No worries if you don't recall—here's a refresher, and you can find the original here: <https://blpoa.org/BlaisdellNewsSpring23.pdf>

A quick recap: The NH Instream Flow Program was established in 1990, and the Warner River was added to the program in 2019. Once a river is entered into the program, NH DES conducts a detailed instream flow study to define a set of seasonally based extreme-

ly low streamflows—essentially, drought-level flows. The Warner River study was completed in 2023. After this, DES develops a Water Management Plan that activates when streamflows drop to those extreme low levels. Actions include community water conservation measures and controlled releases from lakes.

For the Warner River, lake releases would come from Blaisdell, Todd, Loch Lyndon, and Kezar Lakes. DES is now finalizing draft dam management plans and has been working with

BLPA and other lake associations to identify and address concerns early on. We want to keep our members informed so we can all be ready to comment thoughtfully when the draft plan is officially released.

In a perfect scenario, when drought conditions hit, Blaisdell and the other lakes could safely release a bit of water to help the Warner River—with no significant negative impacts on us. DES has indicated the lowering would occur for about two days, dropping the lake level by less than half a foot.

The BLPA Board has already flagged several key concerns: the true effectiveness of the

releases, impacts on boat launching, safe boating and swimming, shoreline protection, water quality, and the wellbeing of our loons. These points need to be addressed clearly by DES before any plan is finalized.

Bottom line: there's more work ahead—so stay tuned for updates and your opportunity to weigh in! For more info go to: <https://www.des.nh.gov/water/rivers-and-lakes/instream-flow>

Bugs, Bags & Banter: A Spring Cleanup Success

By Gary Dellert

A dedicated group of volunteers gathered for a roadside cleanup on May 16, proving the old adage true: many hands make light work. Among those who

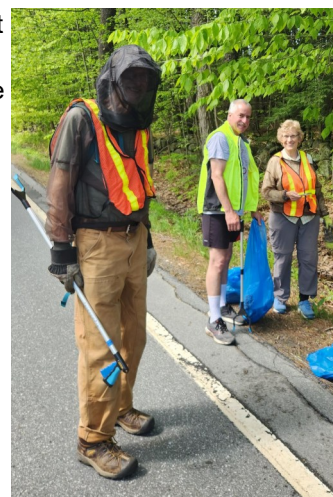
joined the effort were Al Byam, Bill Turner, and Sara LaMott, as well as my sister, Sandy Kantor, who is visiting from Pennsylvania on her way to retired life in California. Notably, Henry Howell

sported an impressive bug suit that not only kept him comfortable but also became a source of light-hearted conversation among the crew.

In under ninety minutes, the team collected an impressive 18 bags of trash, transforming the area while managing to avoid any pesky bugs—a rare blessing for such an initiative. However, they weren't entirely out of the woods: poison ivy lurked along the roadside, making the cleanup a cautious endeavor. Though three scratch tickets were found amidst the debris, none turned out to be winners. Still, the camaraderie and shared purpose made everyone feel richer by the end of the day.



Road crew: Sandy Kantor, Betsy Fowler, Kim Henley, Al Byam and Sara LaMott



(Above) Bill Turner and Libby Howell admire Henry Howell's impressive bug attire!

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 - Cynde Robbins cynde.robbs@comcast.net

Vice President - Jenn McCourt jennmcrt@gmail.com

Treasurer - Kristine Mozes kristine.mozes@gmail.com

Clerk - Betsy Fowler betsyfowler3@gmail.com

Past President - Steve Domber steven.domber72@gmail.com

BLAISDELL LAKE PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

75th JUBILEE CELEBRATION

AT SUNSET HILL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE
222 BLAISDELL HILL ROAD

SATURDAY, JULY 26
NOON - 3 PM
FOLLOWING BLPA ANNUAL MEETING
RAIN DATE SUNDAY, JULY 27

Event Highlights

**BLPA SPONSORED DOG HOUSE DOGS
POTLUCK DELECTABLES
WATER & LAWN GAMES FOR ALL AGES
OLD FRIENDS AND NEW FACES**

featuring
**WORLD FAMOUS
DOG HOUSE
HOT DOGS
WITH SPECIAL SECRET
SAUCE!**

Bring the whole family plus lawn chairs and a pot luck dish!

RSVP
Fill out your response here.

If your last name begins with
A-E: bring appetizer/finger food
F-Ma: bring salad type dish
Mc-Z: bring dessert/fruit

FOR MORE INFORMATION: CONTACT KIM - KDHENLEY@COMCAST.NET