

BLAISDELL NEWS

Blaisdell Lake
Protective Association

President's Corner by Dave Young

Spring, 2010

Well, things are finally starting to come together at the Young's place on the north end of the lake ... although our neighbors are probably shaking their heads at how much work we still have to do before the cottage is ready for us to spend the summer. Putting the water in a few weeks ago was a pretty messy and wet undertaking, the mouse leavings were in places we've never found them before, there was a blanket of pine cones all over the ground that we still haven't cleared out, the electric company left us a whole slew of tree trunks to get rid of as they cleared the power line pathways, and the dishwasher still doesn't work. The last one is perhaps the only luxury item we have in the cottage and as I write this my wife is up at the lake waiting for an appliance repairman who was supposed to be there four hours ago (and, yep, you guessed right ... it's a Maytag repairman!).

But, most of this has happened every spring for years and years and has never kept me from looking forward to summer. And such is the case this spring. As you can see from the *Blaisdell News*, a lot is going on and the summer of 2010 stacks up as a really nice one for the BLPA. This year, however, looking forward has caused me to look back and give thanks for the contributions a couple of special BLPA members have made over the past few years. They have unquestionably made a lasting difference in our work and in the health of the association.

Mary Ann Wright was our Clerk for several years and did far more than administrative work. She had a strong and stable presence on our leadership team and was always there with a reasoned, well-stated position or opinion on the issues we faced. We mourn her passing and give sincere thanks for the time she spent so well among us.

Dave Hansen was our Treasurer for 12 years and has sold his Bass Point property and relocated to Pawtucket, RI. Dave re-organized the financial function and managed to noticeably increase our asset base in spite of unexpected expenses and a roller-coaster economy. He established sound financial principles that will keep us stable in the times ahead and was a very capable leader. We will miss him.

President's Corners continues on Page 2

Dues Reminder

If you haven't paid your BLPA dues for the 2010-2011 season, please be sure to do so as soon as possible. Payment should be made to the BLPA and mailed to: BLPA c/o Peg DeMone, P. O. Box 453, South Sutton, NH 03273. Dues are still \$62.

BLPA exists primarily for the protection and quality of Blaisdell Lake. Dues help to fund testing and monitoring of the water, dam and surroundings.

We need your help! If you haven't signed up for a time slot for Weed Watch at Wright's Beach, please contact Sharon Kenrick at 938-2665. Any time you can give to help protect Blaisdell Lake would be greatly appreciated.

Celebrating 60 Years of BLPA

Upcoming Events

As members, you are cordially invited to bring your families to help Celebrate 60 Years of BLPA!

Date: Sunday, July 25th, 2010

Raindate: Saturday, July 31st, 2010

Place: Fritz Pratt's lawn, 117 Blaisdell Hill Rd.

Parking: in the field

Event schedule on Page 2

- Boat Parade—July 4 at 4 p.m.
- Flare Night—July 4 at 9 p.m. (Flares can be purchased from Bill Hallahan or at the beach)
- Town of Bradford fireworks—July 3rd
- Celebrating 60 years of BLPA—July 25
- Annual Meeting of BLPA—July 24 at 10 a.m. at Camp Wabasso (Directors' Meeting 9 a.m.)
- Estate sale at Estelle Rooney's house. Details and date to be posted later this summer. Proceeds will benefit the BLPA.

President's Corner (Continued from Page 1)

Now, looking ahead, we have the good fortune to welcome Bob Wright as our new Treasurer and are pleased to have someone with Bob's qualifications, experience and lifelong love for the lake to take over the financial reins and bring his knowledge and proven leadership skills to the board. The transition in this key area promises to be a seamless one.

Russell "Pud" Ellsworth, the only living BLPA founder, turned 100 on February 10th and is planning to lead the boat parade in the "Queen Mary" once again. Pud is healthy and active and will join some of the other Blaisdell Lake "long-timers" at the Celebration event on July 25th. You won't want to miss this chance to hear some of the tales of years past that only he and his cohorts can pass on to us. Be sure to take the time to say "hi" and learn as much as you can from these lake legends.

The newsletter has most of the details you'll need to catch up on our activities and plan out your summer. But I'll call your attention to one event that you won't want to miss; the "Celebrating 60 Years at Blaisdell Lake" day at Fritz Pratt's farm. It's a special place and a special day, for it gives you the chance to enjoy *your family ... your Blaisdell Lake family!* So be there and join with your friends and neighbors to have a really fun "family time" together.

Have a wonderful summer!

Event Schedule for Celebrate 60 Years of BLPA

11 a.m.—Noon Games for the children

Noon— 1 p.m. Luncheon

1-2 pm Historical program

2 pm –Short hike along Hedge Hog Hill and Devil's Den to Mt. Kearsarge overlook

The association will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, condiments, lemonade and iced tea for all our guests. We ask that you bring a dish to share. If your last name starts with:

A-F please bring an appetizer

G-M please bring a salad

N-Z please bring a dessert

**Please RSVP by July 18th to: Cynde Robbins 603-938-5590,
Sharon Kenrick 603-938-2665 or Carrie Godkin 603-938-5457**

We hope to see you all at the celebration. This is a wonderful way to get to know your neighbors at the lake. Please let us know that you will attend so we know how much food to buy.

We're looking forward to seeing you!

Dam Committee Report

Bruce Ellsworth, Chairman of the Dam Committee, reports that the dam was inspected by the NH Department of Environmental Services on October 15, 2009. No deficiencies were noted.

The inspector recommended that all trees and brush be removed "for a distance of 15 feet from the footprint of the dam" by March 1, 2011. Bruce invites anyone interested in joining a clean-up committee to call him at 938-2323.

There will be a minor lake lowering this fall, if permits applied for by dock owners have been received from the state. The next major lowering will take place in the fall of 2013.

News from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services:

The NH Department of Environmental Services has released a new document to assist landowners entitled "A Shoreland Homeowner's Guide to Stormwater Management". If you are a shoreland homeowner, your property may produce stormwater runoff that directly impacts the quality of our waters. The guide provides several simple and cost effective practices shoreland homeowners can use to reduce and prevent polluted stormwater runoff from roofs, patios, lawns and driveways. These practices can be used to meet the provisions of the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act (CSPA), which helps protect the state's surface waters by placing limits on development that contributes to stormwater runoff. The guide also includes general information about what state environmental permits, if any, are necessary for incorporating these practices. Go to <http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/publications/wd/documents/nhdeas-wd-10-8.pdf> to obtain a copy of the guide online.

Topwater Fishing by Tim Beale

All the nice, warm days during April sure looked great for fishing, but unfortunately I didn't get to test the waters on Blaisdell until late May due to my usual busy spring schedule. Thankfully, my buddy Jerry did get on the lake in late April and early May and reported that the fish were going crazy on topwater baits. So when I finally got my boat launched for some bass fishing, I chose topwater baits as my focus and decided to stick with them even though they often lead to a bit of frustration.

Topwater baits (baits that are retrieved on the water surface to encourage a bass to strike on top of the water) are my favorite lures to catch fish on because I get to see the point at which the bass strikes the bait. But these lures can leave a fisherman shaking his or her head because quite often the fish will miss the bait or come unhooked shortly after striking. I read somewhere in my many fishing magazines that the average rate of success of landing a fish on a topwater bait compared to the number of times a bass actually strikes the bait is one out of three. For fishermen like Jerry and myself who put a lot of time on the water and are used to landing most of the fish that strike our lures, this one out of three rate makes us feel a bit like failures because we end up missing a lot of fish that we think we should catch. Our first trip on Blaisdell fishing together this year left us both with that feeling.

Jerry and I quite often end up fishing at the same time on the lake - each of us on our own boat with our dog. And while we don't fish from the same boat, we do fish together in the same areas and spend the time talking about various topics, including fishing. Well if that first trip is any indication, then this is certainly going to be the year for topwater fishing. We both can catch fish consistently on soft plastic baits, but we're at a point where bass fishing on Blaisdell is not necessarily about catching bass - instead it's more about how the bass are caught. Topwater fishing is simply way more fun than soft

plastic fishing and that day proved to be no different. We each landed around ten bass and easily missed twice that - which brings us back to that one out of three rate. Many fish hit our baits, darted off a few feet - and when we lifted our rods to fight them, they were already gone or came unbuttoned after a short struggle. And sometimes the fish hit the bait at the surface and just plain missed it - which we obviously got to see unless we were distracted in conversation. A lot of anglers blame these misses during spring on the cold water which makes fish a bit sluggish - but based on my experience, these types of misses are common even in the middle of summer. It's a big reason why the pros don't use topwater baits regularly during bass tournaments. Missing a fish for them could mean missing out on a lot of money.

Now beyond the dejection of missing all of those bass, Jerry has to deal with the attitude thrown his way by his dog, Brody. Brody loves fishing - as does my dog, Didas - but where Didas is forgiving when a fish is missed, Brody is not. He knows right away when Jerry has a fish on and expects that Jerry will land that fish every time. Both of our dogs like to give the fish a kiss before the fish is released back to the water and Brody doesn't like it at all when Jerry misses a fish, failing to follow through on his end of the deal. Brody gives him "the look" and complains. So that one out of three rate is much tougher on Jerry than it is on me.

Hot summer evenings are some of the best times to fish topwater baits on Blaisdell - especially when the lake is calm and surface activity from fish is evident - but I plan on throwing topwater baits at the bass more often whenever I'm on the water this year. It's more exciting than fishing baits below the water surface - and while the usual success rate can be discouraging, I'm going to look at it like baseball, where a success rate of one out of three for a batter is considered outstanding.

Hope to see you on the water - and remember to release those fish so that they can get bigger and be caught another day.

Enjoy!

New Hampshire Boating Rules

Sailboats have the right of way over power boats.

All boats must have lights on at night.

All motorized boats must be registered, with numbers displayed on the bow. All sailboats and sailboards over 12 feet must be registered.

Boats under 25 horsepower do not require certified operators, Boats over 25 horsepower require a certified driver.

Jet ski operators must be at least 16 years old. Persons under 16 may operate power boats if accompanied by a certified driver.

Driver certificates must be carried on board.

Each person in a boat must have a flotation device. Boats over 16 feet must also have a throwable cushion.

Gasoline powered boats need fire extinguishers.

All boats must be equipped with whistles or horns.

Boats must maintain headway speeds within 150 feet of shore, other boats or rafts.

Riding on the bow, gunwales or transom is unlawful.

Operating a boat while under the influence of alcohol or drugs is unlawful.

History of the Blaisdell Lake Property Owners' Association (now Blaisdell Lake Protective Association)

Blaisdell Lake is a state-owned 150-acre body of water in Sutton, New Hampshire on which are located privately owned residences and one summer camp owned and operated by the Girl Scouts. The lake level is maintained by an earthen dam which is maintained by the Blaisdell Lake Protective Association under the auspices of the State of New Hampshire's Department of Environmental Services.

Prior to 1950, the water rights to the dam were owned by the Kearsarge Reservoir Company, a privately-owned corporation approximately ten miles downstream of the outflow of the dam, which up until approximately 1940, regulated the outflow in order to operate a water wheel which provided power to the Ela Box Company, a wooden box construction facility in Warner, New Hampshire. Upon the conversion of Ela Box Company from water power to distributed electricity in the mid 1940's, the dam fell into disrepair causing uncertain water levels during the summer and fall seasons.

In 1949, a group of shorefront property owners initiated actions to stabilize the level of the lake. In 1950, the Blaisdell Lake Property Owners Association was formally organized. Membership was available to "...any property owner in the Town of Sutton who is interested in the general welfare and development of Blaisdell Lake and the surrounding area ..."

Articles of Agreement were adopted in 1952 with the primary objective "To purchase and hold the water rights and dam at the outlet to Blaisdell Lake". It was formed as "...a non-profit Association and therefore has no capital stock". Contributions for repairs to the dam were solicited, and dues of \$2.00 per year were voted by the membership.

The sole purpose of the Blaisdell Lake Protective Association continues be:

- The preservation of the dam through operating and maintenance procedures accepted by, and periodically inspected by, the State of New Hampshire's Department of Environmental Services.
- The monitoring of the water quality of Blaisdell Lake through a testing program administered by the State of New Hampshire's Department of Environmental Services.
- The monitoring of safe boating practices through a volunteer boating safety inspection program administered and enforced by the State of New Hampshire's Department of Safety.



Large Wooden Float

Can you use a large wooden float with a ladder? We have one in excellent condition that you can have if you can haul it away. Contact Vicki Willard: 37 Bailey Road, Sutton, NH; vepwillard@mac.com or (919) 489-8903

Beach Committee Report

Summer is right around the corner, and it will soon be time to swim, enjoy the beach and launch your boats. Just a reminder of the rules for the beach:

Hours of Use: 6:00 a.m.—7:00 p.m. daily from Memorial Day to Labor Day

Children under 16 **MUST** be accompanied by an adult.

No swimming in the boat launch area.

No fishing on the beach

No alcoholic beverages on the beach

No animals on the beach

No glass containers on the beach

Towels are **NOT** to be draped over the fence.

ALL beach visitors are responsible for keeping the beach clean.

Swimming is **AT YOUR OWN RISK!** There is **NO** lifeguard.

Also, be sure to have your membership card with you each time you come to the beach or to launch your boat. Without it, you could be turned away.

Enjoy the Lake!

Janet Luca, Beach Committee Chairperson

It's Your Turn!

Many of you have fond memories of activities around the lake or people who have made your time here special. If you would like to share a story from the past or an article about a current activity, please contact Julie Mundy, Editor, at 938-2331 or Betsy Fowler, Clerk, BLPA, at 938-5367. We welcome your input or suggestions for future editions of the Blaisdell News.