



## President's Corner by Cynde Robbins

Happy Spring to you all! After the winter we all have just experienced, this spring has been a welcome relief and particularly beautiful! Aren't you just lovin' all the green stuff increasing daily!

As summer approaches, you will want to take note of some events that have already been scheduled. The 4<sup>th</sup> week of July will be a very busy one on the lake. That week will start with the BLPA Annual meeting on Saturday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 a.m. and end with The Dog House Weekend which has been scheduled by the Bailey family to start Friday, July 29<sup>th</sup> and run through Sunday, the 31<sup>st</sup>. Set up of the Dog House will start at 5 pm on Wednesday, the 26<sup>th</sup>.

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The BLPA website ([blpoa.org](http://blpoa.org)) can answer many of your questions about our organization and its history. It can be also be a useful tool for finding information about upcoming seasonal events, area happenings, boating regulations and more. Our webmaster, Justin Shumway, has also provided links to other organizations and events. We want to make our website a "go to" spot to keep BLPA members up to date between newsletters. Check it out, bookmark it and go there often!

## Blaisdell Lake Protective Association Logo

We thank Gretchen Guddefin for the scenic header you see on this newsletter. Gretchen created this for BLPA's 60th Anniversary Celebration last summer, and we are thrilled to be able use it here and on BLPA publications in the future.

## Calendar of Events

Saturday, May 28th @ 9 a.m.	Board of Directors Meeting
Sunday, July 3rd @ 4 p.m.	4th of July Boat Parade
Sunday, July 3rd @ 9 p.m.	Flare Night
Saturday, July 23rd @ 10 a.m.	BLPA Annual Meeting at Camp Wabasso Dining Hall
July 29th—July 31st	Dog House Weekend Friday: 4-8 p.m.; Saturday: 11 a.m.—8 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m.—6 p.m.
Saturday, August 28 @ 10 a.m.	Land Conservation Options—"Protecting Land for the Love of It" Fowler Residence, 36 Andrews Avenue, Sutton, NH
Saturday, September 3 @ 9 a.m.	Board of Directors Meeting

**President Corner** *(Continued from Page 1)*

The New England Handicapped Sports Association has made formal application to the BLPA Board to use Wright's Beach for Tuesday and Wednesday, July 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. A Facilities Agreement has been sent to NEHSA, and we are now waiting to receive that signed document.

So, as you can see the 4<sup>th</sup> week in July will be both busy and fun. We look forward to seeing you all this summer.

Helpers are needed for the Dog House Weekend. If you would like to be a part of this exciting weekend, please contact Gail Olson at [g\\_olson@mcttelecom.com](mailto:g_olson@mcttelecom.com) or 938-2446. There are jobs for various talents during all hours that the Dog House is open and for cleanup, especially Sunday evening.

**Dam Update**

Bruce Ellsworth has reported to the Executive Committee that, as the Board has directed, he is pursuing an easement from the Forster family which will give the Association permanent rights of access to operate and maintain the dam. The dam sits on property actually owned by the Forsters. He is also in discussions with appropriate Association members to obtain rights-of-way over their properties to assure permanent future legal access to the dam.

**Water Quality**

Leon Malan reports no new conservation issues of concern at this time. He tested the lake water at the end of May, and a full review of water quality will be ready for the annual meeting. As usual, we need to pay attention to our actions around the lake, including landscaping, structures and driveways.

**Educational Opportunities**

- **Boater Education:** It is the boater's responsibility to know the laws regulating operator age, registration, towing of skiers, lights, sirens, etc. Our website ([blpoa.org](http://blpoa.org)) has a link entitled State Boater's ed that will give you all the information you need for boating safely.
- **2011 Summer Series at LSPA:** The Lake Sunapee Protective Association hosts a series of programs that are free and open to the public. Two that might be of particular interest are the (1) Weed Watch Kickoff Meeting on June 25. "This yearly event updates Weed Watchers from Lake Sunapee, local lakes and ponds and anyone who is interested in the status of invasive plants in the area, and (2) Landscaping at the Water's Edge: an Ecological Approach for NH Landowners. Our fall newsletter featured an article entitled "Rain Garden" by Leon Malan that gave some helpful suggestions. This seminar on July 19th "will explain how landscaping choices impact surface and ground waters and will describe landscaping practices through which you can protect, and even improve, the quality of our water resources.

*For a complete list of LSPA Summer Series programs, visit their website at [lakesunapee.org](http://lakesunapee.org) and click on "Happenings".*

- **Land Conservation Options—Protecting Land for the Love of It:** Land protection specialists from The Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust and the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests will speak about land conservation options on August 28 at the Fowler residence, 36 Andrews Avenue, Sutton, NH. There will be time for discussion and questions. Watch our website for details.



### The Loon Preservation Committee

*The Loon Preservation Committee exists to restore and maintain a healthy population of loons throughout New Hampshire; to monitor the health and productivity of loon populations as sentinels of environmental quality; and to promote a greater understanding of loons and the natural world.*

#### Loon Ambassador Initiative

The Loon Preservation Committee is reaching out to volunteers in our area as part of the 2011 Loon Ambassador Initiative. In April, Carrie Godkin and Floyd and Julie Mundy attended a meeting introducing this program.

Speakers at the meeting brought out that one of the greatest threats to loons is lead. The loons swallow gravel and pebbles from the lake bottom to aid in grinding up their food. Lead sinkers are easily picked up, too. Also, loons eat fish that have been hooked and still contain the lead tackle. Lead is fatal to loons and other water birds and is the leading cause of death for adult loons. The sale and use of lead sinkers weighing less than one ounce and lead-headed jigs less than one inch in length have been illegal in this state for a number of years. Many inexpensive alternatives are available, and switching to non-lead sinkers and jigs will help prevent many bird deaths.

The LPC is looking for assistance from residents of New Hampshire lakes in observing and logging loon populations and behavior and educating others of potential dangers and risk to our loons.

Carrie Godkin has agreed to be the link between volunteers on Blaisdell Lake and the LPC. If you have an interest in gathering information throughout the summer, she could use your help. Contact her at 938-5457 or [jcgodkin@tds.net](mailto:jcgodkin@tds.net).

*For more information about loons and the Loon Preservation Committee, visit [www.loon.org](http://www.loon.org).*

This article was compiled from information given at the April Loon Ambassador meeting and quotes from LPC publications distributed at that time.

#### Miscellaneous Notes

- Donations for the planters at the beach (flowers or funding) would be greatly appreciated. See the Godkins for more information.
- Please do not feed geese, swans or other waterfowl. Human intervention is not good for the wildlife or the beach.
- Boaters—Watch for floating wood and debris from winter damage to docks and trees.

#### **Weed Watch**

NO, we don't watch the weeds grow!

We DO (1)check each boat that enters the lake during our watch to see that no weeds are hanging off the trailer or boat. (2) We also ask where the boat was last and if it has been washed off. Finally, (3) we check the membership card and/or have the owner fill out a registration form (found in the mailbox) and pay the boat fee, if applicable. (YOU DON'T NEED TO MEMORIZE THIS! The procedure is also in the mailbox).

My phone number is 938-2665. It would be helpful if you called to sign up for your share of the two-hour shifts. Otherwise, I'll call you as I have in the past.

Please know that your time at the beach is very important for keeping invasive weeds out of our beautiful, clean lake. It is also a time of quiet, a time for reading, visiting or just rejoicing for being alive.

Enjoy, Sharon Kenrick

### One More Cast by Tim Beale

The dreaded cold front. In traveling along the fishing learning curve, finding a way to catch bass during a cold front - especially a severe cold front - is the most difficult weather pattern to tackle. Temperatures last summer were consistently very warm and there were no major cold fronts until Labor Day weekend, which provided perfect weather conditions for getting all of those end of summer chores completed. But not for me - my nephew was in town and that meant I had to put all work aside - it was time for fishing. As usual, not much arm twisting was needed.

Jarrold flew in from Ohio the Thursday night before the big weekend and we were still stuck in a very hot, steamy stretch of weather that seemed to define last summer. Mid 90's were the norm that week and I had visions of Jarrold's New Hampshire fishing trip the previous summer when we both took a beating fishing in blistering heat. But being a fisherman means paying attention to the weather forecast. Cooler temps were headed our way - much cooler - because the only real strong cold front of the summer was due to arrive late that Friday night. Knowing that fish tend to feed actively before a front arrives, I geared up the boat right after work that Friday and got Jarrold on the water to take advantage of the pre-front bite. It was still very warm and humid - no wind at all - and we both caught double-digit numbers of bass. But I could see the changing sky headed our way and mentioned to Jarrold that catching fish the rest of the weekend was not going to be as easy.

Saturday's weather was quite a contrast as the front blew through during the night. Highs in the lower 70's and 20 mph winds from the northwest were awaiting the two of us. When a severe cold front like that rolls in, what really throws the fish off is the high atmospheric pressure that follows the front. The twenty degree drop in temperature doesn't bother the fish because the water temperature where the fish reside doesn't change during a cold front. And the winds are not really an issue for the fish because they locate themselves well below the white-caps blowing across the lake. But the high pressure system that weighs down heavily upon the fish world is quickly felt by the bass and it throws them out of their comfort zone. It's no different than a drastic change at work or at home that puts pressure on people, throws them off of their routine and makes them uncomfortable. When this happens to bass, many fishermen mistakenly believe that the fish shut down and stop feeding.

Bass (and fish in general) spend their entire lives focused on just two things - eating and repopulating. And seeing as these fish spawn in the months of May and June, then the only thing bass are doing during the other months is looking for something to eat.

No painting, no movies, no golf, no mountain biking, no naps, no yard work, no reading, no ten hour workday - basically just looking for some calories. So, during a cold front, if you keep in mind that the fish are still focused just on food, then it only makes sense that bass can still be caught. What makes catching them more challenging is that they are not as willing to move as far or as fast to chase down a meal. So that means fishing very slow, getting and keeping the lure close to the fish, making lots of casts to the same target and staying in contact with the lure increase the chances of getting the bass to bite.

Throwing plenty of casts to a target was no problem for Jarrold and me, but it's not easy to fish slow and leave the lure in front of the fish when the wind is trying to deposit the boat down at the dam. And there is very little water on Blaisdell Lake that allows an angler to get out of a northwest wind. So to overcome the wind, I hauled my drift sock out of storage. Think of it as an underwater parachute that gets hooked to the boat and slows the wind-induced drift considerably. It worked like a charm. We still got sand blasted by the wind, but Jarrold and I were able to fish much more slowly than we otherwise could have. Staying in contact with the lure can be tricky when the wind is putting a huge bow in your line, but we kept our rod tips low to the water and really focused on keeping the slack out of the line - and were able maintain a feel of the lure.

Jarrold and I put in plenty of time fishing the rest of that weekend and Labor Day - and we caught plenty of bass - but we certainly worked harder for the bite than in the past. As is always my goal for Jarrold when he ventures to NH for a fishing trip and is old enough to be required to purchase a nonresident 7 day fishing license for \$35 - his goal was to catch at least 35 bass during his stay. And when I called "last cast" on our last day of fishing for the trip, Jarrold's total was at 34. We were fishing the dam area of the lake, and he didn't get a bite on that last cast. So I asked him if he wanted another "last cast" - you're legally allowed three "last casts" - but he said he was content with his total, knowing that he did well to catch that many bass under the weather conditions. So I picked up the trolling motor, fired up the big motor and headed back to the launch. But as I was about to pass a weed patch located near a point on our way back, I killed the motor and told him that he had to humor me and make one more cast, into the weed patch. He laughed at me, picked up his rod and made his real "last cast" of the trip. Goal achieved.

See ya on the water.

As always - enjoy,

Tim Beale

*"Catch and release fishing is a lot like golf. You don't have to eat the ball to have a good time."* -unknown

New Hampshire Lakes

New Hampshire Lakes is a “statewide, non-profit organization dedicated to protecting lakes. It serves as a source of information about lakes and lake issues through educational materials and programs and through work with state legislators.” A publication entitled Lakeside is issued quarterly. Coming up on June 24, 2011 is the 2011 Lakes Congress to be held in Windham, NH. This is the 18th “Congress” and the theme is “Lake Protection and Restoration for the Future.”

*For more information about New Hampshire Lakes or the 2011 Lakes Congress go to [nhlakes.org](http://nhlakes.org).*



Save the Date!

The Annual Meeting of the Blaisdell Lake Protective Association is your opportunity to be heard and to vote. There are important issues to be discussed, including possible by-law changes. Please plan to join us. Your attendance is important!

Membership Dues Reminder

At the 2010 Annual Meeting of the Blaisdell Lake Protective Association, a rate for 2011 membership dues was approved at \$70. Prompt payment provides funding to cover operating expenses for the coming year. If you have not already done so, please mail your payment to: BLPA, Attn: Peg DeMone, P. O. Box 453, South Sutton, NH 03273

  
 Flare Night Sunday July 3rd  
 The following people will have flares to sell:  
 Chan Blodgett                      Carrie Godkin  
 Bruce Ellsworth                      Fritz Pratt  
 Bill Hallahan  
 Beach boat inspectors will have flares on weekends.  
 Sales begin the week of June 25th.  
 The price is \$4 each or three for \$10.  
*To keep flare chemicals out of the lake, place an aluminum pie plate or foil under flares.*  


BLPA Officers and Contact Information

<u>Contact</u>	<u>E-Mail Address</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>
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Steve Domber (Vice President)	<a href="mailto:steven.domber72@gmail.com">steven.domber72@gmail.com</a>	(908) 906-5261 (cell) (603) 938-2485 (lake)
Bob Wright (Treasurer)		(603) 938-5504
Betsy Fowler (Clerk)	<a href="mailto:tinkerf@mcttelecom.com">tinkerf@mcttelecom.com</a>	(603) 938-5367 (home) (603) 781-0857 (cell)