

# BLAISDELL NEWS

Blaisdell Lake  
Protective Association

Fall, 2009

## President's Corner by Dave Young

What a great summer for the BLPA! The weather sure wasn't the greatest, but as an association we did accomplish a lot and it's nice to be able to reflect on some of the highlights that so many worked hard to achieve.

Wright's Beach looks better than ever thanks to our Beach Managers, the Godkin family, and it has once again become a popular spot for BLPA family excursions. It was nice to see so many enjoying the beach in July and August ... and to note the addition of those attractive flower planters at the entrances. Another new feature that also drew a lot positive comments was the addition of a buoy line to define the swimming area.

Fourth of July activities went off without a hitch, and it was especially nice to see BLPA co-founder Pud Ellsworth (99 years young!) at the helm of the "Queen Mary" leading the annual boat parade. Flare night lit up the lake, and the fireworks afterwards have become a much looked forward to lake tradition. Thanks to all for catching the Blaisdell spirit and joining in.

Our conservation awareness and efforts continue to bear fruit. The water in the lake is quite clean and free of invasive aquatic plants. Our conservation team, including the weekend "weed inspectors", has been vigilant and made a difference as evidenced by the cooperation of the boaters using the Wright's Beach ramp (even during the week, thanks to Carrie).

And finally ...

## The Dog (House) Days of Summer

Dog House Weekend was a huge success! The crowds matched any we've seen in the past, in spite of some threatening weather. Dog House Supers, Specials, and all kinds of Puppies ruled that weekend! Our thanks go out to Gail & Carl Olson, Rick & Kate Bailey, and their families for the countless hours it took to plan, erect, operate, and tear down the Dog House "building" and to keep us all happy and well-fed.

Gail Olson reported a net profit of \$4,720 with 1,550 sandwiches served!

## Wright's Beach Subdivision

The Town of Sutton approved our proposal to subdivide the Wright's Beach property into two parcels. Bruce Ellsworth and his team worked on this one for a long time and deserve our thanks for a really professional job well done.

The gift of the southerly Wright's Beach parcel to the Blaisdell Lake Dock Owners Association became a reality when the transfer agreement was signed on July 20<sup>th</sup>. Betsy Fowler, BLDOA President, then presented a check for \$3,000 to the BLPA to help offset the cost of the registered land survey associated with the subdivision. Betsy and the BLDOA Board spent months drawing up documents, incorporating the new association and working with the BLPA to affect the transfer. Many thanks to all involved for their dedication and hard work.

President's Corner continues on Page 2

## BLPA On Line

If you haven't visited the BLPA Website lately, you are definitely missing something. Right now, you can go to [blpoa.org](http://blpoa.org) and see a YouTube video of the boat parade, a reprint of the Kearsarge Magazine article by Gretchen Gudefin featuring the Dog House Days in 2007, boating and DES regulations, rental information and a number of photographs of Blaisdell Lake's beauty.

Webmaster, Mike Gudefin, has done a fine job, and we certainly appreciate the work he has put into the website. Give it a look and perhaps give him some of your thoughts at [mgudefin@tds.net](mailto:mgudefin@tds.net).

## Annual Dues

The BLPA dues for the 2010-2011 season will remain at the current level of \$62. Notices will be mailed out in early April, 2010 and will be payable on May 1, 2010.

It is important that funds be received promptly as the Association has bills that need to be paid early in the season. Your cooperation would be greatly appreciated!

**President's Corner (Cont.)**Relay for Life

The BLPA will contribute \$250 to the 2010 New London Relay for Life (American Cancer Society) as a meaningful way to say thanks to Gail Olson for her work in organizing and delivering another wonderful Dog House weekend. Gail and her brother Rick lost their dad, Dick Bailey, to cancer a few years ago. Dick was well-known in Sutton and around the lake and was a long-time member and Past President of BLPA. Since his death, Gail has been very active in the New London Area Relay for Life program as a participant and fundraiser, having logged in several hundred thousand dollars in contributions. We are proud to become part of that as a way of saying thanks.

Board News

The Board reports that the Association's financial health is very good. We will continue to meet annual operating requirements and add to the capital reserve account without raising dues. And, as usual, your Board has been busy and active. It has:

- Clarified BLPA financial parameters for capital reserves and fundraising.
- Found it inadvisable, at this time, to seek a property tax exemption from the Town of Sutton for the Wright's Beach property.
- Reviewed the BLPA Membership By-Laws (Articles IV and VI), and determined to leave them intact.
- Asked the Conservation Committee to study our invasive aquatic weed prevention efforts to determine if we are doing enough in terms of prevention and to make appropriate recommendations.
- Given the property team an OK to look into the possibility of acquiring easements across any parcels of land that would provide us needed access to the BLPA dam.

Goings and Comings

We all owe gratitude and special thanks to some of our BLPA leaders who have either stepped down, completed terms, or agreed to step up:

- Betty Blodgett, for 10 outstanding years of results as our Membership Chair.
- Chan Blodgett, for supporting Betty in such a critical role and for completing his long and valuable service on the BLPA Executive Committee and Board.
- Henry Howell and Bill Turner, for their contributions to the Board.
- Mary Ann Wright, for her excellent service as BLPA Clerk.
- John Biewener, for faithfully auditing the BLPA records.

- Janet Luca, Dick Seale, Bob O'Brien, and Pat Skeffington for saying "yes" and for indeed stepping up to the plate!

- Betsy Fowler, for accepting the challenging role of BLPA Clerk.

- Sharon Kenrick, for another year of enthusiastic commitment to her role as Boat Ramp Inspection Coordinator.

- Leon Malan, for his tireless efforts to educate us in conservation awareness and practices ... and to keep the lake at the top of the NH Lakes list.

- Peg Demone, for taking over as Membership Chair.

- Julie Mundy, for becoming our first-ever *Blaisdell News* Editor.

Thanks to all of you for your time and efforts to keep Blaisdell Lake such a special place!

*Thank you to the 36 people who did "weed watch" this summer. That is the most ever to participate. This year: 2 people did a complete day (8 hrs.); 2 people did 2 half-days (a total of 8 hrs.); and 2 teens helped and got school service credit — and this year we had two extra weekends to cover! Sometimes we do all our time and never see anyone but, most importantly, one person served only once and she did an inspection! So bring a good book, a crossword, the newspaper and make a difference in our beautiful Lake Blaisdell. You are all special!! Sharon — The Weed Watch Lady!!*

## Bass Fishing on Blaisdell Lake by Tim Beale

It has been another fine fishing season on the lake - plenty of one and two pound bass as usual with a few big ones sprinkled in. But my favorite fishing occurred when my nephew decided to fly in from Ohio for four days of chasing the bass. Jarrod doesn't get to fish too often because there are no convenient fishing holes near where he lives. And for that reason, I take it upon myself to make sure that he gets some quality fishing time while he visits New Hampshire - and I can't think of too many bodies of water better than Blaisdell Lake for giving a person a chance to hook into good numbers of bass.

Jarrod's non-resident one week fishing license cost \$35, so I set a goal for him that he needed to catch at least 35 bass during his stay - that way the license only cost him \$1 per fish. It was very warm while he was here - in the 90s with blistering sun - so we fished twice each day limiting ourselves to three hours per trip to avoid getting beat up by the heat. And seeing as my nephew loves to sleep in until 10:00am and doesn't function too well until then - taking advantage of the cooler temps in the morning wasn't an option. So we battled the heat and established some fishing patterns during our first day out that held up for the four days. Jarrod not only reached his goal - 37 total bass - but he also has become very good at bass fishing, honing his skills each and every time out on the boat. Being a teacher, I really enjoyed witnessing the learning that took place.

### Fall Fishing

The temperatures are falling and the days are getting shorter, but that doesn't mean that the bass are not biting. As the lake water cools, bass will begin to bunch up near areas where they intend to spend the winter. So they won't be quite as spread out near the shallow water like they are in the spring when they cruise the shoreline areas actively feeding along the way. And the summer pattern of fishing all the nice weedy areas changes because those fish-magnet weeds begin to die off and the bass prefer green weeds instead of brown ones.

Fall fishing can be slow, courtesy of this concentration of bass into particular areas. Most of the water will be unproductive because the bass simply are not there like they were in the spring and summer. But once a bass is caught in the fall, there's a pretty good chance that there are quite a few more bass in that same area that are willing to bite. So don't spend too much time fishing an area where there doesn't appear to be any active bass - keep moving to new spots until the bass convince you to stay.

And forget the early morning and late evening fishing slots that tend to put the bass into an active bite - instead take advantage of the warming effect that the middle of the day has on the water. Bass quite often will "activate" when the water warms a degree or two during the day and this can produce a consistent bite in the fall. It won't be non-stop bass on the line all day, but if you're there at the right time on the right spot, you might experience an active bite - like in the spring - but only for an hour or two.

Hope to see you on the water. And don't forget - catch and release those wonderful bass. That way they'll be even bigger next time you lip them and there will be more fish for everyone to catch.

Enjoy.

### **Upcoming Events**

60th Anniversary: Next summer is the 60th anniversary of the BLPA. A picnic and celebration is being planned for July, 2010. Watch for details in the spring newsletter.

Lake Lowering: At the annual meeting, it was voted to have a minor lake lowering in the fall of 2010 in order for some who have sought permission from the State to work on their docks. The next major lowering will be in 2013.

Beach Management Committee

Bruce Ellsworth has reported that a new Beach Management Committee has been formed to assist the Board and the Beach Manager in supporting the beach. A previous committee, the Beach Acquisition Committee, had been instrumental in helping the Board develop the plan for acquiring the beach property from the Wright family and had carried over in assisting in developing the rules and regulations for maintaining the beach.

The Board extends its appreciation to Beach Acquisition Committee members Bruce Ellsworth, Dave Young, Bill Hallahan, Robin Geoffrion, Charlie Hosmer, Brian Meyers, Bob Wright, Chan Blodgett, Dave Donovan, and John Godkin for their commitment to assuring that the property transfer was successful. The Board welcomes Bruce, Janet Luca, Pat Skeffington, and Dick Seale as the new members of the Beach Management Committee.

Those of you who pass by the beach certainly notice how neatly and cleanly it is maintained. John and Carrie Godkin have done an outstanding job in making it a welcoming spot for our Association members. The beach saw more use than it has in years.

The Management Committee thanks all those who contributed to the beach's maintenance throughout the summer. Through everyone's efforts, it is once again a source of pride for our organization.

*Happy Fall Everyone,*

*John and I want to report on the beach. It is absolutely wonderful to see more families using the beach, with everyone from the youngest to the oldest having fun or just sitting and enjoying the view and the water.*

*We haven't had any discipline problems and the rules are generally being obeyed. When we do have to remind someone, there is never any disrespect. We have tried to keep the beach raked and free of grass, which is an ongoing task.*

*We would like to thank the women on the Flower Committee for the help and also for the beautiful flowers that they donated for all to enjoy. We have received many positive comments! There will be fall flowers in the planters to go with the season. Hopefully we can do the same next summer.*

*Carrie Godkin*

BLPA Officers

President	Dave Young	746-6611
Vice President	Cynde Robbins	781-545-4167
Treasurer	Dave Hansen	938-2717
Clerk	Betsy Fowler	938-5367

Directors

Steve Domber	Tim Beale
Rob Friedman	Joe Cohen
Janet Luca	Dick Seale
Bruce Ellsworth	Bob O'Brien
	Pat Skeffington

**BLPA Adopt-A-Highway**

Many thanks go out to the crew members who have volunteered their time to help keep our stretch of road looking great. This stretch runs from the blinking light in Bradford to just past Russell Pond. Eleven bags of garbage were collected during the spring cleanup and nine more bags over the summer. Pickup dates are scheduled in early May, early August and early October—and it usually takes around thirty minutes to complete each of the designated areas. New volunteers are always welcome—just e-mail Tim Beale at [fishingislife@tds.net](mailto:fishingislife@tds.net) or call 938-2117 if you are interested in helping out.

Do you have questions, suggestions or concerns?

Well, please let us know! We will be happy to reply ... and we might even be able to include your inquiry or idea in a future issue of the *Blaisdell News*.

Just e-mail Dave Young at [jadyoung@mcttelecom.com](mailto:jadyoung@mcttelecom.com) or Betsy Fowler at [tinkerf@mcttelecom.com](mailto:tinkerf@mcttelecom.com), or call either of them at the phone numbers listed above. Your concerns and ideas will be directed to the person or committee best able to respond.

***Please take a minute to send an e-mail to Betsy to ensure that she has your correct e-mail address.***