



President's Corner

By Vicki Willard

Let it Snow! Let it Snow! Let it Snow!

Now that boats and docks have been pulled, deck furniture stored, and firewood stacked, summer seems a distant memory. Then, as the December Holidays approach, water skis are replaced by snow skis, jet skis are replaced by snow mobiles, and casting rods are replaced by ice lines. No matter the season, the lake provides us with immeasurable enjoyment.

However, before we jump into our boots and parkas, please read on for re-caps of last summer's events and useful information for next summer. We welcomed new members into the fold and sadly said goodbye to old. Members gathered to celebrate the BLPA's 65th Anniversary and supported our logo clothing fundraiser. We had great participation for flare night and the boat parade and beach survey. While not a BLPA function, I would be remiss if I did not mention the spectacular fireworks displays that lit up the lake on the fourth of July.

So read on and I will close with the wise words of one of my year-round neighbors who said, "If it's going to be cold, it might as well **SNOW!**"

Enjoy your winter.

DUES INCREASE 2016

By Vicki Willard

Rising fixed expenses and a modest decrease in membership numbers caused the Board of Directors to unanimously recommend a \$15 per year dues increase to the membership at the annual meeting in July.

While we have been fortunate to avoid a dues increase for four years, fixed costs have risen to the point where we are predicting a budget deficit for the current (2015) fiscal year. While the board has been as frugal as possible, two fixed costs have had a large impact on the ability to balance the budget. First, an insurance review found that our insurance did not specifically cover our unique beach and boat launch situation and that we were woefully underinsured for this day and age. The new policy resulted in a \$400 premium increase. Second, property taxes have increased over \$500 in the last two years and we expect they will continue to rise annually. At the same time, there has been a modest decrease in the number of BLPA memberships putting even more pressure on the budget. After a thoughtful and thorough discussion at the Annual Meeting this past July, the membership overwhelmingly voted to raise the dues for the 2016-2017 fiscal year to \$85. The board is grateful to the BLPA members for their understanding and support.

WHAT'S IN YOUR TANK?

By Vicki Willard

With short summers at the lake filled with boating, swimming, food, friends, and family it's easy to forget about your property's subterranean *sleeping giant* also known as your septic tank.

Can you even remember the last time your tank was pumped? Experts agree that the single best thing you can do to protect your septic system and ultimately, protect Blaisdell Lake is to regularly pump your tank out. It's easy to think that because you may only use your cottage for a couple of months a year that "nature" will take care of it but that's not true at all and here's why.

First a basic septic tank contents review. There are three layers in a septic tank. The "sludge" or decomposed solids at the bottom, a middle "clear zone" which is liquid that contains suspended solids and anaerobic (needing little or no oxygen) bacteria, and a top layer of "floating scum and grease." The clear zone is the "effluent" that is released from your tank into the surrounding soil so that aerobic (oxygen needing bacteria) can finish the treatment process that the anaerobic bacteria started in the tank. And no, you cannot drink this stuff no matter what you read.

Over time, without regular pumping, the sludge and scum layers increase and the clear zone decreases. If these top and bottom layers are released from your tank they will block the pores in the soil and your system will fail. Another factor is temperature. Septic tank bacteria do not like cold temperatures so when the temperatures drop so does bacterial action. A septic tank in New Hampshire will need solids removed more often than a tank in North Carolina. So what do you do? **PUMP IT OUT!**

Make 2016 the year you pump your septic tank out. Then, maintain a regular pumping schedule as recommended by the company you hire for the job. Finally, let sleeping giants lie.

Blaisdell Lake Trivia

By Chan Blodgett

Camp Wabasso was not always a Girl Scout camp. It originated in 1921 when Christine Smith (later Rawson) purchased the land from the Willey Farms Co. (which owned most of the land on the western side of Blaisdell Lake, from Wrights Beach to Spruce Point). She developed it as an elite equestrian girls camp which was very popular with families from northern New Jersey and Long Island. In about 1956 the Girl Scouts acquired the camp and developed into it what it is today. Of historical note, Christa McAuliffe attended Camp Wabasso in the 1960's.

Blaisdell Lake Protective Association Beach Survey Results

By Kristine Mozes

In the spring of 2015 the BLPA board conducted a survey to better understand how its membership utilizes Wright's Beach. Wright's Beach was deeded to the BLPA in 2006 due to the generous gift of the Wright family. Since then, the BLPA has owned, operated and maintained Wright's Beach for the environmental protection of Blaisdell Lake, while providing recreational beach access to members of the Association, as well as public boating access to the general public. The Association expects to use the survey results to best plan for the future operations and maintenance of Wright's Beach. Thank you to everyone who took the time to fill out the survey. We appreciate your responses; your input is greatly valued. There is a presentation of the interesting results of the survey at <http://blpoa.org/survey.html>.

A Short Note From Bernie and His Blaisdell Buddies

by Deb Lang

We were all so excited when we heard about this chance to formally introduce ourselves to you folks in the Blaisdell Lake Protective Association. You are so important to each of us, the loons of Blaisdell Lake. We've been coming here each spring for many years. After dealing with the nasty winter months on the coast, each spring we really look forward to ice-out on Blaisdell. The lake is so clean, the food so tasty and abundant, and all of you are so welcoming.

This year we heard that the annual state-wide loon census was taking place on Saturday, July 18th between 8 AM and 9 AM. (In fact, it's not just NH, but also in Vermont, Maine, and NY.) To make sure we all got counted, all six of us were lined up five minutes early! We weren't taking any chances. Now, maybe I should take a minute to tell you a little more about this census. My buddies on Blaisdell and I know how important it is to be on time for this census. We want to make sure we get counted so the good folks from The Loon Preservation Committee over in Moultonborough know how many of us there are hanging out on Blaisdell. We get counted on this one special day, but it's really just part of many nice people tracking us all season long! They keep track of us and all our cousins on more than 350 NH lakes in a big data base. They like to know how many chicks are on each lake, how many immature adults, and how many adults. They've been doing so for forty years. I bet you didn't know that this is the oldest loon data base in the world!

While I have your attention, maybe I should tell you a little more about those friends of ours at LPC and what they're up to. They do a lot of research. For example, every year they band a few of our cousins. Each loon that gets banded actually gets four bands with a special color combination all its own. While they're putting the bands on, they also take a little blood sample and test the feathers. Just like you going to your family doctor - except they come to us! They're testing us for contaminants, parasites, stress hormones and other bad things. The folks at LPC have been spending a lot of time and energy trying to learn more about us over these last 40 years.

There are some really good things you folks from NH have done to make our lives better, but we still have some big challenges to deal with. I'm sure you know that we're really scared of lead fishing tackle. Thank heaven all of you NH fishermen are supposed to be switching to non-lead sinkers and jigs. But, did you know that lead is still the biggest problem for us? In fact, we just found out that one of our cousins over on Little Lake Sunapee lost his life in August because of lead poisoning from fishing tackle. Among other things that really scare us, especially when we're thinking about having a family, is losing our nests due to flooding or predation. Not that we've had a chance to be parents yet, but we hear that the warming climate makes it hard for expectant moms and dads to sit non-stop on their eggs for close to a month.

On a lighter note, one additional item to mention. We loons (aka the Blaisdell Bunch) would like you to know that we think you guys are pretty funny. One day you actually tricked us into thinking we had an additional member of our group on the lake. We were swimming around and heard a strange call. We answered and swam over to investigate. A few more calls and responses, but to our surprise, no loon. Afterwards we found out that Benny Goodman's clarinet sounds just like a loon call, and that we were responding to his clarinet solos on a CD. We all still have a good laugh about that one. Well, I guess we've taken enough of your time for now. Hopefully, you've enjoyed hearing more about us. We count on all of you - just as all the other winged and four-legged creatures around Blaisdell Lake do! P.S. If you get a kick out of watching all of us, you can help us and our two-legged friends at LPC by telling them what you see next year. In fact, maybe you'd like to check out their site, www.loon.org.

BLPA 65th Anniversary Celebration

By Marilou Steblai

The Blaisdell Lake Protective Association celebrated its 65th Anniversary this past summer. The event was held August 1st at Fritz Pratt's beautiful property on a gorgeous, sunny afternoon. We couldn't have asked for a better day.

The 103 attendees enjoyed barbequed hamburgers and hot dogs provided by the BLPA and wonderful side dishes and desserts prepared by our members for all to share. Steve Domber and Sharon Kenrick provided croquet and kids' games; and Cynde Robbins, Chan Blodgett and Bruce Ellsworth put together a lake history trivia contest which was great fun for everyone. Chan and Bruce also brought some really great old pictures and memorabilia for all to enjoy. Gretchen and Mike Gudelin designed and donated bookmarks depicting an old post card of the beach as favors for all attendees.

Thanks to the party committee:

Cynde Robbins - Leader
Sharon Kenrick
Carrie Godkin
Marilou Steblai
with lots of help from spouses and Fritz

Thank you, too, to all who helped to make the celebration such a memorable event.

If you weren't able to join us, you were missed, and if you were there, you know what a great time we all had. Our 70th will be here before we know it

Obituaries

Charles "Charley" E. Hosmer died on July 29, 2015. He was a friend and lifetime member of the BLPA. We are thankful for his help to all for so many years. Charley was dedicated, committed and meticulous in everything he did. Thank you to the family for considering the Association as recipient for donations.

Stephen M. Olson, Sr. died on September 9, 2015. He served as a police officer in Bradford, NH for 11 years. His wife, Sheri, and her parents, Carl and Gail Olson have been active in the BLPA for many years.

Elizabeth "Marcy" Conkey passed away in Englewood, Florida this summer. Guy and Marcy lived on Blaisdell Lake for many years before moving to Florida. Guy continues to live in Englewood.

Bubbler Safety Reminder

If you are planning to use a bubbler to protect your dock this winter, please observe proper practices. These include posting the area and keeping the level of the bubbler at a rate that will confine the effects to the area around your dock.

Adopt-A-Highway

Thanks again to Tim Beale and his roadside pick-up team! Our Adopt-A-Highway fall clean-up along Route 114 from Main Street in Bradford to Russell Pond in South Sutton is complete. Go Team!!

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