



President's Corner

As soon as the first warm day arrives each spring thoughts of Blaisdell enter my mind. Some of them logistical; like when will we be able to get up to open camp, will the boat run for another year, is that my raft reported floating in the lake, did that tree overhanging the porch come down with the winter snows, or what damage did the ice do to the dock. And some of them social; like when will chicken barbeque be, how many boats will be out for the evening cruise, who will host the first Bass Point cocktail party, or how good will the fishing be this summer. I suspect we all have our own set of Blaisdell Lake traditions and that a list of those traditions would far outnumber us.

To me traditions represent a continuity and a passing down from one generation to another of shared activities that represent more than the sum of its parts. They can be fun or serious, but are all a part of our heritage that we can pass on to the next generation. Of course my uncle used to say that raking leaves was also a piece of our family heritage. So what do I know... Whatever your traditions are, remember that they wouldn't be possible if it wasn't for Blaisdell Lake and all of the people, living and gone, who have worked so hard and tirelessly to keep the lake our hidden treasure.

After serving on the Board over the last seven years I feel like I have added a couple of new traditions to my summer list; attending the BLPA board and annual meetings and getting all the real scuttlebutt, spending a couple of mornings on the beach reading a book

while doing weed watch, and getting to know or catching up with folks from other corners of the lake. They are good traditions and I suggest that if you haven't already, you add one or two of them to your list. It doesn't need to be much, just a morning or two doing weed watch, helping out with the road side trash pickup, serving on the Board, helping with the water testing, maintaining your septic and property to limit their impact on the lake, or volunteering for a BLPA fundraiser or committee. Do whatever you can do so that that our children and grandchildren will be able to enjoy the same traditions on the same lake years from now.

Happy Summer Traditions!

Steven Domber

Summer Calendar

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| July 4 th - | 4:30 Boat Parade*
9:00 Flares at Blaisdell Lake |
| July 5 th - | Bradford Activities:
Parade in Afternoon
Fireworks at Night |
| July 26 th - | BLPA Annual Meeting
10 a.m. at Camp Wabasso Dining Hall |

* At the May 24th BLPA Board Meeting it was decided to officially name the annual boat parade the Pud Ellsworth Memorial July 4th Boat Parade.

BLPA Mission Statement

As the Blaisdell Lake Protective Association, it is good for us to be reminded of our mission, as stated below:

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.

Get Your Flares for July 4th!

Flares will be sold once again this year for display around the lake on July 4th.

Contact Bill Hallahan (938-2339) or Carrie Godkin (938-5457) to purchase your flares. Pricing is the same as last year: \$4 per flare; \$10 for 3 flares; \$15 for 5 flares.

Reminder: Flares have chemicals that can enter the lake. Please place something under your flares. Aluminum pie pans will be provided when you purchase your flares.

We all enjoy the fireworks displays on July 4th. Please take the responsibility for cleaning up debris from your celebrations so that sharp pieces or chemicals do not cause safety or pollution issues.

Currently Serving BLPA Officers

Contact Information

President:	Steve Domber	938-2485
Vice President:	Vicki Willard	938-2547
Treasurer:	Bob Wright	938-5504
Clerk:	Betsy Fowler	938-5367

New officers and directors selected at the Annual Meeting on July 26, 2014 will be listed in the Fall Newsletter.

Lake Lowering

Many around the lake took advantage of the opportunity to do some dock and shoreline maintenance this past fall. Repairs were made on the dam as reported by Bruce Ellsworth in our winter newsletter.

The next routine lake lowering for the purpose of dam inspection will be in the fall of 2018.

Why We Weed Watch and Why We Need Your Help

Vicki Willard

QUESTION: What is the difference between Blaisdell Lake and Lake Massasecum?

ANSWER: A serious lake-threatening milfoil infestation.

First, the bad news: An April 2014 article in *The Bradford Bridge* by John R. Rice (bradfordbridge.com) reported that in 2012, recreational divers on Lake Massasecum discovered milfoil in water too deep to be seen by surface weed watchers. In 2013, similar deep growths were located in 10-12' of water in areas previously thought to be milfoil-free. Milfoil has recurred in the north end previously thought to be under control. The NH DES is now involved and has recommended that fragment net barriers be re-installed and herbicides be re-applied in the north cove. To combat the infestation, six lake residents voluntarily trained to be Weed Control Divers (WCD), and they harvested 118 gallons of milfoil by hand from multiple locations – sounds like a lot, but quite literally a “drop in the bucket” relative to the increasing infestation. The Lake Massasecum Improvement Association (MLIA) is asking that additional summer residents train to become WCDs. This miserable plant is currently growing and spreading faster than the MLIA can contain and remove it from the lake, and it is having a financial impact on lake owners as they pay for a fulltime WCD, herbicide treatment and netting. Owners have valid concerns that property values will soon be affected.

Now -the good news: At this time, we believe Blaisdell Lake is milfoil-free, but that could change in an instant. As a smaller, shallower lake than Massasecum, milfoil would spread like wildfire in Blaisdell Lake. The results would be devastating, and therefore we must be vigilant and proactive. We need help from all BLPA members.

What we can do: Please sign up for a two-hour beach weed watch shift, inspecting and educating boaters who use our boat launch. Last season, 35 BLPA members watched 2-8 hours each so that we were able to cover 78% of the shifts. *If 20 additional members signed up for just one two-hour weed watch shift, we would have 100% coverage and potentially reduce our risk of milfoil and other invasive species infection.*

Additionally, if you boat, fish, snorkel, swim, float, paddleboard or anything else in and around the lake, keep your eyes open for unusual vegetation growth that you've never noticed before. Note the location and report it to a board member immediately. If possible, collect a sample for identification. For information on invasive species go to http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/publications/wd/documents/frightful_fourteen.pdf.

To sign up for Weed Watch just go to www.blpoa.org and find the Weed Watch link on the right-hand side of the home page!!

“Let’s Get the Lead Out” Campaign

The New Hampshire Lakes Association has encouraged the Blaisdell Lake Protective Association to participate in the “Let’s Get the Lead Out!” campaign for 2014. Lead poisoning from fishing tackle is still the largest known cause of adult loon mortality in New Hampshire and is deadly to other wildlife as well.

Carrie Godkin is accepting lead fishing gear at the boat launch site to assist in the safe disposal. She can also be contacted at 938-5457.

Urgent Reminder! If you have not yet paid your 2014 Membership Dues, please do so now by sending a check payable to BLPA to Peg DeMone at PO Box 462, South Sutton, NH 03273

Russell (Pud) Ellsworth
1910-2014

Russell (Pud) Ellsworth of Spruce Point passed away on May 8, 2014 at the age of 104. You will remember Pud for, among other things, leading the annual July 4th Boat Parade in his 1928 twenty-four foot Chris Craft.

At its May 24th Board of Directors' meeting, the Board asked his son, Bruce, to offer a brief history of his father's association with Blaisdell Lake. That history follows:

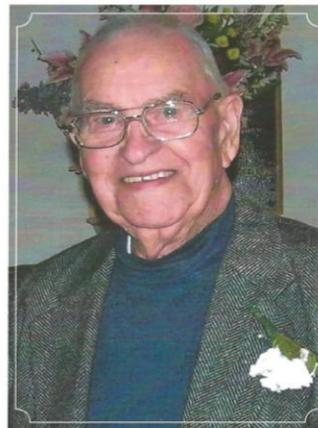
"Dad's first association with Blaisdell Lake actually began in Warner. Following the end of World War II he joined his wife Louise's family business, the Ela Box Company, which manufactured wooden ammunition boxes, apple boxes, and other box "shook" for the federal government in a water-powered mill on the Warner River. Ela Box Co, like other manufacturing companies along the river between Warner and Bradford, depended on a strong flow of water in the river, and during the summer months when water was low, water rights were arranged through the Kearsarge Reservoir Company to take water from Blaisdell Lake on Friday nights in order to assure a strong flow in the river on Monday mornings.

"Dad's wife's parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents owned the "Ela Cottage" right beside the dam, and they spent a lot of time at the lake. When land became available at Spruce Point in 1937 my folks bought it and made plans to build a log cabin. Logs were floated down the river from Wright's Beach, ponded in the cove next to what is now the boat house and, one by one, hauled up on the shore where he peeled them by hand, cut them to size with a buck saw, hewed out the ends with an axe, and hauled them into place with a cable attached to a Model T Ford truck. He built a large stone fireplace, and we lived there every summer from June to September. He added the boat house and, of course, a work shop and, in 1954, the Chris Craft. Much of the interior, including the dining room table, beds, curtain rods, and lamp fixtures are made from tree limbs and branches from the property.

Due in part to the fact that the mills no longer needed water, and in part because the dam at the east end of the lake leaked so much, Dad sold the dam's water rights in 1950 to a newly-formed Blaisdell Lake

Property Owners Association for the price of \$1.00. (Some of you will remember that in 2010 the Association finally paid Dad the \$1.00). Dad was one of the founding members of the BLPOA, served on its Board and as its President, and operated and maintained the dam through much of his life.

The BLPOA - now re-named the BLPA - has always been a large part of Spruce Point's life. The Pud Ellsworths, the Edgar Winslows, and the Earl Littles were all founding members. Contributions to many of the Association's activities - the Fire Station, brush piles for fishing, dam maintenance and repair, and lots of others were developed in the living rooms and on the docks at Spruce Point. And then, of course, there was the search for "The Man With The Hairy Chest", but that's the subject for another time.



In Loving Memory of
Russell "Pud" J. Ellsworth
February 10, 1910 — May 8, 2014

Other Friends of BLPA, recently passed away:

Richard J. Adzima, age 79, of Stratford, CT, passed away on Tuesday, February 11, 2014. He is survived by his wife, Eleanor, children and grandchildren, with whom he shared many happy times at their summer home on Blaisdell Lake.

Norman Forand, age 80, of Manchester, NH, died on May 13, 2014. Norm and his wife, Peg (who survives him), operated a Bed and Breakfast inn in Sutton Mills, NH and also lived on Blaisdell Hill Road for a number of years before moving to Manchester, NH.

Robert O'Brien, 75, of Pembroke, passed away on Sunday, May 25, 2014. Bob is survived by his wife, Helene, and a daughter, Kelly. His daughter, Mary-Lee, passed away last year.