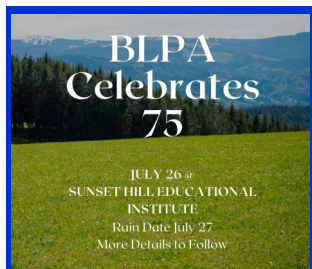




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- ✓ Save the date: July 26 at Sunset Hill Educational Institute (SHEI)
- ✓ Volunteers needed!
- ✓ Be part of the celebration planning and organization
- ✓ Enjoy a safe, warm and healthy winter!

President's Corner

Wow, where did summer go? I was very surprised when it was time to move home from camp after Labor Day. Camp is my happy place, filled with wonderful memories of my grandparents and family gatherings. It's where I feel totally relaxed.

My mother and I are lucky enough to each own a camp next to each other near Spruce Point. About five years ago, while reading my grandfather's camp journals, I found a 1939 receipt from Sears Roebuck for a metal septic tank—38" by 48" for \$14.95. Knowing this old system wasn't legal, we started considering options, especially since neither system had been updated since 1950. An engineer confirmed the systems weren't working

properly and didn't meet today's standards.

The question was whether the expense of new systems was worth it. For us, protecting the lake was essential, and without new septic systems, we couldn't be sure we weren't polluting it. In addition, my camp needed new posts and drains to address dampness, so we took on the project.

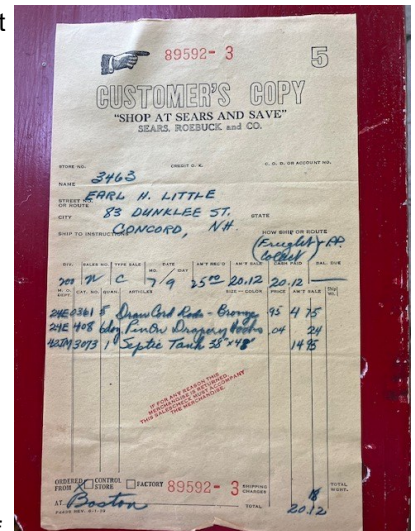
Clearing out decades of "just in case" items took many trips to the dump and most of the summer of 2023.

The new systems were finally installed in fall 2023, and the improvements have been life-changing—no more dampness, no more washed-out driveway, and no more

septic worries. It feels great to be responsible stewards of the lake. Now, the next generation can enjoy it safely.

Happy fall to everyone. Wishing you a good winter, and see you in the spring!

Cynde Robbins



Wabasso Secured for Conservation and Community

The Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts (GSEMA) are moving forward with the sale of Camp Wabasso, having accepted a proposal from an anonymous donor that meets the full appraised value and includes an endowment to support the proper-



ty's ongoing operation indefinitely. This commitment from GSEMA and the donor all but guarantees that the properties will be conserved, nearly eliminating the risk of land development.

(Continued next page)

Wabasso 2.0 *From Page 1*

Both GSEMA and the donor envision a future for Camp Wabasso focused on conservation and preservation, with educational and recreational opportunities in nature for children and the broader community. The goal is clear: Camp Wabasso will continue as a cherished resource where people of all ages can connect with nature. While virtually all parcels will be conserved, proposed uses will vary across

parcels—from continued camp operations to conservation easements allowing low-impact recreation.

The details for realizing this shared vision are still being discussed, but all parties—including GSEMA, the donor, the Town of Sutton, local schools, and nonprofits—are aligned in their dedication to conservation, children, education, and nature preservation. Different ownership and management models are being explored to ensure the best outcome for Wabasso 2.0. The scale and complexity of the project, under a very compressed timeline, has necessitated some adjustments to keep pace with evolving scenarios and meet GSEMA and donor priorities.

At a recent open house at Wabasso, the retired GSEMA CEO shared her legal team's initial response to the donor's offer: 'Is this for real?!' Thankfully, it is. The most important takeaway is that everyone involved

shares a unified commitment to preserving Wabasso properties as a natural, educational, and recreational resource for generations to come. While there are many paths to achieving this vision, what matters most is that it becomes a reality.



Stakeholders and Select Board toured Wabasso in late October

Why should you become LakeSmart?

What happens on your property affects the lake.

[LakeSmart properties](#) create clean, clear, and healthy water, recreational opportunities, higher property values, and better habitat for wildlife.



Volunteers Make Quick Work of Rte. 114 Fall Cleanup

By Gary Dellert

We had another great turnout on a beautiful fall day for the BLPA Adopt-A-Highway cleanup along Rte 114. With a team of ten dedicated volunteers, our three-mile stretch was tidied up within an hour, resulting in 13 bags of trash collected. Although the DOT hadn't mowed along the roadside, we're confident we'll catch anything we missed come spring.

A lighthearted moment: one volunteer (who shall remain anonymous) commented,

"Wow! Some people are real pigs!"—though that might be a bit unfair to the pigs! This time, the three 'hidden' scratch tickets were found and not just tossed with the trash. Marylou Steblai won a dollar, while Dorothy and Andy Jeffrey found the others but went home empty-handed.

Many thanks to our amazing volunteers: Bruno and Marilou Steblai, Dorothy and Andy Jeffrey, Kim Henley, Kathy Hirschfeld, Gail Olson, Bob McCourt, Betsy Fowler, and Gary Dellert. Thanks to everyone's efforts, the cleanup was quick, easy, and successful!



Many thanks to Gary (r) and his crew (from l to r) Andy Jeffrey, Kathy Hirschfeld, Betsy Fowler, and Gail Olson.



Learn more and support clean and healthy lakes in New Hampshire at nhlakes.org

Highlights from the BLPA Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Blaisdell Lake Protective Association took place on July 27 at the historic Pillsbury Barn at Muster Field Farm in North Sutton, this year sharing space with the NH Beekeepers Association's summer picnic. Members approved a new Executive Committee slate: President Cynde Robbins, Vice President Jenn McCourt, Treasurer Kristine Mozes, and Clerk Betsy Fowler. New board members Kim Henley, Heather Turner, Paul Ezen, and Steve Domber were also elected to replace outgoing members.

The meeting featured reports from various committees and a special presentation from Andrea LaMoreaux, President of NH LAKES (see page 4). Dis-

cussions included updates on the Girl Scouts of Eastern MA's intent to sell the Camp Wabasso properties (see pp 1-2).

Among the committee reports, Doug DeLand, who stepped into the late Bruce Ellsworth's role, shared that last year's dam resurfacing was highly successful and completed well under budget. Chris Kelley reported stable water quality, with Colby-Sawyer's analysis confirming no concerns. The Rt 114 Low Salt initiative was approved and implemented successfully last winter, and Susan Kenrick announced plans for a Wright's Beach enhancement project to add sand next spring. Gary Dellert reported effective roadside cleanup efforts, while Gail



Olson shared updates on the nesting loon pair, whose recent nesting attempt, unfortunately, failed to yield offspring.

Jenn McCourt has been diligently pursuing efforts to address the failing culverts under Rt 114 that feed directly into Blaisdell Lake. She consulted with a wetlands scientist who believes there is a strong case for permitting to dredge and

replace these culverts, an essential step toward protecting lake water quality. Meanwhile, a committee has been formed to plan a diamond jubilee celebration for BLPA's 75th anniversary in 2025. As a 75th fundraising effort, Kristen Kelley was present at the meeting to deliver and sell 2025 BLPA calendars, a portion of which the Kelley family generously donated in memory of Bruce Ellsworth.

Save the Date: BLPA Celebrates 75 Years in 2025!

Mark your calendars for a special milestone! Next year, the Blaisdell Lake Protective Association (BLPA) will celebrate its 75th anniversary, and we're planning a memorable Diamond Jubilee weekend. The celebration will take place on Saturday, July 26, 2025, on the campus of the Sunset Hill Educational Institute (SHEI) at the top of Blaisdell Hill Road, preceded by our Annual Meeting earlier that day.

In case of rain, the Annual Meeting will still take place on Saturday, while the 75th Celebration will move to Sunday, July 27 at SHEI.



To support the festivities, Kristen Kelley created a beautiful 2025 BLPA Calendar filled with nostalgic images from around the lake—some dating back to before BLPA was established. The calendar included historic

photos of Wright's Beach, the Dog House, camps around the lake, aerial views from the FAA days, and more. Calendar sales raised \$1,500, with all profits

going towards our 75th anniversary events.

Volunteers and ideas are needed to make this a great success, so please step up to help. Contact Betsy Fowler betsyfowler3@gmail.com to let her know that you want to be on the organizational team. Thanks in advance, we need YOU!

We're looking forward to celebrating this incredible milestone together. Save the weekend of July 26-27, 2025, and join us in honoring 75 years of BLPA's dedication to Blaisdell Lake!

NH LAKES Encourages Blaisdell Lake Stewards

Andrea LaMoreaux, President and Policy Advocate for NH LAKES, addressed the BLPA membership at the July Annual Meeting, introducing NH LAKES as an organization committed to preserving New Hampshire's lakes and freshwater ecosystems. Their mission is centered on promoting sustainable practices and engaging communities in conservation to keep lakes clean and healthy for future generations. Andrea praised BLPA's efforts in managing Blaisdell Lake, especially through voluntary water testing and Weed Watch inspections. She also noted concerns from ELAP data about

stormwater runoff and elevated nutrient levels but acknowledged BLPA's proactive steps to address these issues. "This is the best run Association meeting I have been to, and I go to a lot of these meetings," Andrea told the group.

Andrea highlighted key NH LAKES initiatives that align with BLPA's commitment to lake stewardship:

1. LAKE SMART Program: This program educates property owners on lake-friendly practices, such as reducing runoff, preventing erosion, and maintaining clean water. Several BLPA members are already certified LAKE SMART, with others in the application

process. All members are encouraged to participate.

2. Conserving Undeveloped Land: NH LAKES works with communities to protect undeveloped land around lakes, which helps preserve natural habitats, reduce pollution, and maintain water quality. Efforts at Camp Wabaso (see pp 1-2) support this goal.

3. Community Engagement and Education: NH LAKES collaborates with towns, nonprofits, and lake associations to raise awareness and promote conservation through workshops, re-

sources, and partnerships, fostering sustainable practices for long-term lake health.

These initiatives reflect NH LAKES' dedication to community-driven lake stewardship and sustainable land management.



President of NH LAKES
Andrea LaMoreaux



BLPA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

MEMBERSHIPS

86 Paid Memberships to date

82 Paid Members in 2023

DONATIONS, LEGACY DONATIONS, AND BEQUESTS

25 Members sent a donation in with their dues renewal

1 Non-Member donation

2 Legacy Donations in memory of Bruce Ellsworth

BOAT LAUNCH AND DOCKAGE

6 Motorized Season Passes

3 Non-Motorized Season Passes

5 Motorized Day Launches

4 Non-Motorized Day Launches

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP

45 Attendees; 33 Eligible Voting Members

With thanks to

Vicki Willard - Membership Committee



*Thanks to the talented
Gretchen Gudefin for the
beautiful painting that serves
as our newsletter masthead.*

Peg Dellert contributed this creative display as part of a new tradition this fall - Sutton To Crow About! Over 90 scarecrows were scattered about town and raised nearly \$1,700 to fund future Sutton community gatherings. Sara LaMott also participated with a scarecrow fisherman warning drivers to SLOW DOWN!

Gerry Little Strachan Celebrates 100 Years Young!



By Cynde Robbins

My mother, Gerry Little Strachan, turns 100 years young November 21, 2024. She and I spent 22 years summering together on Blaisdell Lake after my dad died. She always loved the camp that her dad started building in 1938. She told me that she and her brother Herb as kids lugged rocks for the stone fireplace. They would work some and then could play out of the cold wind in giant wooden boxes that housed all the tools her father needed to build the camp.

Mom went to UNH during WWII and basically the school was all girls during the war. I remember seeing a picture of her college friends sitting on the dock in what looked like white 2 piece bathing

suits which turned out to be their underwear. How scandalous! They had used valuable gas rations to go up to camp and didn't realize it would be warm enough to sunbath so they made do.

Over the years, we learned to swim and waterski at camp. Mom always joined right in and the day she learned to waterski was a happy one for her. She has taught me so much. Before the time when parents carted kids to games and practices, we stayed home and she taught me how to knit, sew, garden, preserve and cook. All things that I still enjoy.

She has had a long full life enjoying her family. She's such a treasure! Please join me in wishing Mom a very happy 100th birthday!

Loon Update: A Failed Nest and a Social Gathering

This year brought both disappointment and excitement in the ongoing saga of Blaisdell Lake's loon pair. After weeks of anticipation, the nest that many had hoped would yield new life ultimately failed. A representative from the Loon Preservation Committee visited the lake to inspect the nest and confirmed that the egg was not viable. The egg was collected for potential testing, though due to high costs, not all eggs are tested. Gail Olson reports that if Blaisdell's egg is selected for testing, the committee will share the results with us. Fingers crossed for more success next year!

But the season wasn't without its charm. With the nest vacated, Blaisdell Lake transformed into a "Teen Scene" for loons, with as many as seven loons spotted together at one time (see Joe Hen-

ley's photo below). This gathering of young and adult loons provided lake residents with unique viewing opportunities as these social creatures enjoyed the lake together.

While the nesting attempt didn't yield a new chick this year, the presence of these loons reminds us of Blaisdell Lake's importance as a habitat. We'll continue to keep a watchful eye on our loon visitors and hope for a successful nesting season next year!



Working Together for Traffic Safety

Representing concerned property owners along Rte. 114, Sara LaMott, Bethany Boucier, Sue Solimine, Jenny Wright and Heather Turner have taken steps to address traffic safety on the stretch of road near Wrights Beach. This spring, the group requested that NH DOT conduct a speed study, which was completed the week of April 15. The study revealed over 1,000 vehicles passing through at an average speed of 41.8 mph in a 30 mph zone, with recorded speeds ranging from 34 to 50 mph. More than 60% of vehicles exceeded 40 mph during the study period.

The team gathered procedural guidance from DOT on permitted signage options. Their goal is to eventually install two permanent solar radar signs that display passing vehicle speeds, alerting drivers to reduce their speed. These radar units are costly, and neither the town nor the state currently covers such expenses. The group hopes to share the data with the Sutton Police and seek support from the town to pursue a solution to improve safety in this area.



We want to hear your story!

- [Send us stories](#) to share with our fellow members
- Family stories about your camp or cottage
- Pictures, memorabilia and other lake memories
- History of how you came to Blaisdell Lake
- And much more!



BUBBLER SAFETY REMINDER

If you plan to use a winter dock de-icer, commonly referred to as a bubbler, you will need a permit from the town, plus:

- Post the area with a sign that is clearly visible to warn of thin ice/open water.
- Use a timer and thermostat to limit the number of hours and the temperature at which the bubbler operates to confine open areas to the immediate vicinity of your dock.

[Learn more about bubbler safety here.](#)

In Memoriam

Anne Margaret Oldick (1967 — 2024)

Anne Margaret Oldick, 56, died peacefully Monday May 20th, after an extended struggle with many health issues. Daughter of the late Alvin D. and Anne F. Higgs, she grew up in the village of Florida, NY. After graduating from the SS Seward Institute, she earned a bachelor's degree in education from Alfred University.

Most important was her family, who she was always glad to have time with. She was happiest when she was able to spend time with her youngest nephew at the family camp on the southern end of Blaisdell Lake, swimming, canoeing or just playing games.

Anne is survived by her husband William "Bill" Oldick, her brother Alvin "Ed" and his wife Amanda Higgs and two nephews, Oliver Higgs and Brock Oldick, who were both a source of great joy and pride.



Dam Cleanup a Success: Thank You to Our Dedicated Volunteers

A huge thank you to the dedicated volunteers who came together for this year's dam cleanup! Led by Jeff Ellsworth, the team tackled essential brush clearing around the dam, as required by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES). Volunteers Jeff Ellsworth, Doug DeLand, Gary Dellert, Bob, Jenn, and Trevor McCourt made quick work of the task, removing three loads of brush and cutting down one dead ash tree.

The Dam Committee, chaired by Doug DeLand, provided an update on the overall condition and maintenance of the dam:

- The five-year drawdown and dam maintenance were

completed in the fall, with resurfacing, debris removal, and replacement of older planks at the bottom of the dam.

- The project was completed under budget, with the lake returning to normal levels by December.

- The current water level is good and is continuously monitored to maintain stability.

Looking ahead, the next scheduled drawdown and maintenance is set for fall 2028, with plans to begin the drawdown right after Labor Day to allow adequate time. The Dam Committee members—Don Hall, Doug DeLand, Jeff Ellsworth, Jenn McCourt, Buster Brown, and



Gary Dellert—are committed to ongoing maintenance.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the dam's upkeep. This community effort, with the possibility of naming it "The Ellsworth Dam," truly shows how much can be accomplished when we work together!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

- Brad Bohn & Kate Fernald (Hearne property on Blaisdell Hill Road)
- Brandon & Allison Battis (new build on Rte. 114, also Dock Owners Association)

New Septic Requirements

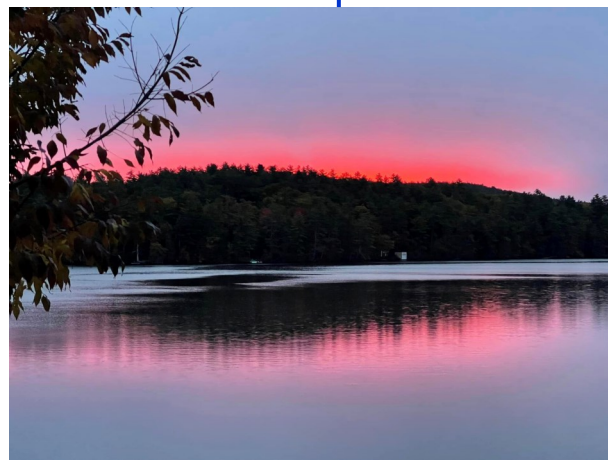
Laura Hallahan, BLPA member and local realtor, shared details of NH House Bill 1113, which went into effect on September 1 of this year. Please be aware that this new legislation could impact property transactions near the lake.

Under this new law, the responsibility for septic system evaluation shifts from the seller to the buyer. If any part of a property's septic system is within 250 feet of the reference line, the buyer must hire a licensed septic evaluator to assess the system. Additionally, if the system was never approved or was approved prior to September 1, 1989, the buyer

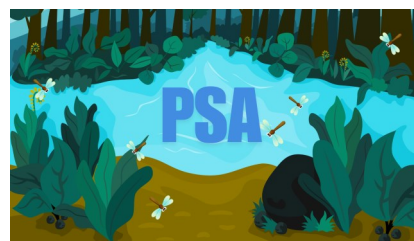
must also engage a septic system designer. The designer will evaluate the elevation of the effluent disposal area in relation to the seasonal high-water table to determine if the system is failing.

If the system shows signs of failure, it must be repaired or replaced within one year of the property transfer. The buyer must submit the evaluation report to both the NH Department of Environmental Services and the town health officer.

For questions, feel free to email Laura laura@ljhsells.com or call 603-848-2020.



Another spectacular sunrise from Susan Solimine's front row seat!



In New Hampshire, the placement and maintenance of portable toilets near water bodies are subject to specific regulations to protect public health and the environment. These regulations include placing portable toilets at least 50 feet from the shoreline or any body of water.

Blaisdell Lake Protective Association

PO Box 453
South Sutton, NH 03273
www.blpoa.org



BLPA IS A 501(C)(3)
ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO
THE PROTECTION AND
ENHANCEMENT OF BLAISDELL
LAKE AND ITS WATERSHED

BLPA Executive Committee

President - Cynde Robbins

Vice President - Jenn McCourt

Treasurer - Kristine Mozes

Clerk - Betsy Fowler

Past President - Steve Domber

Direct all correspondence to
betsyfowler3@gmail.com

Please note:
Two (2)
boards were
pulled from
the dam
over
Veteran's
Day
weekend to
set the
winter lake
level.



The trophy for last boat out for the season goes to Al Byam, November 7. We enjoyed an exceptional warm and sunny autumn!

Back Page Story -- BLPA Launches Dog-Friendly Trial



The BLPA Board of Directors has voted to support a trial period of allowing dogs on Wright's Beach from Labor Day until Memorial Day. Dog owners are reminded to pick up after their pets.

Kindly direct omissions, corrections, and suggestions for additional content to Newsletter Editor, Dorothy Jeffrey djeffrey@comcast.net