



BLPA Newsletter

Spring/Summer 2024



President's Corner

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As I sat down to write this President's message, I began to reflect on the idea of change - some of it welcome and some of it not so welcome. We see the welcome change of seasons, new faces and families around the lake, and hopefully, a few new loons making Lake Blaisdell their home. But in the category of "not-so-welcome change", it's also inevitable that we will experience the loss of friends and loved ones throughout the year and our lake

Lake Blaisdell is a big part of my history and is home to many traditions including summer vacations, water and snow skiing adventures, Specials at the Dog House and fundraisers on the beach, Red Hot Fireballs from Wrights General Store,

today, and your kids and grandkids involvement too. So much of what we enjoy about the lake is impacted by BLPA and its mission of lake protection via dam maintenance and water quality monitoring and simply by creating a community. All



Blaisdell Spring Rainbow

Susan Solimine Photo

this work is carried out by a volunteer board and funded by your membership dues. We need the next generation to become an active part of the Blaisdell Lake community and the BLPA to ensure that traditions can continue and the future can

family is no exception. BLPA lost several community members this year including Bruce Ellsworth, John Godkin and Tori Willard, and our sympathies go out to all of their families. More personally, it's the passing of my uncle and former BLPA-er, Frank Leichthammer, that has put me in the surprising position of family patriarch, a title which I feel way too young to be stepping into but here I am.

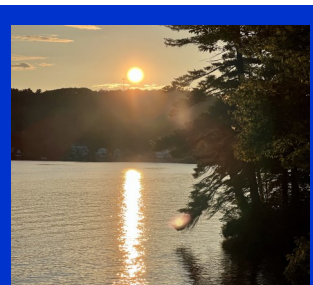
4th of July boat parades and fireworks, and simply sitting on the dock and taking in the same view year after year. It is up to all of us to continue to tell the stories and traditions of Blaisdell and in doing so, to keep the memory of those individuals that have had such a positive impact on the Lake alive. BLPA also plays a large role in those memories and in ensuring that those traditions can continue to happen year after year for me as well as for my kids and the generations to come. To keep Blaisdell and BLPA vibrant into the future, we need your involvement

be full of possibilities. Speaking of the future, 2025 will mark the 75th anniversary of BLPA! Plans are still developing, but we could use some help to make them happen.

There is a lot of great information in this edition. Some of it touches on topics that have the potential to impact Blaisdell's future. So read up, enjoy, and think about how you can help!

And maybe do an "anti-rain" dance so that it doesn't rain every weekend this summer!

Steve Domber



Reminders ...

- ✓ Pay your BLPA membership dues
- ✓ Use only LED flares
- ✓ Get your smart lock pin code
- ✓ Always LOCK THE GATE behind you



Celebrate Independence Day at the Lake!

Saturday, July 6th

Boat Parade at 4 PM Show your spirit! Decorate your boat and come in costume for the Pud Ellsworth Boat Parade. Boats will line up as they arrive at Spruce Point for a full lap around the lake.

Electronic Flares at 9 PM We strongly encourage everyone to go green and purchase battery-operated LED flares. They are a safe and reusable option that still put on a great display.

Please be respectful of your neighbors and our lake.

Clean Up All Fireworks Debris: Help keep our lake beautiful and safe by properly disposing of all debris.

Limit Use to Designated Night: Please only use fireworks on the specified night to minimize disturbances and impact on our lake community. Pass this along to your visitors and renters.

Fireworks can impact our pets and local wildlife, affect lake quality, and pose challenges for people suffering from PTSD and respiratory illnesses. Thank you for your consideration and cooperation.

Bradford Independence Day Celebration

Saturday, June 29th

5K Road Race at 9 AM

Nick's Other Band Performance from 7-9 PM

Fireworks at 9 PM

Thursday, July 4th

Sutton Annual Parade The Sutton Historical Society will sponsor the traditional Fourth of July parade on Thursday, July 4. Meet up at the corner of Roby Road and 114 at 11 AM if you want to march. Otherwise don't blink as the parade passes by!

It's Not Too Late: BLPA Membership

Thanks to all who have submitted your membership dues to date. It's not too late to join BLPA for the 2024 season. Your previous pin code for the boat launch should remain in effect.

Dues are essential to fund operating expenses, including beach taxes, water quality testing, dam registration and more. New members are always welcome. Please share this invitation with any new friends or neighbors who are interested in joining our lake community.

directory on the BLPA website. This is a "Members Only" directory and we expect that our members will not share the information with outsiders or use it for business purposes.

For more info, contact: **Vicki Willard**, Membership Chair
vepwillard@mac.com 603-938-2547

Betsy Fowler,
betsyfowler3@gmail.com
603-938-5367



Save the Date - BLPA Annual Meeting

BLPA Annual Meeting

July 27 @ 10 AM

**Pillsbury Barn
Muster Field Farm
North Sutton**

Please join us for the BLPA Annual Meeting on Saturday, July 27 at 10 AM. We will once again meet in the historic Pillsbury Barn at Muster Field Farm in North Sutton. NH LAKES will present and answer questions.

Send your check made out to BLPA for \$100 to:

**BLPA
Attn: Membership
PO Box 453
South Sutton, NH 03273**

The latest edition of the BLPA Membership Directory will be emailed to members in good-standing later in the summer. Because of privacy concerns, we will not publish the

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

Voices Carry: Let's Keep the Lake Tranquil for All

While anchoring on the lake is perfectly legal in New Hampshire, we ask you to be considerate of your neighbors. Voices carry over water, and loud conversations or music can disrupt the peace for others nearby.

New Hampshire law states that water bodies over 10 acres in size are public bodies of water, so anchoring is allowed. While there are noise lim-

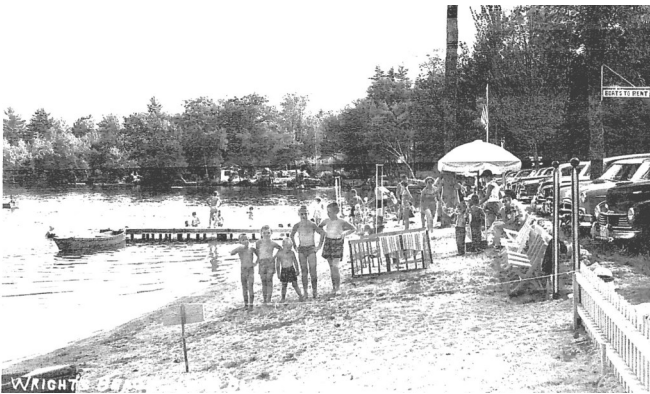
its for marine engines, there are no specific noise limits for gatherings of people on the water.

It's also important to ensure safe navigation for everyone. When anchoring, make sure your vessel does not interfere with the movement of other boats. Anchored vessels should be positioned to prevent any obstructions, especially near launching ramps, or in other high-traffic areas.



By being mindful of noise and positioning, we can all enjoy the beauty and tranquility of the lake together. Thank you for helping to keep our lake a peaceful and enjoyable place for everyone.

BLPA Turns 75 in '25



Wright's Beach back in the day - Photo courtesy of Chan Blodgett

Next year marks the semi-sesquicentennial (say that three times fast!) anniversary of the Blaisdell Lake Protective Association. Originally formed in 1950 as the Blaisdell Lake Property Owners Association, our organization has focused on preserving and maintaining the dam, protecting the local environment and lake water quality, and ensuring the safety and well-being of our members and their guests as they enjoy the lake.

To celebrate this diamond jubilee, BLPA is planning a membership-wide gathering with details to be worked out over the coming months. Additional fundraising and commemorative activities will include a 2025 calendar featuring highlights from the past 75 years at the lake.

We encourage volunteers to step forward to help plan and execute a fun summer of community and reminiscing. Your assistance is crucial to making next summer's celebrations a success.

NH LAKES: Celebrating Lake-Friendly Practices

NH LAKES is a nonprofit organization working to restore and preserve the health of New Hampshire's lakes. Their efforts include a mobilized statewide network of advocates working to implement public policies and laws, and building an engaged and connected statewide community of residents and visitors taking action to live, do business, and recreate in a way that restores and preserves the health of our lakes.

LakeSmart is a free, non-regulatory, and voluntary education and recognition program offered by NH LAKES to lake communities throughout the state to help property owners live and manage their properties in a lake-friendly way. The goal is to encourage property owners to maintain their homes and property in ways that protect lake water quality, wildlife habitat, and property values.

Sutton residents and the NH LAKES Team gath-

ered together along the shoreline of Kezar Lake last fall to celebrate the first award of its kind in New Hampshire—the LakeSmart Community Award. The Kezar Lake Protective Association is the first group to receive this prestigious award in New Hampshire. Over the past two years, property owners in the Kezar Lake community have adopted lake-friendly living practices so that the lake doesn't become as toxic and unhealthy to swim in again as it was nearly 50 years ago.

BLPA is a longstanding member of NH Lakes. [We encourage you to learn more about LakeSmart](#) and NH Lakes to help care for the lake we all love.



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

Blaisdell Personalities: Pat Rooney

By Chan Blodgett

Co-owner of the Dog House; Developer of Wright's Beach

Pat Rooney's grandfather came from Ireland as a prize fighter. His son Pat Rooney Jr. (the first) became a well-known Vaudeville entertainer who developed his signature soft shoe dance, the Waltz Clog, to the tune of "The Daughter of Rosie O'Grady". His son Pat Rooney III (born 1909) followed in his footsteps, and they worked as a team in the 1930 - 40's era of vaudeville. I had an opportunity at a young age to see them at the Palace Theatre in New York. Their dance number was amazing, they danced back-to-back with such precision that you could only see one figure from the front or the back. After that Pat played in Guys & Dolls, his last summer stock show was probably in the 1950s.

After his father died in 1962, Pat changed his name from Pat Rooney III to Pat Rooney Jr (the second).



During the 30's Pat occasionally came to Sutton to visit his longtime friend Buster West, another vaudeville entertainer, and Buster's wife, Lucelle an acrobatic dancer. He soon met up with Estelle Wright and they quickly became very close. Early in WWII, Pat joined the army, and was stationed in California. Soon he received

his orders to go overseas to the South Pacific, so Estelle traveled to California by train and they were married on base.

Almost immediately after he left for the war no one heard from Pat for two to three years, until a phone call from Saranac Lake NY Pulmonary disease hospital. In another three to four

months, Pat was back at Blaisdell Lake. Next thing we knew Tom Lowe Sr. and Don Lowe towed a bakery roadside stand from South Sutton to the future site of the Dog House. Pat remodeled the structure with the full front counter and kitchen inside. The next year he added the dining room. The Dog House remained very popular until after Pat died in 1979. Estelle managed the stand for a few more years after Pat's death, and closed it down in 1982.

Once the Dog House was up and running, Pat turned his talents toward developing Wright's beach as we know it today. The original beach was about 20-30 feet wide at the southern end of the current beach, the rest of the area was shallow undeveloped natural shoreline, with lots of frogs, and other common fauna and flora.



BEACH RULES REMINDER

Please, **NO DOGS** on Wright's Beach and **NO FISHING** from Wright's Beach

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

Respecting Wright's Beach: Guidelines for All Users

Per the BLPA By-Laws, Wright's Beach is reserved exclusively for voting members of the Blaisdell Lake Protective Association. Please note that if you rent your property, renters may only use Wright's Beach when personally accompanied by the voting member.

- Family members of voting members may use Wright's Beach.
- Family members and guests of voting members sixteen years and younger must be accompanied by an adult while they are using Wright's Beach.
- Guests of voting members may use Wright's Beach while visiting the voting member.
- The voting member must accompany tenants, renters, lodgers, and/or boarders while they are using Wright's Beach.

Keeping You Informed: Updates from Around the Lake

Wabasso in Limbo

There's nothing definitive to share regarding the future of the Camp Wabasso property. BLPA has been in contact with the Girl Scouts and has requested to be informed as decisions and next steps emerge. The portion of the property across Rt 114 was logged this spring. We've heard that decisions may be forthcoming in 2025, but that's just one of the rumors circulating. BLPA continues to monitor the situation, and you'll be the first to know when we receive any solid information.

Village Overlay Districts Sutton Politics

The article on the town ballot this spring, proposed by the Planning Board to establish requirements for development within yet-to-be-created Village Overlay Districts through the Conditional Use Permit process, was soundly defeated. The Planning Board is pausing to revisit the Master Plan and engage with the community to discuss certain items that may require clarification. This process has commenced with a series of public hearings. The first was held in May to discuss "what does rural mean to you?" Several BLPA members were present and will remain engaged in this ongoing conversation.

Looney Tunes

The haunting call of loons persists, echoing across the lake at all hours. Following Ice Out (remarkably early in March!), several juvenile loons were sighted on the pond. Soon after, the group was succeeded by a solitary pair of loons. It remains uncertain whether this duo comprises Mama and Papa, and whether any nesting is underway. Should you encounter signs of nesting loons, please inform the BLPA Exec Committee promptly. Your report will enable us to safeguard the nest and its inhabitants.



While road salt usage was minimal during our mild winter, the situation changed during the significant

Quinquennial Lake Lowering

The 2023 lake lowering project wrapped up reasonably well in the post-Bruce Ellsworth era. Bruce's absence in this domain is keenly felt by all. According to Doug DeLand, the substantial rainfall we received last summer and fall posed challenges in achieving the necessary lake level for dam servicing. Nevertheless, our contractor managed to complete the maintenance and repairs on schedule and significantly under budget, despite the obstacles.

snowstorms in late March and early April. This designation marks a small but significant step forward in minimizing pollutants in the runoff waters that flow into our lake.

Warner River Keeps Flowing

Following the completion of the Instream Flow Study, NHDES has progressed to the next phase: compiling a Water Management Plan. NHDES recently visited Blaisdell to conduct a draw-down test, involving the removal of a board from the dam to measure the flow change. Data collection is ongoing as the process moves forward.



Dam face exposed for maintenance and repair in the fall of 2023

Low Salt Victory

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of members Jenn McCourt, Deb Lang, and Henry Howell, the section of Route 114 from Jolly Farm Road to Watkins Avenue has been officially designated as a Low Salt area.



In Memoriam

Bruce Ellsworth (1938 - 2023)



Bruce B. Ellsworth, 85, passed away on October 25th after a short battle with ALS. Bruce was born and raised in Warner, NH, the son of Russell B. (Pud) Ellsworth and Louise Blake Ellsworth.

He graduated from the University of New Hampshire, where he majored in Civil Engineering and participated in the ROTC Program. After college, he spent two years with the U.S. Army on active duty in France. He had a long career with the Army Reserves, from which he retired as a Colonel. He spent 26 years working for the state of New Hampshire in the Public Utilities Commission, ending his career there as a Commissioner. He spent his post-retirement years consulting on energy and regulatory boards.

Bruce is a lifelong parttime resident of Blaisdell Lake, raised from birth at Spruce Point. Bruce met his wife, Gail, on Blaisdell Lake as a teenager and they married in 1964. They have spent every summer at the lake among a close network of friends and family. Bruce played an active role in many facets of the Blaisdell community. He was the Official BLPA Historian and championed the Dam Committee for many years following in his father's footsteps. Bruce was an active member of the BLPA

Board for many years and served as President of the association on more than one occasion.

Bruce was an active volunteer in the town of Hopkinton, NH, serving on its Planning Board and as Town Moderator. He assisted at elections and town meetings for many years. He was also an active member of the First Congregational Church in Hopkinton, having sung in its choir for decades.

Bruce is survived by his wife Gail, his daughter Melissa Jones and her husband Bill, his son Jeffrey Ellsworth and his wife Jennifer, and his four grandchildren, Emily, Tim, Megan and Thomas. He was an only child, but his cousin, Donald Hall, and his brother-in-law, David Young, were like brothers to him.



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!

The BLPA Board of Directors is seeking new members. If you are interested in helping out and would like to serve on the board, please contact

Betsy Fowler.

*betsyfowler3@gmail.com
603-938-5367*

Frank Leichthammer (1946 - 2024)



Frank Leichthammer passed away on January 7, 2024, after a courageous multi-year battle with cancer. Frank was born in Norristown, PA, on January 25, 1946, the son of Frank O. Leichthammer and Margaret Nelson Leichthammer. Frank leaves behind his beloved wife, Laurie Leichthammer, four children Mark, Carl, Andrew, and Ali, and five grandchildren. He also leaves his sons and daughter in law, Bill, Tom, Nina, and Chach; his sister Peggy Domber and nephews.

Frank spent almost all of his summers growing up at Blaisdell Lake, vacationing with his parents, Peg and Frank at his Aunt Isabell and Uncle Earl Little's camp, Little By Little. His parents bought the camp on Bass Point from the Caldwells in 1968. Frank enjoyed the camp with his parents and sisters throughout his life. Frank served on the BLPA Board in the 1985 – 1987 timeframe and is past president of the association.

Following graduation from Waynesburg College Frank enlisted in the Army and was stationed in Germany. Frank ran a business specializing in metal roofing for over 40 years. He married Laurie, the love of his life, in 1991 and blended their two families. Frank and Laurie moved to Dover, NH in 2014 where he

learned how to lobster in the Piscataqua River, enjoyed time with family, and exploring the Seacoast with Laurie.

John Godkin (1946 - 2023)

John Edgar Godkin of Punta Gorda, FL, passed away on October 27, 2023. He was born on November 28, 1946 to James Paul and Emily Vivian (Clark) Godkin. He graduated in 1964 from Eli Whitney Tech in Hamden, CT and attained his Associates Degree from Waterbury State Technical College. John also served his country in the Airforce for 4 years.



He married the love of his life, Carrie Louisa (Boudreau) Godkin on August 11, 1965 in Oxford, CT. John and Carrie lived in Connecticut for 50 years prior to retiring to Blaisdell Lake for 20 years. The couple moved to Punta Gorda in 2021.

John was a great steward of Wright's Beach and the lake during the years he lived across from the beach. Together with Carrie, John worked tirelessly to keep the beach tidy and insure that boats were inspected and registered before launching into the lake.

John will be deeply missed by his wife of 58 years, Carrie; sons Tim & Bob; daughter Dawn; 3 granddaughters and 2 great-grandchildren; and sister Linda Sheehy.

Roadside Clean-Up: A Success Despite Absence of Lucky Winners

By Gary Dellert

Despite the absence of a lucky winner, this year's spring BLPA Roadside Clean-Up was still a success. While there were no fortunate recipients of potential prizes hidden among the trash, the effort of our volunteers made a significant impact. With a total of ten dedicated individuals, we managed to beautify our stretch of Route 114 in just one hour, collecting a total of 18 bags of trash. Although the scratch tickets may have inadvertently ended up in the trash bags, we're grateful for the hard work and dedication of all those who participated. Thank you to everyone who pitched in to help keep our community clean!



(Above) Crew Chief Gary Dellert proudly stands by the haul brought in by this spring's BLPA Roadside Clean-Up crew.

(Right) New lottery ticket affixed to a beer can that sadly and efficiently ended up in the trash!

We are grateful to the following "road warriors":

- Henry and Libby Howell
- Bill and Heather Turner
- Joe and Kim Henley
- Al Byam
- Pete Savickas
- Betsy Fowler
- Gary Dellert

We'll go hunting again in the fall for more treasures! But, next time we'll give some clues so the tickets don't get missed!



WRIGHT'S BEACH BOAT RAMP and BEACH ANCHORAGE RULES

- If you have a pin code to the lock and renew your membership promptly, your pin code remains the same.
- **When using the boat launch, PLEASE make sure you close and properly lock the gate after you at all times.** Fully push up on the shackle to insure the lock is engaged. Do this both after you launch and after you take your boat out of the water.
- Voting members and their families and guests may launch a boat without fees with the expectation that the boat has been inspected for invasive species prior to launch.
- Non-voting members may launch a boat without fees with the expectation that the boat has been inspected for invasive species prior to launch.
- During daylight hours voting members may anchor or tie up boats at the south end of the beach away from the boat ramp and swim area.
- Boats may not be left tied up or anchored on the beach overnight.

Yes, Virginia, there's still a Weed Watch!

Weed Watch is now virtual, but no less important! Please do your part and sign up for On-Call Weed Watch. For more information, visit the [BLPA Weed Watch website](#) page and the [BLPA Boat Launch page](#). Help protect our lake!

A few reminders about use of the beach and boat launch at Wright's Beach:

Blaisdell Lake Protective Association

Private group · 81 members



[Click here to join the private BLPA Facebook page.](#)

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 Contact Information

President - Steve Domber steven.domber72@gmail.com

Vice President - Cynde Robbins cynde.robbins@comcast.net

Treasurer - Kristine Mozes kristine.mozes@gmail.com

Clerk - Betsy Fowler betsyfowler3@gmail.com

Past President - Doug DeLand dkkjdeland@comcast.net

Back Page Story -- Sue See Sunrises by the (Lake)Shore

*Red sky at night, sailors' delight.
Red sky at morning, sailors take
warning.*

Year-round resident Susan Solimine lives on the western shore of Blaisdell Lake, giving her a front-row seat to watch the sunrise across the eastern lakeshore. As an early riser, Sue delights in capturing stunning images of Blaisdell sunrises throughout all seasons. She generously shares many of her beautiful photos on the BLPA Facebook page and is thrilled to offer glimpses of the breathtaking scenes she enjoys while sipping her morning coffee. Thank you, Sue!



(Left) Near Summer Solstice, June, 2024

(Below) Winter Solstice, December, 2023

Susan Solimine Photos

