

THE BOWMAN LAKE NEWSLETTER

Winter, 2013



**HAPPY NEW YEAR
FROM BIG
BOWMAN POND!**

Bowman Lake Association

2012-2013 Board of Directors

President: Cindy LaFleur

Vice President: Janice Anne Kullman

Secretary: Erin Robilotta

Treasurer: Fred Newdom

Immediate Past President:

Sharon Dawes

Board Members/Term End Date:

Bruce Sowalski and Ian Horne, 2013

Barb Mark and Tim Russell, 2014

Dean Choudhri and Wes Krahl, 2015

Appointees:

Historian: Susan Faulkner

Membership Chair: Ian Horne

Newsletter Editor: Susan Faulkner

2013 Partial Events Calendar

2/16: Winterfest at LaFleur's

6/15: BLA Board and Membership meetings
at Kullman's

7/06: Bowman Lake Sing (Chair pending)

7/27: Regatta at Kullman's: Josh Benson,
Chair

8/17: BLA Annual Board and Membership
Meetings at Sowalski/Ferguson's

9/01: End of Summer Pot Luck/
Bowman Lake Talent Show
at Boughton's

10/12: Chili Cook-Off at LaFleur's

TBD: Ladies of the Lake Tea; Men of the Mtn.
event; Tractor Parade; Fishing Derby

A Message from the Bowman Lake Association President:

By the time you will be reading this, 2013 will have officially begun, and I hope all of you had a safe and joyous holiday season. The year round residents of Big Bowman were tested by a three day power outage following a wind storm that heavily impacted Averill Park and Sand Lake. The power was restored on December 23rd, but I'm sure many of us were developing Christmas contingency plans!

As I look back at 2012 and recount my blessings for all of the good things and contemplate the memories of those we lost this year, I am mindful of generations that thrive at Big Bowman, and that we do indeed live in a very unique and special community. I encourage you to take the opportunity to closely look at The Blake Cup; a testament to the history of the community, and the Bowman Lake Association. Following its recent restoration that was arranged by Ron Cahill, The Blake Cup is beginning to resemble the Stanley Cup!

The Bowman Lake Association coordinates the social events that keep our community special and unique, and 2012 was no exception. I'd like to extend many thanks to the Social Committee under the leadership of Bruce Sowalski, and also to those who also organized and hosted events in 2012.

The BLA also faced challenges in 2012 as we as a community attempted to look at solutions for the bladderwort which is impacting the water and recreational quality of Big Bowman. The BLA remains committed to providing science driven, fact based information and opportunities for residents to speak with experts in 2013 so that we can better understand our environment and the changes we are seeing in Big Bowman.

Lastly, many of you received a note from our Membership Chair, Ian Horne, but I'm also passing on a gentle reminder that the BLA is officially on a calendar year dues schedule, so please remit dues (\$20.00 per person) to Fred Newdom, or use the PayPal link on the website www.bowmanlakeny.org. Your prompt payment makes the job of our Treasurer and Membership Chairs, much easier. Thanks in advance.

Hope to see you at Winterfest!

Sincerely, Cindy LaFleur

A Message from the BLA Treasurer, Fred Newdom:

First of all, I want to wish you all a happy and healthy new year. I also want to wish you a happy new fiscal year for which we are still collecting dues. If you haven't paid yet, this would be a great time to do so.

Please remember that it is your dues that fund the activities that we all enjoy each year and that are the foundation of the community on Big Bowman Pond. The Regatta, the Winterfest, the many other social activities over the summer, and the end-of-summer Potluck provide us with a wonderful reminder of the things we have in common and how much we enjoy our very special spot on Taborton.

Please send your dues payment of \$20 per person, made out to Bowman Lake Association, to me at 347 Wellington Road, Delmar, NY 12054 or use PayPal which you can find on the BLA website.

(I'm happy to hear from Susan that Cindy and I are "on the same page" about getting the dues in.)

Fred Newdom

A Message From the BLA Social Committee Chair, Bruce Sowalski:

2013 brings another season of social activities to the Big Bowman Pond community. It's not too early to sign up to chair and host an event. The 82nd Annual Summer Regatta has a Chair already - Josh Benson will be directing this year's event! Let's plan ahead and see if we can top the 81st Regatta for excitement.

Still open and needing a date and a chair: Ladies of the Lake Tea, Men of the Mountain Event, Bowman Lake Tractor Parade, BLA Fishing Derby....

In fact, all events and ideas are open - each year a golf tournament is suggested, still waiting for a certain golfer on Lawson Road to organize..... A bingo night was discussed earlier this year, can do, all it needs is a chair to organize.... So, who's up? (Contact me at bsowals2@nycap.rr.com if you would like to chair an event.)

Thanks,
Bruce

Our very own Winter Wonderland as the New Year begins:

This is what Big Bowman Pond looked like on January 1. There was a magnificent looking storm to the south competing with the sun to lighten or darken the lake. The wind rustled through the trees as if shushing any cares away. Sheltered from the wind, it was a wonderfully relaxing sound. Once out in the open, the wind was like an agile pickpocket, stealing little bits of warmth before I knew what was happening. As I peacefully froze, it certainly was looking promising for Winterfest!



Bowman Lake Association Winterfest!!

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, February 16th at 12 noon!** That's when you can begin to enjoy a fun-filled afternoon starting with **lunch al fresco** at the **LaFleur compound**. If you are open to bringing a side dish to complement the usual Winterfest fare, your contribution would be welcomed and appreciated by all.

At 1:30 the fun begins, with favorite activities as the **Hockey** game, men's and women's **Ice Bowling**, the **Bruce and Lorraine Iditarod** (the foot and cardboard sled race, formerly known as the slalom races), and of course, the **Women's Frying Pan Toss**.

Many thanks to in advance to all of those whta help to keep the rink cleared and ready for the Winterfest. Hope to see you all on February 16th! Bill and Cindy LaFleur

Bowman Lake Community Weed Issue: How Do We Decide?

It's no news to anyone on Big Bowman Pond that Bladderwort has become a major topic of discussion on the lake, sometimes a heated one. As Newsletter Editor, I think about what is relevant to our community and then look for information that I hope may be helpful to us in considering the issues at hand. With the new year, and the inclination to think about intentions for this coming year, I found myself thinking about what might be our intentions in trying to resolve this issue. It got me thinking about how others who have differences of opinion work it out, so I started looking at websites about conflict resolution. The ideas listed below are from a number of different web-sites and represent oft repeated ideas. They may be something that is already happening in our process, but I thought it might be useful just to put "the intention" out there.

- 1) **Listen actively**, that is listen as an act of caring about what the other has to say. Treat each other with respect, these are your friends and neighbors.
- 2) **Define the problem objectively, not subjectively**. The problem is not you against me, the problem is the problem. Define what is really important about the issue to each of the parties, what particular outcome is important, are there any non-negotiable needs, and what obstacles exist to finding a mutually acceptable solution.
- 3) **Think before reacting**. Accept responsibility for what dynamic you are bringing into the discussion. Speak only for yourself and say why what you are saying is important for you to have others hear.
- 4) **See conflict as an inevitable process and a symptom of the need for something to be done differently**: the process toward change might take time. Conflict is not the problem, destructiveness in processing the conflict can be.
- 5) **Look for common interests**. This assumes a cooperative approach to the problem is more likely to produce good outcomes than a competitive approach which assumes parties have different needs and are basically independent of one another.
- 6) **Start with what is doable**. Focus on the future rather on the past, how to work together than what has gone wrong in previous discussions.

Building on Common Interests:

When thinking about looking for and building on commons interests, it's not far to look to see them abound in the Memory Book put together by Elizabeth Marks et. al. Once again, here are some excerpts (with slight editing for reasons of space) that seem particularly evocative of what living on Big Bowman Pond means for most of us is some familiar kind of way.

"I remember homemade sour cream and onion dip, Wise potato chips (the local distributor lived on the lake, Mr. Hiney), bologna sandwiches, cucumber and onion salad, corn of the cob, barbecued chicken and watermelon. I remember the nature and beauty of Big Bowman pond including the bull frogs at night, the feel and sound of a

Building on Common Interests (con't.):

paddle or an oar in the calm waters at dusk, the smell of the freshly oiled Lawson road, feeling safe with my grandmother during an afternoon thunderstorm while she distracted us by beating us in canasta, hiking through the woods searching for blueberries....

"I could go on forever but will conclude with possibly my most cherished memory. It was a very recent memory where Rovie Simons' kids and our kids were playing cards...together on the Copelands' porch. Watching them interact brought back a very vivid and emotional feeling of what it was like to be from Taborton and to be around people from Taborton.. Only someone who has truly experienced Taborton would understand this feeling. It is a bond that will never be broken and, at its core, it is the experience that defines much of who each of us are today." Written by Chucky Bogosta

"Shimmering water through the trees...early morning fog lifting off the water...bull frogs...rain dancing on the roof...Daddy Bill's famous clam bakes, BBQ steaks, and belly flops...the sound of the canoe clanking against the dock...sleeping on the porch...ball games in the church lot...laughing with cousins...crying at funerals...regattas...the rhythm of the rocking chair creaking against the porch floor...mosquitos, bats and water snakes...wind whispering through the trees...summer thunderstorms...blueberry pancakes...laughter echoing off the water...quiet evening canoe rides...the reality of being 3,000 miles away but knowing Taborton is always close in my heart." Written by Karen Kelly Morris

Transitions:

Dave and Karen Douthiel are now living year round at the lake. A very hearty "Welcome!"

Community News:

An Invitation from Pastor Bob of the Zion's United Church of Christ of Taborton:

On Sunday, February 3, we will sponsor Souper Bowl Day of Caring, a national youth-initiated collection of non-perishable food and cash donations for local families in need. All our received food and cash will be given directly to Doors of Hope in West Sand Lake. The collection will take place during the Sunday worship service at 10 am. Immediately following the service all are invited to stay for a delicious soup and sandwich luncheon.

On Sunday, March 30 all are invited to our Easter Sunrise Service at 6 am on Little Bowman, followed by a full course breakfast. The indoor Easter Service will be at 10 am.

Friends and families of Big Bowman are always welcome to attend our Sunday morning worship, any Sunday at 10 am.

Happy New Year!

Pastor Bob Loesch

Grafton Lakes Winter Festival:

For those of you living on or near Big Bowman Pond who are eager to be outdoors and want some activity already thought out by someone else and you can't wait for our Winterfest, you are in luck! On Saturday, January 19, Grafton Lakes State Park will be holding their 28th annual Winter Festival. The festival will offer a free day of outdoor enjoyment for the whole family where participants can jump in the lake in a polar plunge, ice fish for trout, have a sled pulled by a Newfoundland, take a trek on snowshoes, eat hot chili, and take a sleigh ride. Most events will be held between 10am and 4pm. The ice fishing tournament will begin at 5am and conclude at 3pm. In addition, there will be displays, a wildlife discovery area, kids crafts, hiking, fly fishing, a geo-caching treasure hunt, horse drawn carriage rides, snow ball throwing contests, and a snow sculpture contest. For more information, go to <http://www.nysparks.com>.

Editor's Note:

There were a number of factors that led to a later than usual edition of the BLA Newsletter. It's always a process and depends on the contributions of many people all interested in helping our community stay connected in some way during the long winter months. Many thanks to those that helped me to pull together "the news" or helped with getting the finished product out to you: the usual suspects: Cindy LaFleur, Bruce Sowalski, Rev. Dr. Bob Loesch, and Fred Newdom.

For those of you who know people who get the snail mail version of this, please check in a couple of days to make sure they got it too. Thanks. If anyone hears of anyone who doesn't get either version of the Newsletter, please let me know.

Fred and I have now been a part of this wonderful community for 11 years. Although we are fully aware that our home is still the Kelly home to some, the Keeler home to others, we are happy to be developing a longevity here which could possibly result in the Faulkner/Newdom or Newdom/Faulkner home someday. Seeing myself as part of this, I considered not putting anything in the Newsletter about the weed problem, but it just seemed like this is part of our reality and difficult to leave out entirely. I hope the ideas on conflict resolution are helpful.

Recently my grandson, Asher, and his parents visited us, and one morning when he heard me getting up, he came to the bottom of the stairs as I came to the top. As soon as he saw me, he raised up his arms, and joyfully said "Good Morning!!" My heart soared with delight. That was how I started my day because one small, loving being on this planet shared his delight at seeing me. How often do we share with one another our delight of being together sharing this beautiful experience? How often do we think about how can we each contribute a positive difference in our community of friends and neighbors? How often do we show our appreciation for the hard work that those who volunteer to be on the Board of Directors or chair the events do? I know my intention for this year is to be more like my grandson: heartfelt, open, joyful, and loving. I invite you to consider the same.

With peace, warm wishes, and much gratitude for being in this community and your Newsletter Editor:
Susan J. Faulkner