

THE BOWMAN LAKE NEWSLETTER

Very Late Spring, 2013



GREETINGS FROM BIG BOWMAN POND!

Bowman Lake Association

2012-2013 Board of Directors

President: Cindy LaFleur

Vice President: Janice Anne Kullman

Treasurer: Fred Newdom

Secretary: Erin Robilotta

Immediate Past President:

Sharon Dawes

Board Members/Term End Date:

Bruce Sowalski & Ian Horne, 2013

Barb Mark & Tim Russell, 2014

Dean Choudhri & Wes Krahl, 2015

Appointees:

Historian: Susan Faulkner

Membership Chair: Ian Horne

Newsletter Editor: Susan Faulkner

2013 Events Calendar

6/15: 4pm, BLA Board and Membership meetings at the Kullman's

6/30: 2pm, Ladies of the Lake Tea & Garden Tour starting at Dawes' (see page 3 to RSVP)

7/06: Bowman Lake Sing (Chair Pending)

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

8/17: 4pm, BLA Annual Meeting

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

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

TBD: Men of the Mtn. event; Tractor Parade; BLA Fishing Derby

A Message from the Bowman Lake Association President:

The spring of 2013 has arrived and with it, renewed focus upon the bladderwort issue in Big Bowman. There is anecdotal evidence that bladderwort infestation is cyclical, and many of us are hopeful that the long cold winter and spring impact the growth of the weed this summer. That being said, hope is not a long-term strategy for dealing with this issue that so negatively impacts the North end of Big Bowman in the later summer months.

The Bowman Lake Association is committed in the near term to educate the residents whether they be members or not, on the water quality of Big Bowman and options to eradicate bladderwort. The BLA has been accepted into the Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP). This process was initiated in 2012 by our Past President, Sharon Dawes. Our BLA CSLAP team will be gathering water samples which will be evaluated by experts in a program funded by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, and also supported with your dues to the BLA.

Our CSLAP team is led by Bruce Sowalski, and members include Matt LaFleur, Barb Mark, Matt Robilotta and John Walsh. The team traveled to the NYS Federation of Lakes conference in Hamilton, NY to receive required training in early May. We extend our thanks to each member of the team for your time and commitment to this effort.

COLLECTIVELY, the residents of Big Bowman must wrestle with difficult decisions that need to be made for potential actions in 2014 to eradicate bladderwort if it returns in 2013. While a significant percentage (33%) indicated they would not abide by a collective decision of the BLA on an option for treatment, I still believe that the BLA is the logical agent to deliver any solution in the future. In August 2013 we will need to fill many positions on the Board of Directors of the BLA. These positions include, President, Secretary, and 2 Directors positions to fill expiring terms of Bruce Sowalski and Ian Horne. If you are passionate or directly impacted by this issue, and have the time to devote to be an active member of the BLA Board of Directors, please contact Nominating Committee Chair, Colleen Masters.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge the time and efforts of Rovie Simons who is retiring his post as Water Committee Chair. Rovie has logged many hours over many years whether it be beavers or bladderwort, and please be sure to thank him personally, for this often thankless job.

Hope to see you all this summer! Cindy LaFleur

A Message from the BLA Treasurer, Fred Newdom:

First, I would like to welcome you all back to another summer at the Pond.

As usual, I am writing to remind everyone that the fiscal calendar now runs from January to January of each year. This means that dues payments should be sent to me at the beginning of the year. If you're writing a check, make it out to Bowman Lake Association. I realize we are still adjusting to this schedule, so those of you who haven't paid yet this year, can give me your dues at the Membership Meeting on June 15. Please remember to bring your check books or you can use PayPal through the BLA website.

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.

Here's to a great summer, Fred Newdom

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

Get your Garden shoes on and get ready to stroll. The Ladies of the Lake Tea and Garden Tour begins on June 30, 2pm at Sharon and Bob Dawes. We will also visit the gardens of Val & Marty Balga, Maureen & Carl Singer, and end at Lorraine & Bruce's. Cocktails and Hors d'oeuvres at Lorraine & Bruce's at end of tour! Ladies and Gentleman of the Lake are invited. Lorraine sent everyone with an email listed in the Directory an Evite - please respond to that or call her at 765-3080.

News on the Bowman Lake Sing is it will likely need be postponed until sometime later in the year - both Matt LaFleur and Rachel Cahill, our fine-voiced choral leaders, are traveling that weekend - so stay tuned, and in tune, for a future Sing date.

Still open are the following - anyone got the leadership itch? Get the tractor parade scheduled? Is there a fishing derby volunteer? How about any significant milestone birthdays - any we should celebrate?

Thanks, Bruce

Winterfest Remembered:

This year's Winterfest was a great success! We started with sunny and cold weather and only toward the end of activities did it start to cloud over and get much colder. There was a good turn out and everybody seemed to be having a good time. For those of us who needed to warm up, there was a nice little firepit provided by the LaFleurs that allowed us to get toasty and catch up with neighbors. And, in the trophied event, the Women's Frying Pan Toss, Vicki Simons had to beat out a very fine toss from a guest tosser to claim the coveted Frying Pan Toss Trophy. Way to go Vicki!



Bill, Cindy, Matt, Kat, Doug Boughton and Bruce Sowalski kept the rink open and clear in the weeks leading up to the event. Rob and Melissa Dawes organized the t-shirt/fundraiser. And the other winners were: Men's Ice Bowling = Matt LaFleur; Women's Ice Bowling = Sara Simons; Junior Bowling = Tie: Bayly Robilotta and Jaden Cahill; Men's Slap Shot = Matt LaFleur; Junior Slapshot = Eric Beaulieu. Congratulations once again to all. And the big winner of the 50/50 Raffle (\$82.00) was Dana Lerch. We had 70 adults this year and 20 "children". The event keeps growing, and we'll need to look at more "Junior" events as the kids keep growing - in numbers and age!

Bowman Lake Community Weed Issue:

In the Winter Newsletter, I included this same piece regarding conflict resolution approaches. I don't know about the rest of you, but I approach this summer with both my usual high spirits of being back at our beloved lake and with trepidation about how the continued discussions regarding this issue that affects us all will go. Maybe there is more of the "worry-wort" of my mother (her term) in me than I would like to admit, and I am not giving us all enough credit for taking responsibility for our feelings and handling ourselves with kindness and respect. If that is the case, my apologies. At the same time, I know for myself, when I am dealing with a difficult situation, it never hurts to remind myself of how to keep focused on the task at hand in those discussions, so that when the time comes when my emotions kick in, I have this other idea already waiting in the wings to help me not just react, but respond with a balanced perspective. With this in mind, I once again offer you a compilation of conflict resolution ideas gleaned from various sources as we once again venture forth in finding possible solutions for our beloved pond.

- 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 rather than what has gone wrong in previous discussions.

Recent Bear Sighting on the Pond:

Dave and Karen Douthiel in the last month reported spotting a "big" black bear around dusk ambling down the Faulkner/Newdom driveway right down to the back porch and taking some interested sniffs of the garbage cans and grill. The bear eventually moved on, but this is a good reminder that our community is home to many critters, some we wouldn't mind running into and some we might not want to. Be aware of what entices them!

The following three items are drawn from the January, 1993, BLA Newsletter. Rather than draw from the Memory Book, I thought I'd share "the news" from 20 years ago.

Tried and True Do's and Don'ts List:

Don't feed the geese - they are great polluters.

Don't bathe in the lake - (yes, some people used to).

Don't speed on the roads around the lake - our children are our most precious asset.

Don't let a friend/guest bring a boat (or any item that has been in other lake waters) and put it in the lake unless it has been thoroughly washed and cleaned - this is how lake weed invasions occur.

Do pull weeds when out on the lake, but bring them ashore, otherwise they re-fertilize.

Do remember that sounds carry easily over the water - late night parties can disturb others - please respect the feelings of neighbors.

Remembrances of Times Past from Marge Douttiel:

"I imagine the reason why I was chosen to be the First Historian of the BLA was because I was the longest resident on the lake - not quite the oldest, but almost. A great deal of information that I have acquired is with the help of Lottie Manning - she filled in many gaps.

I, myself was brought to Taborton at the age of 7 weeks in 1920. At that time 17 camps existed on the lake. Many built around 1900 and mostly on the Lake Road (Lawson Rd.). That road led to the Felleruline home built in 1811 (formerly Hetrick's) and to the Rymiller home (now Dawes) built in 1820...Erna Kooba has told me that her grandfather's camp was the first built on that side of the lake. By 1989, (there were) 51 places on the lake and a few on Taborton, four up on the ridge and four at the end of Lawson Rd.

Years ago you could tell that the trees on the west side of the lake were a great deal shorter than all the others. This was because two "unnamed" boys started a forest fire. This land was acquired by the Johnnats and then sold to McClair and Dr. Finney, a dentist from Brooklyn in 1918. The places on this side of the lake were built mostly in the '30's. The land on the south side was owned by John Schreiner, who lived in the Deyo house. He lost all the land to Momrow (tavern owner) for a drinking debt. It was eventually sold by Momrow into building lots.

The first meeting of our Association was held Sept. 7, 1931...There were no activities during the war (WWII) years. Through the following years, interests changed. Sometimes the Association has been very popular, not so in other years. Even in 1936 things could not be decided when there wasn't a quorum present."

More Memories from Stan Heidenreich:

“What seems like only yesterday, but in reality (is) 50+ years ago was: picking huckleberries for Abe Teal and earning 5 cents a quart; not having electricity and reading by kerosene lamps; using the “Chick Sales” (the old outhouse) and getting soaked when it rained, especially at night - that was unless you were blessed with having a “thunder mug” under the bed; helping Ray Manning deliver ice to the camps and picking up the garbage three days a week. The ice was cut by Ray out on the lake about opposite Benson’s, carted to an ice house in back of where Ray lived (Hetrick’s), and covered with saw dust.”

Editor’s Note:

My apologies once again for a late Newsletter. This year has been a busier one than usual and made getting everything done trickier than usual. I know it is ridiculously late for you all to receive this, but I wanted to get it out nonetheless.

Fred and I will soon be up to the lake to see you all again and bask in the sunshine, when there is any, listen to the wind in the trees, wave to neighbors passing in their paddleboat drinking cocktails (who could that be?), chatting with other neighbors by land, gasping at how big our newer residents have gotten since the Fall, and all around being happy campers to be here once again. We will definitely be alert for big, furry guests before we go out on our back porch, and may take to flashing our high beams down the hill from the parking area to make sure when we arrive late at night that it’s just us folks around.

My thanks to the usual suspects for their contributions to the Newsletter: Cindy LaFleur, Bruce Sowalski, and Fred Newdom. And thanks all these many years later to Phebe Lukens and Karen Cobden for having launched the Newsletter back in January, 1989.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon and enjoying our time together,

Your Newsletter Editor, Susan J. Faulkner