

THE BOWMAN LAKE NEWSLETTER



Taborton, NY
January, 2007

Winter Greetings
from
Bowman Pond!

Bowman Lake Association

2007 Board of Directors:

Co-Presidents:

Barbara Boughton and John Losee

Vice President: Janice Kullman

Interim Secretary: Rose Marie Losee

Treasurer: Lois McQuaid

Board Members:

Walt Schlenker and Susan Faulkner-2007

Bob Lukens and Marty Balga-2008

Dave Cobden and Bill Kullman-2009

Historian: Donna Pryor

Past President: Rovie Simons

Dam Board Overseer: Doug Boughton

Newsletter Editor: Susan Faulkner

2007 Calendar of Events

06/30: 4pm Board Meeting at the Cobden's

5pm Membership Meeting

TBA Season Opener

07/28: 12pm Regatta at the Simons'

08/18: 4pm Board Mtg. at the Lerch's

5pm Membership Meeting

09/01: 5pm Pot Luck Supper at Rovie's

TBA Ladies of the Lake Tea

TBA Men of the Mountain Event

Transitions:

This past winter we sadly bid farewell to a resident who cared very much about the lake, who left very fond memories of himself and his love of our area, who enriched our lives by the crossing of our paths. He will be missed:

Joe Connole

Happenings:

Website news: Some time ago, our current co-president, John Losee, established an unofficial website for the association. He still maintains it, including the current list of Directors on the Board, schedule for upcoming events, and some news items. You can visit at: http://www.geocities.com/bla_web_master/index.html

Collecting Stories/ Memories: Elizabeth Marks is requesting stories, memories, off the cuff recollections, photos, and/or poems or other material about Big Bowman Pond to compile a memory book for all to enjoy. If you have anything that you would like to share or to get her original e-mail detailing ideas to spur your memory, please contact her at: elizabeth_marks@hotmail.com

Bowman Lake Directory: Anyone in the association who has an e-mail address or knows of past members who have e-mail addresses that are not listed in the Bowman Lake Directory and who want to stay abreast of what's going on at the lake, please send your e-mail address to both our current co-presidents, John Losee (Jalosee@aol.com) and Barb Boughton (barbboughton@nycap.rr.com). If anything has changed with your e-mail addresses or if there was an error in the last directory, please to give the updated information to Barb.

Beaver News: The beavers are back! The beavers are back! For some this is good news and for others not so good news. To update you: the beavers have built a lodge on the McGuire's dock and apparently are putting on an addition as they have cut down some rather large trees near the water, all around the lake, according to observant lake residents. While what to do about the beavers is a topic of discussion for our next Board meeting, in the meantime, if anyone has any trees they are fond of, they might want to wrap the lower trunks of those trees with chicken wire or turkey mesh, as this seems to deter the beavers. (For those of you who have e-mail this has been discussed more extensively between John Losee and Rovie Simons.)

Ice Fishermen Debate: With snow on the lake, we once again have ice fishermen and snowmobilers using the lake. Some are our own winter residents and some are our guests, but some are neither. At our next Association meeting, we will discuss possible plans of action in regard to dealing with uninvited users of the lake and our properties. If anyone has any information or opinions, please come to the meeting to share them with us.

Regatta Dreams of Glory?: It's a good time to begin to think about what incredibly masterful or funny or original float you could create for the regatta in July. Imagine yourself/yourselves proudly hoisting the Blake Cup in the air, a job well done! If nothing else, thinking about it might warm you up as you remember sunny days at the lake.

Winter Weekend Revival? Recently I learned that there had been a Winter Weekend Event on Big Bowman. Is there any interest in reviving this former tradition? If so, bring it up as an agenda item for our next Association meeting. It seems like it would require someone offering to be host/hostess for warmth and water use.

A Bowman Lake Ballad Invitation: Recent e-mail activity has brought to our attention the Bowman Lake Ballad which was either primarily authored and/or primarily compiled by Janice Simons. In the flurry of e-mails it was suggested that folks might want to come up with some new verses and share them at the Regatta for all to enjoy. The song is sung to the “Home on the Range” tune. To get you on a roll, the first five verses and chorus are provided below.

Chorus:

Big Bowman Lake
 Where the swimming and fishing are great!
 And good times are the rule
 With the best gang in all NY State.

-1-

We’ve oft stopped at the Blakes
 Where she undertakes (pause)
 And we’ve watched Mr. Robinson saw
 President Heindenrich lays down the law
 While Uncle Jim cooks scrumptious steaks.

-2-

All over the lake
 You ner’e can a mistake
 Mrs. Kingsley’s beautiful songs
 And Mrs. Ives fish
 Make a real tasty dish
 While Janice and Grange roam on the range.

-3-

You can find Mrs. Anderson
 Scrubbing all day
 As the Hauf’s drive their new Chevrolet
 Buzz Piche’s hot rod
 Makes the craziest noise
 But dig how he drives it with poise.

-4-

The parties at Lawsons
 Are always a treat
 The violets at Hetrick’s are neat
 Doris’ laugh and the dong of their bell
 We miss ‘cause we think they are swell.

-5-

We’ve sung of our neighbors and
 The rest of the lake
 We hate to forsake
 ‘Cause we think you are all great
 But now we must go
 Let’s get on with the show
 One chorus and then we will blow.

Compilation of Bowman Lake Owners over the years: I have begun to pull together a compilation of the owners of all the camps around the lake with the help of the Losees who had maps from 1993, 1988, 1985, 1980, 1965, and 1960. I know that there are some gaps in my list which I will share with everyone once it seems complete. If anyone has another year’s map or if folks would e-mail at susanf@nycap.rr.com or mail me the owner history of their camp, I’d appreciate it for my little Bowman Lake project. Thanks.

News for the Newsletter: If anyone has any news over the winter break next year, I'd like to invite you to send it to me, Susan Faulkner, at susanf@nycap.rr.com , for inclusion in the 2008 winter newsletter.

Tried and True

Previous newsletters have included particular items that seem to bear repeating.

Do's and Don'ts Around the Lake

- Don't feed the geese – they are pretty but they pollute the water.
- Don't bathe (versus swim) in the lake (people or animals).
- Don't speed on the roads around the lake – in particular on Lawson Road. It has a 15MPH speed limit - and lots of children, our most precious assets.
- Don't let a friend/guest bring a boat and put it in the lake unless it has been thoroughly washed and cleaned. EURASION MILFOIL spreads very easily with just one little piece carried from an infected lake/pond. To date we have been spared, but we cannot let our guard down as it is so prevalent in other local lake communities.
- Don't use motorized boats, including electric, on the lake.
- +Do pull weeds when out on the lake, but bring them ashore because otherwise they refertilize the lake.
- +Do remember that sounds carry easily over the water – late night parties can disturb others – please respect your fellow residents in this matter.

A quote from Elbert Hubbard quoted in the 1990 Association newsletter seems to pertain here:

“Do unto others as though you were the others.”

An Era Past

Previous newsletters presented little vignettes of Bowman Lake life. In keeping with tradition, here's a snippet from a 1993 newsletter from Marge Douthiel.

I 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 (now Hetrick's) and to the Rhymiller home (now Dawes) built in 1820. He was the mailman at that time. Erna Kooba has told me that her grandfather's camp was the first built on that side of the lake. By 1989, 51 places were on the lake and a few on Taborton, four up the ridge and four at the end of Lawson Road.

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 (now Fowler/Nasuti) 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 September 7, 1931. (From the) August 29, 1932 minutes: the land that was going to be given to the Association for a Club House was the pie shaped lot where the Schlenkers property is. The Association was Incorporated in May, 1933....By 1936, it was decided to forget the Club House because no one could decide who would keep it clean/wash towels/oversee the kids, etc.

Until Summer...some parting words:

Fred and I went to see the lake in December and were amazed to see that it was fully unfrozen. A few days ago in early February, we were back, and it looked much more like what one would expect to see the lake look like in winter: snow covered, snow on the ground and summer camps' roofs, ice fishermen, no other signs of other humans with the biting cold winds. Still, the lake is as beautiful in the winter as it is any other season. It constantly amazes me the sense of serenity we feel when we are there. Bob Dawes mentioned to us when we first met him early on in our stay there how he experienced the daily cares of life fall away as he drove up Taborton Mountain. It is much the same for us and we suspect for many of you. We know that in a few months we will be making our way back up to the lake, and we look forward to seeing all of you as well as the lake that we all hold so dear. I'd like to express many thanks to Phebe Lukens for ideas about revising this newsletter and to Fred Newdom for technical support. Your newsletter editor, Susan Faulkner.