

# THE BOWMAN LAKE NEWSLETTER



**Taborton, NY  
January, 2008**

**Winter Greetings  
from  
Bowman Pond!**

## **Bowman Lake Association**

### **2008 Board of Directors:**

**President::** John Losee

**Vice President:** Janice Kullman

**Secretary:** Susan Faulkner

**Treasurer:** Lois McQuaid

### **Board Members/Term End Date:**

Bob Lukens and Marty Balga/2008

Dave Cobden, Sr. and Bill Kullman/2009

Dave Cobden, Jr. and Buzz Piche/2010

**Historian:** Donna Pryor

**Past Co-President:** Barbara Boughton

**Dam /Water Level Committee:** John Losee,  
Rovie Simons, John Walsh, Bill & Cindy LaFleur,  
and Dave Cobden, Sr.

**Newsletter Editor:** Susan Faulkner

## **2008 Calendar of Events**

02/16: Noon, Winter Festival

At the Cobdens', lunch, outdoor events,

6pm, dinner at the Balgas'

06/28: 3pm, Board Meeting, at M. LaFleur's

4pm, Member Meeting at M. LaFleur's

6pm, BYOB Social at M. LaFleur's

07/26: 12:30pm, Regatta, at G. Simon's

08/16 3pm, Board Meeting, at G. Simon's

4pm, Member Meeting, at G. Simon's

08/30 4pm, Pot Luck Dinner, at Rovie's

TBA "Ladies of the Lake" Tea at TBA

TBA "Men of the Mountain" Activity

**Winter Festival News:**

The Bowman Lake Association is having a Winter Festival again this year!! It will be February 16, 2008 (Blizzard date: February 17). The festivities will begin with Dave Cobden firing up his grill to provide us with a hot lunch at the Cobdens' beautiful waterfront, that is, "icefront," at noon. Afterward, there will be various outdoor winter activities, games, and sporting events that Bill and Cindy LaFleur and Colleen Masters and Tom White will be setting up for our enjoyment. To volunteer to help, with judging, etc. , contact them at [wlaflleur@nycap.rr.com](mailto:wlaflleur@nycap.rr.com). But wait, there's more!!! In the early evening, shortly after the winter games end, we have been invited to the Balgas' home for a chicken and rib dinner for a nominal cost. And still there's more!!

As you can see, a good deal of effort is being made to make this a fun event for all, so Dave and Karen Cobden, the Winter Festival Co-chairpersons, would like you to RSVP by February 1, 2008. RSVP regarding names and number of people coming to each meal to Dave at 518-674-2641 or John Losee at [john.losee@dos.state.ny.us](mailto:john.losee@dos.state.ny.us) /518-312-0812 or Susan Faulkner at [susanf@nycap.rr.com](mailto:susanf@nycap.rr.com) /518-439-6411. Checks should be made out to Bowman Lake Association and sent to Lois McQuaid, 85 Elderberry Ct., Albany, NY, 12203. Thanks and hope to see you there. (See the Winter Festival Schedule on Page 7 of the Newsletter.)

**And Now a Word from our Association President, John Losee:**

**Speeding on Lawson Road News:** Earlier this Fall, there were reports of some people (non-residents for the most part) who were driving too fast on Lawson Road. Many of you may have followed the e-mail discussion about this, but for those of you without e-mail, here's what the result of the discussion was. Rusty Buckner, who works for the NYS Department of Transportation (DOT) did some digging and found that the speed limit on Lawson Road is 25 MPH. He also found that, in the past, attempts to lower the limit were rejected by DOT, who sets the speed limits. Further, Rusty found that in order to enforce the speed limit, there must be official white 25 MPH speed limit signs posted at set intervals along the road. Currently, there is only one, near Piches' that southbound traffic sees. There is also one yellow 15 MPH warning sign at the beginning of Lawson Road. Rusty is looking into having additional official 25 MPH signs installed, so that the speed limit may be enforced. We will discuss enforcement possibilities at our June Association meeting. Until then, please ask anyone who visits, works for you, or makes deliveries to your home, who might not be aware of the speed limit, to PLEASE drive slowly, as we have a lot of children, pedestrians, and animals on the road. Thank you.

**The Dam News:** Beginning in October, people became concerned with the water level in the lake again, and again we had people randomly removing or replacing the dam boards in the outlet. Although many of you may be aware of this, some may not know that at the August Bowman Lake Association Meeting, the Association adopted a Dam Regulation Policy on August 18, 2007, with approval from all interested land owners. The following is what the policy states:

**-Proposed dam board of 11.5 inches to be put in place from the middle of May (after heavy rains and snow melt runoff) until the end of October/beginning of November.**

**-Proposed dam board of 5.5 inches be put in place from the end of October/beginning of November until the middle of May.**

(Please see the last page of the newsletter for the Dam Regulation Policy with additional background information.)

**Big Bowman Pond Memory Book News:**

As most of you know Elizabeth Marks took on the project of collecting stories of life on Big Bowman Pond in the past and currently. At our Association Meetings in 2007, the Memory Book was passed around for all to see and to generate more of an understanding of what was being requested. It appeared that all who saw the book loved seeing what stories and pictures were included and it brought back fond memories for all who partook. Elizabeth is still collecting stories and pictures and would love to hear from you. She is hoping to compile the first draft of the book by summer, so this winter, on snowy days when our minds often wander, why not take some time to jot down those fond memories of your time on Bowman Pond. Old memories and new will give us all a chance to celebrate how lucky we are to have these stories to share! Please contact Elizabeth at [elizabeth\\_marks@hotmail.com](mailto:elizabeth_marks@hotmail.com).

As part of the Memory Book, we are also compiling the histories of the homes and camps themselves around the lake. If you haven't done so already, please send whatever information you have about your camp to Susan Faulkner, who is pulling together this piece for the Memory Book. Contact Susan at [susanf@nycap.rr.com](mailto:susanf@nycap.rr.com). Thanks.

**Beaver News:**

The beavers aren't back! The beavers aren't back! According to the trapper that the Association hired to place traps in three locations around the lake, there were no beaver takers, that is, no beavers were caught. In addition, he felt that the beaver lodge near the McGuire's was no longer inhabited and, from his perspective, there were no beavers on the lake. Good news for all concerned!!

**Other Bowman Pond News:**

**Website news:** Some time ago, our current 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/](http://www.geocities.com/bla_web_master/).

**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 our current president, John Losee at his email address [Jalosee@aol.com](mailto:Jalosee@aol.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 John.

**News for the Newsletter:** If anyone has any news over the next year, whether lake news or personal news, I'd like to invite you to send it to me, Susan Faulkner, at [susanf@nycap.rr.com](mailto:susanf@nycap.rr.com), for inclusion in the 2009 Winter Newsletter. I apologize if any important occurrences are left out, so please let me know if you want them in the newsletter.

**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/yourself proudly hoisting the Blake Cup in the air, a job well done! The Regatta is also a wonderful time to spend time with old friends or to make new ones. See the following photos of the 2007 Blake Cup winner and good times:



**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.
- 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.  
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.

As stated eloquently by former resident Elbert Hubbard: “Do unto others as though you were the others.”

**Transitions:**

Sadly, as time passes, so do some loved ones pass out of our lives, though they will be remembered with love:

Edward H. “Ted” Boughton

Ellen S. Farrell

Richard Cobden

**Weed Alert News:**

Barb Boughton found out last June from a local ecologist that we have a new weed along our shoreline called "Reed Grass". Here's a summary of what Barb learned:

I showed the ecologist the beaver hut by McGuire's. On the lakeshore, by their camp, he identified "reed grass". He said it's a wetland plant (not an aquatic plant, i.e., it doesn't grow IN the lake), and it's on New York's top 10 list of invasive plants. If left unchecked it would eventually take over the lakeshore. It is a tall, stalky grass, with a few blades/leaves coming off the stalk. The plant grows a large plume containing spores that the wind will carry all over. The roots grow 6-12 inches below the ground and send out runners. It has taken him 10 years to completely eradicate the plant from his property by pulling it out. If you see reed grass on your lakeshore, you should seriously consider digging it out this year. Below is a picture Barb took of the reed grass by McGuire's to help you identify it.

**2008 Underwater Weed Survey:**

Additionally, the same ecologist has offered to bring in a diver or two this summer, who will swim around the lake and do a survey of the weeds we have growing underwater. At the June, 2007, Association Member meeting, the membership voted unanimously to accept this offer. So, this summer, you'll probably see some divers swimming around in the lake. We'll get back to you with the survey results, once we have them.

**Unusual News**

John Losee, our intrepid Association President, found an unusual link to our lake area. Apparently, in January, 1990, mid-morning, on a sunny day with light flurries, on Taborton Mountain, a life-long resident of the mountain and his friend set out to cross country ski. In a heavily wooded area, by a large swamp, near a pond and a stream, and on a trail, once an old logging road, they enjoyed identifying wildlife tracks and taking in the wintry environment generally. On their way heading back out, they encountered large human-like bare footprints in the new snow. These footprints were wide and 1.5-2 feet long and had crossed a 6 foot trail in 2 easy strides. Since on their way into the woods they had seen no such prints and were sure they were not bear prints, needless to say, they were quite frightened and made good time out of the woods. John found this information on the Big Foot website if you want to read the whole account. Who knew???!!!

**Old News**

Quoted from the Local History Project done by Diane Snyder and Geoffrey Hubbs years ago:

Since there were many small businesses in Taborton, we will list them like this:

-Firewood was cut by the farmer for himself, his neighbors, and to sell in the city.

-Many people had icehouses on their property. They cut the ice off of the lake and packed it in sawdust in the buildings. They used the ice in their icechests until refrigerators came about.

-Ferns were picked in the fall and packed by packers. They were then sold to florists for floral decorations. Andrew Snyder had one such business and hired fern pickers. They would put 25 ferns together and tie them up. They were paid 50 cents to \$1 for 1000 picked ferns or 40 bunches. The fern packers kept them in storage and sold them to various florists in the city....

-Gold thread, a three-leaved plant was gathered and the roots ground for a bitter tonic, a mouthwash or a gargle. The children used to pick these and were another source of family income.

(If you find this interesting, this is some of the kinds of information that Elizabeth Marks is collecting for the Memory Book.)

**Until the Winter Festival or Summer, some parting words...**

I find that putting together the newsletter is a great source of pleasure for me. I start thinking again about that "little piece of Heaven" and all the people that make it so enjoyable to be there. Thank you, Dear Readers, for the honor of bringing you the news from Big Bowman Pond. Once again, I look forward to seeing you soon. Also, my deepest gratitude to Fred Newdom for helping me with technical difficulties.

Your newsletter editor, Susan Faulkner

**Big Bowman Lake Association Winter Carnival 2008****February 16, 2008**

(In case of severe weather, Carnival activities will be held of February 17.)

The dinner at the Balgas' will be held on February 16 "rain or shine".

**Schedule of Events****Day long activities**

- Ice Fishing Contest: Catch and Release, prizes awarded based on honor system
  - a) Biggest
  - b) Most
- Ice Sculpture/Snowman Building Contest: Construction limited to day of carnival and should be completed on the Southern end of the Lake.
- 12 noon-1pm: Luncheon Kick-off at the Cobdens': **Reservations required by Feb. 1.**
- 1:15 pm: Hockey Challenge begins at the Masters/White-LaFleur Ice Palaces
- 1:45pm (approximately-intermission of 1st period): Sled Float Parade
  - Anything goes as long as it's contained on sled(s).
- 2:15pm: 2nd period of Hockey game resumes
- 2:45pm: 2nd period intermission
  - a) Women's Frying Pan Toss (no spikes please)
  - b) Sled Pull Races (no spikes please)
    - i) Child-Parent
    - ii) Co-ed (each participant will pull a segment of the race)
    - iii) Seniors Co-ed (same as above, at least 1 member of team over 50 years old)
- 3:30pm: Final period of the Hockey Game resumes/ Judging of the Ice Sculptures
- 6:00pm: Dinner at the Balgas' and Awards Presentation: **Reservations required by Feb. 1.**
  - Please bring a covered dish, salad, or dessert & BYOB (coffee/soda provided) to the Balgas' (Uncle Marty's house). \$7.00/person fee for chicken and rib dinner. RSVP to Dave Cobden, John Losee, or Susan Faulkner.
- 8:00pm: Ice Palaces– Bonfire, Music, Live Karaoke, and Fireworks

### **Dam Regulation Proposal - Big Bowman Pond**

**-Proposed dam board of 11.5 inches to be put in place from the middle of May (after heavy rains and snow melt runoff) until end of October/beginning of November.**

**-Proposed dam board of 5.5 inches be put in place from the end of October/beginning of November until the middle of May.**

*The dates above are just approximate guides as each years snow melt , heavy rains or lack of rain should be taken into consideration as to exactly when the boards are changed.*

**Water level:** With the water level even with the top of the 11 ½ inch dam board the lake level is between 3 and 4 inches below the concrete surface of the Buckner/Choudhri docks. The water level measures 18 inches below the bottom of the lowest lake side steel girder of the bridge over the outlet (measuring on the north end of girder). *This was the level on August 1, 2007 and was approximately the same for the prior 2 weeks.*

If the water level is at or near the top of the 11 1/4 inch board, it should be removed during heavy rains to best maintain the level. The amount of days to keep it removed will depend on the amount of rainfall. The board should be put back in when the water level is 18 - 19 inches below the lake side girder on the bridge. Urgent requests for removal of the dam board, for water level or quality purposes, must be made to the Dam/Water Level Committee. A majority vote of the committee will determine the action to be taken. Locking mechanisms will be put in place to prevent the boards from being inserted or removed. (End of Policy)

#### Additional Background Information:

In addition to adopting a policy, a Dam/Water Level Committee was formed over the summer consisting of the following people: John Losee, Rovie Simons, John Walsh, Bill and Cindy LaFleur, and Dave Cobden, Sr. These are the only people who are authorized to regulate the dam. While we realize there are some people who have concerns about the water being too high, and flooding their lawns, etc. we also have people who need the water to be deep enough so their water pipes (used to draw water from the lake into their homes) don't freeze up in the winter. The size of the boards and approximate dates of insertion/removal enacted in the policy above seem to satisfy both needs. New metal inserts, consistent with the measures set forth in the policy above, which will have locks on them, are being made and will be installed shortly, if they haven't been already. They will be regulated in accordance with the policy, by the Dam/Water Level Committee. If anyone has a concern about the level of the water, please don't try to regulate the dam yourself. Instead, please contact one of the people on the Committee, and they will be happy to assist you.