

THE BOWMAN LAKE NEWSLETTER



**Taborton, NY
Spring, 2011**

**Greetings from
Bowman Pond!**

Bowman Lake Association

2010-2011 Board of Directors:

President: Sharon Dawes

Vice President: Janice Ann Kullman

Secretary: Susan Faulkner

Treasurer: Al Trivers

Immediate Past President: Anja Carr

Board Members/Term End Date:

David Douttiel and Colleen Masters, 2011

Rob Dawes and Shane Cahill, 2012

Bruce Sowalski and Cindy LaFleur, 2013

Appointees

Historian: Vacant

Directory Editor: Cindy LaFleur

Newsletter Editor: Susan Faulkner

2011 Calendar of Events

06/18: 4 pm, Board Mtg. at TBA

5pm, Membership Meeting

6pm, Summer Kick-off Party

and Sock Hop

07/04 : Bowman Lake Sing

07/30: Noon, Regatta at the Simons'

07/16: 5pm, Men of the Mtn. at the Boughton's

08/20: 4pm, Board Mtg. at TBA.

5pm, Annual Membership Mtg.

09/04: End of Summer Pot Luck, at the

LaFleur Compound

TBA: Ladies of the Lake Tea, Family Outdoor

Movie Night, and BLA Fishing Derby

A Message From Our Bowman Lake Association President

Hello everyone!

Thanks to the tireless work of Ian Horne, our volunteer web master, the Bowman Lake Association has a beautiful new web site. The past several months have been spent evaluating, choosing, and learning the software, picking a style, and preparing content that we hope will be interesting and useful for everyone. Take a look at our new cyberhome at www.bowmanlakeny.org/blacms/.

You will find a calendar of events, key documents and newsletters, some very nice photos, and links to resources about the natural environment. We welcome your ideas for more ways to make it informative and useful. Send your ideas via the "Contact" tab or directly to the website email address at taborb Bowman@gmail.com.

Sharon Dawes

Treasurer's Greetings

Although the new Constitution/Bylaws have been adopted with a new fiscal year (starting 01/01/11), for dues we are still on the old system: 07/01/2010 through 06/30/2011. Owner members owe \$40 for the above period. There are still twelve members who have not paid. As for Associate members, the contributions are \$30, and seven have not paid. If you know you have not paid, kindly send your payment to me: Al Trivers at PO Box 516, Becket, MA 01223-0516.

The Bowman Lake Memory Book Re-visited: John Losee recently contacted me to say that a few orders for the Memory book have come in but to place an order, there would need to be more requests for the book, From Cove to Point: Memories and Photographs of Big Bowman Pond. As a reminder, the first books published have been completely sold out. Fortunately though, the publisher is willing to do a reprint of the book for us, but in order to do so we must order a minimum of either 20 color copies or 10 black and white copies. At this time, we do not know what the reprint price per copy will be, as it will depend on when we place the order and how many copies we order, however, originally when we had them printed, they were \$45 for color copies and \$15 for black and white. We expect the price for reprinting to be higher. All that being said, if you would like to purchase a copy of the book, when and if we have a reprint done, please e-mail John Losee at Jalosee@aol.com, and he will add your name to our list. Please specify the quantity of books you'd like, and whether you would like color or black & white. Once we have enough people on the list, and know the number of books we'd like to order, we'll contact the publisher and ask for the price per copy at that time.

For those "undecideds", here's another excerpt from the book to whet your appetites. Can you figure out who this is? "Along in the fall of 1918 that violent international flu epidemic hit the world. Families were laid low, schools and public gathering places were closed, and all who could fled the germ-laden cities. My father's...friend owned a crude summer camp cabin on the shores of spring-fed Bowman Pond...1500 feet up in the foothills of the Berkshires. He most kindly offered it to us for a few weeks' escape. So we packed up food and warm clothing...Cold? Mon Dieu, it was perishing! Especially the outdoor plumbing of an early a.m.! But the cozy inside with a huge wood burning stove providing the only heat, oil lamps and candles doing the night lighting. We all adored it. That gorgeous piney air so invigorating and the hikes through the woods, the greatest. "

Bowman Lake Happenings

The Bowman Lake Winter Festival: The 2010 Winter Festival was another resounding success. The Cobdens once again hosted the luncheon, clearing space on their property so people didn't have to risk slipping down the slope to the lake where there were slushy places at lake's edge despite the cold, windy weather of the day and overall cold and snowiness of the season. A good size crowd braved the day and ate what was reported to me by John Losee as "an abundance of delicious food," including burgers, hot dogs, sausages, chicken wings, New England Clam Chowder, pulled pork and desserts.

The Very Hardy went on to activities, and the following summary was provided by Cindy LaFleur. The hockey game this year was less structured as we missed some of our key players: Libby Lerch and Michael Berman. Ice Bowling continues to be a competitive and popular game. The Women's final was clinched by Val Balga. The Men's final was won by Robby Dawes. The Men's event featured a classic "ice collapse" by Scott Cahill. The stakes were raised this year in the Women's Frying Pan Toss, with a trophy a la "Blake Cup" to be displayed in the winner's home for the year. While Val Balga qualified with a toss, she was eliminated in the final by Barb Kivlen, our new champion.

Finally, the "Big Bowman Iditarod" was introduced as a new event by our Social Committee Chair, Bruce Sowalski. The "course" was set up with bowling pins on the ice rink. This is a couples event, and the selected spouse was required to "mush" (drag by legs) their partner, seated on a piece of cardboard through the course. Some of us needed some extra help to cross the finish line with our partners! As this was a exhibition event for 2011, we can declare no official winner, however, next year, with a stop-watch, a winner will be declared!



More Happenings...

The 2010-2011 Bowman Lake Winter in Review: This stretch of road between Kooba's dock and guard rail deceived many. We had so much snow that the town sent it's BIG plow to push snow off the road. As snow cover melts, more and more trees display gashes from the plows, and several roadside tree stumps are reduced to big splinters. On this stretch, the unsuspecting were surprised because the single road widened to almost 2 lanes, but the extra width was unpacked snow hovering over the lakeside hill. Dogs couldn't get a grip to scramble over the banks. People sank as high as their hips. And several sets of tire tracks (mostly large truck-size tires) left long foot-deep track imprints, some a dozen or more feet long. Fortunately, no vehicle went down the side. Most docks, floats and rocks disappeared from view several times over the winter. (by Anja Carr)



News from the Social Events Committee: Here' a message from Bruce Sowalski, Chair:

The 2011 Social season is fast approaching. The Bowman Lake Holiday Caroling was well attended, and COLD. The Winterfest was VERY COLD and had a great crowd. The Snow keeps flying, but the daffodils are peeking up, the black flies are just around the corner, and the summer season will soon begin. We are still looking for a Dance Master for the June Sock Hop (who likes to play music and dance - hint), The Ladies of the Lake still needs a host, and we are actively looking for a Director for a BLA Fishing Derby.

Soon to be wed Matt & Kat have volunteered to Co-chair the Summer Regatta, and the End of Summer Pot Luck will be at the LaFleur compound this year. Ron Cahill and Marty Balga have agreed to put on the Family Outdoor Movie Night complete with a fun family film, outdoor venue and fresh popped hot Popcorn. Date on that to be determined.

Here is the summer schedule so far:

- 6/18/11** June BLA meeting social event – **Sock Hop Dance** (Dance Master pending)
- 7/4/11** **Bowman Lake Sing** – (Matt LaFleur chair)
- 7/16/11** **Men of the Mountain Event** - (Doug Boughton)
- 7/30/11** **Bowman Lake Annual Summer Regatta** – (Matt & Kat)
- 8/20/11** August BLA meeting social event – **Bowman Lake Talent Show** – (Bill LaFleur, MC)
- 9/4/11** **End of Summer Pot Luck** (Sunday of Labor Day weekend) (LaFleur Compound)
- TBD** **Family Outdoor Movie Night** – (Ron Cahill & Marty Balga)
- TBD** **Ladies of the Lake Tea** (date depends on volunteer chair)
- TBD** **BLA Fishing Derby** (Tournament Director pending)

Still More Happenings...

Men of the Mountain Activity! Yes, Ladies and Gentlemen, when you perused the Calendar of Events you actually did see a Men of the Mountain Activity listed! Doug Boughton will host the BLA Men of the Mountain event at the Boughton digs on Saturday July 16th, starting 5:00ish in the afternoon to a whenever in the evening. Here is a description of what Doug said he has in mind:

“We will feature croquet on the oval of course, a favorite with all that have participated, and the course will be open well into the night as it is lighted, and also the same for a horseshoe pit. I will supply dogs and burgers, others are expected to bring a dish to be shared, and it is a BYOB and “ceegars” event.

The campfire will be started as soon as the sun goes down and the motorcycle shop will be open with the stereo on for the entire event. I also want to mention that if the men have an friend or two that don't live on the lake, but that they'd like to bring along for some guy activity, please feel free to bring them, the more the merrier.

Just as an aside, if anyone wants to take a crack at providing some live music, bring it. We can do a set-up in front of the motorcycle shop, just let me know. It would be fun if we could get some kind of a impromptu jam session going.”

Taborton Road Road Work: Rensselaer County road crews patched some of the bigger holes on Taborton Road in March, although, currently, the road, top to bottom, is still plagued with some wicked nasty frost heaves and potholes.

In speaking with Anja Carr, County workers indicated that while they are still on winter hours and dealing with roadwork related to the end of snow season, tree-cutting along Taborton Road should resume in a few weeks. The County still plans to continue up the mountain with that clearing/re-grading/resurfacing project that they started last year.

Transitions:

Congratulations to Matt LaFleur and Kat Lebron on their upcoming wedding in April!

Congratulations, also, to those families who are once again expecting the arrival of a new member. The Bowman Lake Community can happily expect to have a couple new little residents this year.

For those of us who have grown accustomed, when walking up and down Lawson Road, to long-time canine “meeter and greeter,” the Marks’ dog, Sammy, we bid a fond farewell.

On the construction front, sources indicate that while the Douttiels’ home has remained boarded up for the winter, they are apparently eager to get past the inevitable delays caused by winter weather and insurance companies so that they can get under way reconstructing their home. We will be glad to have them back!

Once again, sadly, we must bid farewell to someone who loved the lake so much that it was apparent to everyone who saw him on it , and in seeing his enjoyment, it added to our own. Sincere condolences to his family.

Steve Klippert

From the Environmental Oversight Committee:

Rovie Simons, Chair, has provided me with some relevant excerpts from the **Nuisance Beaver Control Techniques Manual** of the **NY State Department of Environmental Conservation**. I have included what Rovie highlighted. He indicated that there can be a copy or possibly copies of the manual available at our first membership meeting.

“The beaver is the largest rodent in North America with adults ranging from 35 to 46 inches long (including a flattened 12-18 inch tail) and weighing from 45 to 60 pounds. Beaver weighing over 100 pounds have been recorded. The hind feet are very large with 5 long webbed toes. Front feet are small and dexterous, which allows the beaver to carry dam construction material such as stones and sticks.

As a food source, beavers prefer aspens and willows but will eat the leaves, twigs and bark of most species of woody plants found along the water's edge. During the growing season beavers will also consume large quantities of non-woody plants such as grasses and cattails. During the fall, they will stockpile their woody food supply in the water near their house for use during the winter months. The presence of these fresh cut feed piles is an important indicator of an active beaver lodge. During the ice covered winter months beavers are generally inactive with regard to tree cutting and dam building.... Individual shrubs and trees can be protected by loosely wrapping to a minimum height of 36 inches with welded wire fencing, zinc or plastic coated, or roofing felt held in place with string or wire.

Article 11 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law is commonly referred to as the "Fish and Wildlife Law." ...Section 11-0505 states that no person is allowed at any time to disturb a beaver's dam, house or den without written permission from the DEC....The trapper/landowner partnership is undoubtedly the best long-term solution for minimizing beaver damage. A trapper can solve a landowner's problem by trapping beavers during the open season....Bullets or shot discharged over water are likely to ricochet beyond the target. Firearms may not be lawfully discharged within 500 feet of a farm, building, or dwelling, without the consent of the owner, or within 500 feet of any school or playground, over any public highway or in a municipality with a law forbidding it....If the beaver is not killed, dam removal is a very short-term solution. Beavers usually rebuild dams quickly and sometimes in larger volume.... Destroying an occupied lodge seldom causes a beaver family to leave. However, after the beaver have been removed and the pond drained, it may be advantageous to destroy the lodge so that the site is less of an attractant.

Giardiasis is a gastrointestinal infection caused by a microscopic parasite called *Giardia lamblia*.

...*Giardia* parasites have been found in the stools of many animals, including rodents, dogs, cats, cattle, and wild animals. Animals living near water supplies, such as beavers and muskrats, have been found to be infected with *Giardia*. The extent of direct animal-to-human transmission of *Giardia* is minimal; there is greater evidence of indirect transmission such as through contamination of water supplies.”

An Invitation from Rev. Dr. Bob Loesch: Once again Bowman Lake residents and visitors are invited to participate in a number of events at the Zion's United Church of Christ of Taborton. The Church is hoping especially to have Big Bowman folks at the August 17th pot luck supper to be able to share about the history and the activities of the Lake. Listed below are their upcoming events. For additional information contact Rev. Loesch at 674-8204 or rkloesch@aol.com.

Sundays, 10am, Sunday Worship; 11am, Fellowship and refreshment, Fellowship Hall

April 16, Saturday, 9:30am-4pm, Earth Day — Go Green, Free

9:30am, Blessing of the Pets and All Animals

Displays of area businesses, groups, and agencies with practical steps to conserve and improve our natural environment.

11am-1pm, Sandwich lunch and beverages

April 21, Thursday

6pm, Roast Lamb or Lasagna Dinner (Call for reservations at 674-8204).

7:30pm, Maundy Thursday Service

April 24, Easter Sunday

6am, Outdoor Sunrise Service at Little Bowman Pond

7am, Free Community Breakfast (no reservations required)

10am, Indoor Easter Service

May 18, Wednesday, Adult Fellowship

6pm, Pot Luck Supper

7pm, Speaker, Olivia Mussett, Certified Financial Planner, "Personal Financial Planning"

June 4, Saturday, Roast Turkey Dinner, Seatings at 4:30, 5:30, and 6:30pm. Call for reservations, Barbara Boughton 956-0096 (cell).

June 15, Wednesday, Adult Fellowship

6pm, Pot Luck Supper: 7pm, Pound Auction

July 20, Wednesday, Adult Fellowship

6pm, Pot Luck Supper; 7pm Program-Making crafts for the Festival

August 6, Saturday, 10am-10pm, Taborton Festival

Games, food, crafts, auction, Taborton's Treasures, chicken barbecue, and more!

August 17, Wednesday, Adult Fellowship

6pm, Pot Luck Supper: 7pm, Program about Big Bowman Lake history and activities.

Editor's Note: It takes a community to launch a newsletter! When I was first pulling together what information I had for this Spring Newsletter, which was very little, Fred suggested that I have a two page newsletter with the second page saying, "No news is good news." While I generally find my husband quite amusing, I sometimes don't agree with his helpful suggestions. So, I put out a call for help, and help came. Thanks to Sharon Dawes, Anja Carr, John Losee, Rovie Simons, Bruce Sowalski, Cindy LaFleur, and Rev. Loesch, I received news and photos that otherwise would not have been available to you all. Photos and information about the Winter Festival came from John Losee, Cindy LaFleur, and Colleen Masters. Information and photos about Lawson Road and the winter at the lake in general came from Anja Carr. Sharon Dawes also contributed news about the web-site and in general and rallied the Chairs of committees who, in turn, responded with information about their committees. So, thank you all for helping me to make this Newsletter happen.

Years ago, when I was little, my father produced a neighborhood newsletter. He would go off to a local store where they supplied him with materials, and he would pull together a 3-4 page publication. All I remember about it is that my father seemed happy when he came back home. I hadn't thought about that for years, but something conjured the memory up for me this year, and I can totally relate to what I sensed my father felt. Looking forward to see you all soon. Susan Faulkner