

THE BOWMAN LAKE NEWSLETTER



**Taborton, NY
Winter, 2011**

**Season's
Greetings from
Bowman Pond!**

Bowman Lake Association

2011-2012 Board of Directors:

President: Sharon Dawes

Vice President: Janice Anne Kullman

Secretary: Susan Faulkner

Treasurer: Fred Newdom

Immediate Past President: Anja Carr

Board Members/Term End Date:

Rob Dawes and Shane Cahill, 2012

Bruce Solwalski and Cindy LaFleur, 2013

Barb Mark and Tim Russell, 2014

Appointees

Historian: Vacant

Directory Editor: Cindy LaFleur

Newsletter Editor: Susan Faulkner

2011-12 Partial Calendar of Events

12/23/11: 3 pm, **Christmas Caroling Tour**

Meet at Marilyn LaFleur's house

2/18/12: Noon, **Winterfest Luncheon**, at

the Cobden's waterfront

1:30 pm, **Winterfest Activities**,

at the LaFleur/Masters/White lakeside

6/16/12: 4pm, **BLA Board Meeting**

at the Kullman/Simons home

5pm, **BLA Membership Mtg.**

6pm, **BLA Summer Kick-off Social**

For a more complete listing of Bowman

Lake Association events for 2012

see page 6

A Message From Our Bowman Lake Association President

Dear Neighbors: We've had quite an eventful few months thanks to Mother Nature - an earthquake, a hurricane, a heavy October snowfall followed by very mild weather in November. We've also had some lovely events including the Labor Day Pot Luck and the Columbus Day Weekend Chili Cook-off. The Second Annual Caroling Tour will happen just before Christmas. Thank you to everyone who organized, cooked, cleaned up, shared, sang, and participated in these BLA events. Check out the list of upcoming events that Social Activities Chair Bruce Sowlaski and his committee have dreamed up for the coming year.

As we head into 2012, two important activities are underway. First, thanks to Board Member and Membership Chair Cindy LaFleur (and second-grader Shea Masters-White who stuffed the envelopes) for the mailing to all current members and to everyone who is eligible for membership but hasn't yet signed up. I hope you are all enjoying John Losee's wonderful photo of Big Bowman in fall -- and for those we invited to renew or activate your membership for calendar year 2012, please do so by January 31. You can send your check to Fred Newdom in the return envelope provided in the mailing or go to the Paypal feature of our website <http://www.bowmanlakeny.org/blacms/index.php?page=membership-contribution>. Annual contribution is \$20 for each adult. We need and want you to become an official BLAer.

Second, Environmental Committee Chair Rovie Simons has started the NYS DEC permit application for permission to introduce diploid carp to control aquatic weeds. Remember, we are going through the application process as an *educational* endeavor. Rovie will share all that we learn with BLA members and then next summer we will decide as an Association what actions should be taken to deal with the weed problem. We have also recently joined the NYS Federation of Lake Associations to learn from others around the state and to take advantage of its educational and water quality monitoring program. If you would like to learn more about NYSFOLA, you can find their website at www.nysfola.org.

I wish everyone a cozy and pleasant winter and hope to see you enjoying Big Bowman and environs whenever you can. Please also check our website occasionally for photos, events, and useful information www.bowmanlakeny.org. Your suggestions are always welcome.

Happy Holidays!
Sharon Dawes, President

Membership Committee Request

Janice Anne Kullman of the Membership Committee has been investigating the possibility of a "Friends of the BLA" group to include those people who have or had a connection to Bowman Lake but are not currently eligible for membership. She would like our thoughts on who to include in such a group and what membership in the Friends group would mean. Possibilities might include, receiving an electronic version of this newsletter, ability to pay to attend BLA events like the regatta, or receipt of and inclusion in the membership directory. Please contact Janice Anne directly at William.kullman@rcn.com with any thoughts on whether we should have such a group, anyone you know of who might want to be included in such a group, and what membership in a Friends of BLA group would include.

**Last Bowman Lake Association Event of 2011:
Holiday Caroling**

When and Where: Friday, December 23rd, Marilyn LaFleur's house at 3:00 PM to begin singing.

Caroling Tour: 3:20 Anja Carr's house; 3:40 Cobdens' house; 4:00 Dawes house; 4:20 Cahills' house



Doug Boughton will be there with his tractor and hay wagon for those who would rather ride than walk to the next stop and anyone in the vicinity can join the group. Last stop is the Dawes house at 4:00 PM (where everyone on Howe way and the rest of Lawson Rd is welcome to gather inside where it's warm while waiting for the tractor/choir to arrive). More singing there and then everyone is invited to gather at Ron & Eileen Cahill's for cookies and hot chocolate at 4:20 PM with the Windmill Way contingent. By the way, you don't have to stick to this plan - you can join the group anywhere along the way from beginning to end.

The early start time will keep most of the event in daylight hours as recommended by last year's stalwart but frozen singers. Hope to see and hear you there!

Speaking of the weather outside being frightful...:

As Sharon mentioned in her message, we had quite the weather this late summer into Fall. For those of you who had already closed up shop for the summer, here's a look at what Hurricane Irene was like.



These pictures were taken as Irene was deluging Bowman Pond. In the left photo, top right, you can see signs of the run-off from the streams that lead into the pond on the south end. It was so fierce there was a little wake into the lake. The right hand photo shows the rise in the water only a couple of hours later. All of the ground showing was under water as the day progressed. Rather than water running under the Trivers' footbridge, it is running over the bridge down to the lake.

Bowman Lake Association Winter Festival, February 18, 2012:

This year, once again the Cobdens will host lunch at their lakeside to kick-off the Winterfest beginning at 12 noon. Dave and Karen always provide a great lunch to warm and sustain participants before the activities portion of the day at the LaFleur/Masters and White compound.

Activities will begin at 1:30 pm. The scheduled activities include a hockey game, Ice Bowling (Men and Women divisions), Slalom races (foot and cardboard sled), and of course the Women's Frying Pan Toss. Congratulations to Barb Kivlen, the 2011 Defending Champion of the coveted Frying Pan trophy and title.



Many thanks in advance to all of those that help us each year keep the rink cleared and ready from the first snowfall until the Winterfest. Our dedicated help includes the Boughton family, Matt and Kat LaFleur, and Bruce Sowalski and Lorraine Ferguson.

Hope to see you all February 18, 2012!
Bill and Cindy LaFleur
Colleen Masters and Tom White

**Update on the Bowman Lake Association Directory:**

There had been some questions at the Annual Meeting in August about the directory. Here's an update from Directory Editor, Cindy LaFleur.

"We are working to update the membership rolls (she noted the Membership Committee letter campaign which was sent out), and also identify and enlist those who may be "friends" status. I would not expect any new directory until this effort is complete, and would not expect that to be resolved for the next couple of months."

For all of you who are hoping to get the Directory, I'd encourage you to either respond to the recent Membership Committee letter or respond to Janice Kullman's request on Page 2 regarding the "friends" of Bowman Pond category of membership so that we can get the membership list complete, and then the Directory can be officially updated.

Bowman Lake History Test: Who were the 4 young boys?

"Kabam! The loud sharp sound pierced the evening quiet that had spread over Bowman Pond as the cool darkness replaced a brilliant orange August sunset. Silence, then the giggling by four young boys as they hightailed it away from the Blake dock by feverishly paddling past the Heidenreich camp. Their wooden paddles banging against the gunnels of the Grumman aluminum canoe awoke Stan Heidenreich Sr. who had just fallen asleep after spending an exhausting day at his dry cleaning business sweating in the summer heat wave that had stalled in Albany since early July. He knew who the boys were by the sound of their laughter and was waiting for their boat to pass when he heard a high pitch scream that sounded like Marion Blake had been shot." (If you don't know who the boys were, see David Lerch's story in the Bowman Pond Memory Book. You may be surprised!)

Bowman Lake on YouTube!?!:

Did you know that there is a portion of the 2010 Regatta on a YouTube clip? If you do a search for Big Bowman Pond on the internet, one of the items that comes up is the 2010 Regatta. Lower on the list is another clip with ice fishing but I'm not sure it is Big Bowman Pond. What do you think?

A Letter from Former Bowman Lake Association Member, Aaron Bolgatz:

Dear Association Members,

We are writing to tell everybody that we have sold our house on Howe Way. We really enjoyed the summers that we were able to spend at Big Bowman. A big part of our enjoyment was being part of the community (even if Ron Cahill did once threaten to sink our boat when we accidentally landed on his raft in a storm - he agreed not to do it when I pointed out that Eliza was only 4 and Macky 1). Please remember, as I'm sure Doug Boughton will not let people forget, we are one time holders of the Blake Cup (3 little pigs and yes, you were scared when the Big Bad Wolf came out from under the dock...).

We have not met the new owners, but from all I've heard they are a nice family. Hopefully they will be great additions to the community. Rob Dawes knows them well as he was their realtor.

If anyone is ever coming to Colorado please look us up. We wish everybody well and will hopefully see some of you in the future. (We're still part of Boundless Woods.)

All the best and thanks for some really great times!

Aaron, Becky, Eliza and MacLeay

Transitions:

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 at least one more new resident this year.

Not all of us had a chance to meet our newest neighbors on the lake, so let's extend a warm welcome to Jennifer and Gert Schmitt, and their five month old son, Simon, and their little black and white dog, Elsie. Originally from Maryland, they have come to our community so that Jennifer could go to graduate school at Russell Sage for Occupational Therapy, and Gert was able to transfer from his job with SAIC as an environmental scientist for energy to a local branch of the company. They are now the owners of the Bolgatz home on Howe Way.

On the construction front, the Douttiels' home is on its way to getting finished. The outside looks finished and, I just heard today, that the inside is well on its way. Soon, Karen and Dave will be amongst the rest of the year round residents enjoying the wonders of the "quiet time of the year" as well as the fun of summertime living on the lake.

This winter we sadly bid farewell to a resident who was, in his own words from the Memory Book, "extremely grateful" to have lived on the lake and who felt "fortunate to spend nearly all my summers here." His love of Bowman Pond enriches us all. Condolences to his family. He will be missed:

Stan Heidenreich

Social Activities Committee Schedule of 2012 Events:

The 2012 BLA Event schedule is filling up, and actually starts in 2011 with the Holiday Caroling. We are looking for chairs for the Regatta, the Tractor Parade, and hosts for the Pot Luck Dinner, the Ladies of the Lake Tea, and the Men of the Mountain event. The Talent Show is back, so start planning your acts.

12/23/11	Second Annual Big Bowman Caroling, (see info on page 3)
02/18/12	Winterfest, Noon luncheon and Fun activities (see info on page 4)
06/18/12	June BLA Board (4pm) and Association (5pm) Meetings followed by social event Summer Kick-off Social (6pm), at the Kullman/Simons home
07/02/12	Bowman Lake Sing (July 4th, Holiday Weekend) Rachel Cahill, Chair, Location TBA
07/14/12	Bowman Lake Tractor Parade, Chair Pending
07/28/12	Regatta, Noon at the Kullman/Simons dock, Chair pending
08/18/12	August BLA Annual Board (4pm) and Membership (5pm) Meetings followed by the Bowman Lake Talent Show (6pm, Bruce Sowalski, Chair), at the Ferguson/ Sowalski home
09/01/12	End of Summer Pot Luck (Sunday of Labor Day weekend), Chair Pending
10/06/12	Chili Cook-Off, at the home of Bill and Cindy LaFleur, time TBD
TBD	Ladies of the Lake Tea (TBD)
TBD	BLA Fishing Derby, Shane Cahill and Rob Dawes, Chairs
TBD	Family Outdoor Movie Night (TBD)
TBD	Men of the Mountain event (TBD)

Other suggestions include:

1. Kids Halloween Party
2. Adult Halloween Party
3. Super Bowl Party
4. Bocce ball/Horseshoes Outing/Tournament - maybe the June Social Event?
5. Poker Tournament or (Any other Card-Game night)
6. Golf Outing @ Burden Lake CC

All great ideas. As with all the scheduled events, and for the suggest/requested events - the critical factor is having a Chairperson. If you want to get an event on the schedule, and will run it, let the BLA Social Committee know. In fact join the Social Committee, membership is open. Currently conspiring to plan events are Bill LaFleur, Matt LaFleur, Erin Robilotta, Rob Dawes, Janice Kullman, and Bruce Sowalski, Chair.

(This page can be printed as an easy reference to upcoming BLA events.)

Some Information About the New York State Federation of Lake Associations:

For those of you who might have wondered what is this organization that we voted to join at the BLA Annual Meeting and which Sharon Dawes referenced in her comments at the beginning of the Newsletter, here are some quotes from their web-site.

“NYSFOLA was founded in 1983 by a small consortium of lake associations concerned about a variety of problems facing their lakes. Water quality was of concern to nearly all of the lakes, and there was little information available on the methods to combat the increasing presence of aquatic invasive species.

“With the assistance of NYSDEC, NYSFOLA spearheaded the development of the Citizens State-wide Lake Assessment Program. This model statewide volunteer lake monitoring program has since served over 200 NYS lakes, and it remains an important part of NYSFOLA’s mission.

“The educational projects of the Federation include a quarterly newsletter (WATERWORKS), an Annual Conference, a comprehensive book about lake and watershed management (Diet for a Small Lake), and instructional videos. NYSFOLA members also make on-site visits to teach communities about such topics as lake ecology, water quality monitoring techniques and watershed management.

“NYSFOLA is committed to taking a comprehensive approach to lake management issues ranging from addressing causes, as well as effects, of water quality problems. This can be accomplished through the support of sound management practices within the lake basin and throughout the watershed.”

What’s Happening in Our Neck of the Woods:

Recently the Rensselaer Plateau Alliance (RPA) held a workshop locally to teach folks about their organization and the Regional Conservation Plan, about the Plateau’s natural areas as well as the economic importance of the Plateau, and to hear about people’s concerns regarding the Plateau. There will be other workshops in the future for the public to attend. The following information comes directly from the Rensselaer Plateau Alliance’s web-site.

“The RPA recently received a grant to coordinate the development of a regional conservation plan. Key elements of the project are: (1) collect and map ecological data and community values of the Rensselaer Plateau, (2) create opportunities for communication and collaboration within and between municipalities, landowners and stakeholders about this resource and its conservation and economic importance, (3) work with local governments, landowners and NY state to assist conservation awareness, (4) understand together the value of planning in order to ensure that the characteristics of the Rensselaer Plateau that we know and love and need remain, and (5) identify and develop the tools and additional information that municipalities might need in order to get there.

“...The Towns of Nassau and Sand Lake and the RPA have also been awarded a grant from the Hudson River Valley Greenway to fund an Economic Study as part of the Rensselaer Plateau Regional Conservation Plan. The economic study will provide critical information about the contributions of the area’s natural resources to industry, tourism and recreation, as well as for less tangible values such as abundant water supplies and clean air. This information will help inform a well-rounded conservation planning effort being done in cooperation with municipalities....Input from the entire community of stakeholders...will be sought to develop the community values data.”

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**, 741 Taborton Road, Sand Lake.

Christmas Eve	Candlelight Service, 7 pm
Christmas Day	Sunday worship, 10 am
New Year's Day	Sunday worship, 10 am

Also,

Blizzard Barbecue, Saturday, January 7

Serving 12 noon - 4 pm

A "drive thru" only chicken BBQ with all the fixins'.

Reservations are recommended but not required.

Contact Joanne Brown 518-674-2325 or jjbrowny2@gamil.com.

Editor's Note:

Once again the troops have rallied and I have gotten much needed help to give you information that I hope is relevant and interesting to you. Thanks to Sharon Dawes, Janice Anne Kullman, Cindy LaFleur, Bruce Sowalski, Anja Carr, Rev. Dr. Bob Loesch, Jennifer and Gert Schmitt, Fred Newdom, and anyone else who answered any of my numerous requests whether they had anything I could use or not.

The picture on the front page of the Newsletter was taken on December 8th. Down the mountain, we had had a dusting of snow, but I wondered what it might be like on the mountain. I was not disappointed. While the snow was no longer on the roads, it hung on the trees and everything else making all of Big Bowman Pond a winter wonderland. I was reminded of the one winter Fred and I lived here while our home in Delmar was being rebuilt and how amazing it was to experience winter on the lake, from having a whole lake to myself some days to ice skate on to hearing the ice crack in ways I had never heard before or since.

As always, thinking all things Bowman Pond for a while is a happy experience, and I am lucky to have the opportunity to pull this Newsletter together for you once again.

One last comment, with the new configuration of the Membership since the adoption of the new Constitution and By-Laws, a new, updated membership list is being developed and passed on to me for use in sending out the Newsletter. If anyone you know who is used to getting the Newsletter on-line or by mail doesn't get it, please have them contact me, and I'll get a copy to that person.

Happy Holidays! Your Newsletter Editor, Susan Faulkner