

THE BOWMAN LAKE NEWSLETTER

Winter, 2013



SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM BIG BOWMAN POND!

Bowman Lake Association

2013-2014 Board of Directors

President: Colleen Masters

Vice President: Janice Anne Kullman

Treasurer: Fred Newdom

Secretary: Cindy LaFleur

Immediate Past President:

Cindy LaFleur

Board Members/Term End Date:

Barb Mark & Susan Faulkner, 2014

Dean Choudhri & Wes Krahl, 2015

Matt LaFleur & Dana Lerch, 2016

Appointees:

Historian: Susan Faulkner

Membership Chair: Ian Horne

Newsletter Editor: Susan Faulkner

2014 Events Calendar

2/15: Winterfest at the

LaFleur compound

6/21: 4 pm, BLA Board Meeting

5pm, BLA Membership Mtg.

at the Kullman dock

7/04: Bowman Lake Sing

7/26: Regatta at Kullman's:

8/23: 4pm, BLA Board Meeting

5pm, BLA Annual Meeting

Master's dock

9/07: End of Summer Potluck and

Talent Show, at Boughton's

TBD: See Bruce's invitations to be part
of Bowman Lake's events, p. 2.

A Message from the BLA Treasurer, Fred Newdom:

First, I would like to wish you all a wonderful holiday season.

As usual, I am writing to remind everyone that the fiscal calendar now runs from January to January of each year. This means that membership 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. Please remember that you can use PayPal through the BLA website to pay for membership.

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.

Hope to see you at the Winterfest in February.

Fred Newdom

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

Snow on the Pond, ice on the lake - and cheer in our hearts - another year on Big Bowman Pond. Who will the Regatta Chair be in 2014? Tom White? Heather & Coop? Eric Berman? Dean Choudhri? One of the Cahill Clan? Josh did an outstanding job in 2013 - who's next?

Here is the current social schedule for 2014:

- 2/15/14 Winter Fest - LaFleur Compound
- 6/21/14 June BLA meeting - Kullman's Dock
- 7/4/14 Bowman Lake Sing (4th falls on a Friday this year)
- 7/26/14 Regatta (last Sat of July) - (need a Chair !!!)
- 8/23/14 August BLA meeting - Master's Dock
- 9/7/14 End of Summer Pot Luck/Bowman Lake Talent Show (Sunday of Labor Day weekend) - Boughton's

Still open are the following:

- TBD Ladies of the Lake event (Chair Pending)
- TBD Men of the Mountain event (Chair Pending)
- TBD Bowman Lake Tractor Parade (Chair Pending)
- TBD BLA Fishing Derby (Chair Pending)

Thanks, Bruce

Want More Than the Occasional Quote from the Bowman Lake Memory Book?

John Losee is still collecting orders for reprints of the Bowman Lake Memory Book. At the moment, we have orders for 7 color copies and 3 black and white copies. If you haven't already ordered any, but would like to, please e-mail John at Jalosee@aol.com. When you send in your order, please indicate the number of color copies and the number of black and white copies you would like. John will be contacting the printer later this winter to see if we have enough orders yet for a reprint. If we do, he'll find out what the cost will be, then he'll contact those who indicated they wished to order a book(s), with the cost, and confirm that they still want to place their order.

Oh, What an Autumn!

For some of us, once September rolls around and the chilly autumn air seeps into the walls and floors of our thinly, if that, insulated cottages, we pack up and head for either warmer climates or warmer homes. If we are lucky, we live close enough or have enough time for trips to come back and see the changes to the lake as Fall marches toward winter. This year's foliage was as spectacular as ever, and for those of you who missed it and for those of you who gloried in the beauty that surrounded you, here are some photos of what our little patch of Heaven had to offer.



Increase in Summer Rentals During Summer of 2013

With the apparent increase in summer rentals of properties this past summer, it seems appropriate to re-cap the Bowman Pond Renter's Guide developed years ago for those of us who are renting for those who rent in an effort to avoid some common problems if not addressed beforehand.

- 1) **Prevention** of spread of unwanted weeds, like milfoil, by asking those who are renting to thoroughly wash off boats, paddles, life preservers, floats, swimsuits, etc. that have been used in other lakes, rivers, and ponds.
- 2) **Speed limits** on Lawson Road need to be adhered to for the safety of all involved.
- 3) **No Motors** are allowed to be used on watercraft according to a Town of Sand Lake Ordinance.
- 4) **Parking** on Windmill Way and Lawson Road needs to be done in a way that allows access for neighbors and emergency vehicles.
- 5) **Noise levels** need to be kept to a minimum, especially since this is a working community. Those who are renting need to be informed that sound, including music and even loud conversations carry easily over water.
- 6) **Respect for the environment** in general keeps the lake clean. Not feeding geese or other wild animals helps in this matter.
- 7) **Emergencies** should be handled by calling the 911 response system.

You Say To-may-to, I say To-ma-to: Continuing Discussion of the Bowman Lake Weed Issue:**An Editorial**

As everyone knows, the controversy regarding what to do about the bladderwort in the lake continues. Two sides have emerged as having the most popular solutions: the herbicidal approach and the harvesting/mechanical approach. It seems for the most part that the carp approach has lost support primarily due to the size to which they could grow to over the years, as the Masters/White Regatta float one year seemed to capture with their spoof of the Jaws-like carp.

Whatever the outcome to this issue, let's all be clear that there is no definitely right answer, although some would have us believe there is. There are two different points of view, to-may-to and to-ma-to, so to speak, each with valid points as to why that point of view should be taken more seriously than the other. What makes the difference has to do with people's values, passions, practicalities, etc. In and of themselves, values, passions, practicalities, and points of view are not inherently right or wrong, they just reflect what matters most to whomever holds them.

Then there is rhetoric, as William Butler Yates once wrote: "We make out of the quarrel with others, rhetoric, but of the quarrel with ourselves, poetry." When we argue with others, when there is conflict, we often turn to rhetoric or spin or verbal strategies to win our point. Once again, there is nothing wrong with that, we all lobby for what we want to one degree or another. Standing up for what you want is seen in Western cultures as a positive attribute. In our political tradition, putting positive spin on what I do and negative spin on what you do, is all part and parcel of how that rhetoric works. We paint a picture of why one should think in a particular way, and we hope we are convincing.

Given that each solution present has both pros and cons, the outcome really will only reflect who got more votes for their particular approach, not the correctness of the solution itself. If anyone says they know what is best for the lake, that is really their rhetoric for saying they know what they think is best for the lake, but whether or not they do remains to be seen.

Given we can't ignore this situation, how we approach one another about our different ideas about how to resolve the problem is, in my opinion, the most important choice we have in this situation. Regarding the choice about which solution to employ...given we all agree that something needs to be done, given there is no gloriously right solution with no drawbacks, let's just see which solution gets tried based on how many people back it. We don't have to make a lot of rhetoric to make our position sound better than the other one. For each solution, the benefits and the drawbacks are what they are. We could instead strive for the "poetry," the kinder us winning the internal quarrel of how to be in conflict. We can see the problem as the problem, not each other, and that way of being is a grace and poetry unto itself.

Transitions:

Sadly, "Uncle Walt" Schlenker died this past Fall. He was dearly loved by many, and his warm presence and friendly smile will be missed by all. Our condolences to those who loved him and miss him most.

In Our Community:

Upcoming Events at the Zion's United Church of Christ of Taborton:

Zion's United Church of Christ,
741 Taborton Road, Sand Lake, NY 12153
Worship is at 10 am every Sunday.

Children's Christmas Service for families
Sunday, December 15, 10 am
The Sunday School teachers and children present this service.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Tuesday, December 24, 7 pm
Service for families and adults with holiday scripture readings and music.

Blizzard Barbecue
Saturday, January 4
A "drive through" only chicken BBQ with all the fixins' (1/2 chicken cooked on the outside charcoal grill, baked potato, veg., coleslaw, roll, dessert), \$12.00

Two pick up locations:
Zion's UCC Fellowship Hall, 1-2:30 pm
OR
174 Old Route 66 (north of St. Henry's church toward Rte 66/Miller Hill Rd., past Gettle Rd)
Watch for signs, 3:00-5:00 pm.
Reservations are recommended but not required.
Contact Joanne Brown at 518-674-2325
or jjbrown2@gmail.com

Any questions, please contact:

Rev. Dr. Robert Loesch
Pastor, Zion's United Church of Christ
741 Taborton Road
Sand Lake, NY 12153
518-674-8204 iPhone
rkloesch@aol.com

A Little Something From the Bowman Lake Memory Book:

From Bob LaFleur

“Once every summer, a Bowman Lake Association sanctioned party was assembled at one house or another for the advertised purpose of joining in song. Harmonizing was encouraged and barbershop arrangements were impromptu. “I’ve brought my own bottle” was the entire introduction anyone needed to get in. After several seasons of moving around to different hosts, the action finally settled on the Schlenker front yard close to the lake. People arrived by boat and on foot mostly. In an economy drive, Walter Schlenker had the ingenious idea of preparing a punch to drink instead of the inconvenience of everybody walking around with a bottle looking for ice. This breakthrough in gracious hosting had its downside....The trouble was that it tasted so good that you needed more and more. About nine minutes were required for addictive alcohol syndrome to kick in. There was no way you could stop drinking this stuff....Unfortunately, the sings had occasional impact on the participants. Mrs. Thorton broke her arm getting into a canoe leaving the dock. Bob LaFleur successfully rescued Nancy Woodward who had fallen into six inches of water. Countless other incidents were commonplace but go unremembered.”

Want to read more? Want to know the recipe for this drink that will have you wanting more and more? Want to know what Mark Frost had to say about his inspiration for Twin Peaks? Contact John Losee! (see page 2)

Editor’s Note:

As always, I am grateful to have this wonderful place to think about as the nights are long and the skies are often gray. In self-help groups, there is a saying, “take what you like and leave the rest,” and I invite all of you to apply that idea to this newsletter. I have never before written an editorial, and I didn’t really plan to do so this time, and because so many people had given me positive feedback about the conflict resolution piece last year, rather than re-print that a third time, I decided to put out the message once again with a little help from George and Ira Gershwin and William Butler Yates. Not shabby company!

Thanks to all of you who have helped in making this newsletter come together. I always appreciate the help that I get and the quick responses from folks.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas holiday or holiday season or winter wonder, whatever fits best for you. If any of you know someone who gets the snail mail version of this, if you speak to them, let them know their copies are in the mail. Thanks.

Your Newsletter Editor, Susan J. Faulkner