

THE BOWMAN LAKE NEWSLETTER



**Taborton, NY
Spring, 2012**

**Greetings from Big
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 & Shane Cahill, 2012

Bruce Sowalski & Cindy LaFleur, 2013

Barb Mark & Tim Russell, 2014

Appointees:

Historian: Vacant

Directory Editor: Cindy LaFleur

Newsletter Editor: Susan Faulkner

Bowman Lake Association 2012 Calendar of Events:

June 16: 4pm, BLA Board Mtg.

5pm, BLA Membership Mtg.

6pm, BLA Summer Kick-off Social

June ??: BLA Fishing Derby

July 4: Bowman Lake Sing

July 14: Bowman Lake Tractor
Parade

July 28: 81st Annual Regatta

August 18: BLA Annual Meetings

4pm, Board Meeting

5pm, Membership Meeting

7pm, Bowman Lake Talent Show

Sept. 1: End of Summer Pot Luck

October 6: BLA Chili Cook-Of

See Page 4 for more details!!

A Message From Our Bowman Lake Association President

Happy Spring everyone!

The ice left Bowman Pond very early this year and we have had a very warm and dry spring. It's hard to remember it's only April when the temperatures occasionally flirt with 80 degrees.

This newsletter will bring you up to date on what's been happening over the winter and what to plan for in another year of association events planned by our very creative Social Activities Committee, chaired by Bruce Sowalski.

By now, you have received the draft of a beautiful new member directory, put together by Cindy LaFleur. The final version will be ready as soon as we make any corrections you let us know about. I'm very pleased to say we have 109 Association members for 2012 -- and of course membership is always open to anyone who qualifies by living for any part of the year on roads surrounding the lake. If any of your non-member neighbors or family members are interested, please ask them to contact Cindy or me and we will be happy to sign them up.

Over the winter, we updated our website www.bowmanlakeny.org with more environmental information, some Taborton history, and a PayPal feature. Much more will be added over the next few months. We also joined the New York State Federation of Lake Associations (NYSFOLA) and will be looking for ways to take advantage of their education and water quality monitoring programs. The Federation website www.nysfola.org has a wealth of information to share.

Rovie Simons, Robbie Dawes, and I have also started the permit application process regarding the use of sterile triploid carp to control pond weeds. We will keep you up to date on what we learn. Remember, even if a permit is granted we won't use it without formal approval of Association members and any other formalities required by law. We hope to have a preliminary report at the June 16 Association meeting.

In the meantime, you can help by refraining from using fertilizers, keeping your septic system working properly, and reducing direct runoff by planting native plants (like blueberry bushes and viburnum) around the shore line. Any time runoff goes directly into the lake it carries lots of nutrients that feed the weeds. Shoreline plants help take up the nutrients before they get to the lake. You can find lots of native plant species at the Wildflower Center website <http://www.wildflower.org/plants/>. Just click on New York State on the map for a long list of possibilities.

Finally, we warmly welcome some new faces to our community: Nicolas Robilotta, born to Erin and Matt Robilotta in December and Mason Cahill, born to Shane and Jamie Cahill in March.

Hope to see everyone this summer,
Sharon Dawes
President

Winterfest 2012 Recap from Cindy LaFleur

By all accounts Winterfest 2012 was a great success! We had close to 80 attendees, and in its current form, the 5th Annual demonstrates the Winterfest is gaining popularity as a pre-cabin fever event!

Mother Nature was as cooperative as could be remembered this season, and you'll hear no complaints from anyone in Taborton! Doug Boughton measured the ice prior to the event at 4-6", however many skeptics, stayed off the ice, as a thin layer of water from shoreline springs covered the ice cover.

We missed the hospitality this year of Dave and Karen Cobden, however, we were able to keep all of the competitors well fed throughout the afternoon, thanks to provisions from the BLA, and the Pot-Luck offerings of participants. This seemed to work well, and hopefully we can coax Dave to come cook for us all afternoon, at future Winterfests!

Lastly, the summary of the competitions:

1. Women's Ice Bowling Champion- Cindy LaFleur
2. Women's Ice Bowling Runner-Up- Gretchen Lerch
3. Men's Ice Bowling Champion- Tom White
4. Men's Ice Bowling Runner-Up- Matt LaFleur
5. Child's Hockey Puck Shoot Champion- Cole Boughton
6. Men's Hockey Puck Shoot Champion- NO WINNER (LOL!)
7. "The Bruce and Lorraine" Iditarod Champion- Matt and Kat LaFleur-1st (Rob and Melissa Dawes DQ'ed for use of illegal equipment)
8. Women's Frying Pan Toss Champion- Barb Kivlen (year 2)
9. Women's Frying Pan Toss Runner-Up- Val Balga (year 2)
10. 50-50 to benefit the BLA winner- Kat LaFleur



First Summer Get Together Message from Janice Anne Kullman

June 16th is the first summer meeting at the Simons/Kullman camp. 4 PM for Officers and Board Members and 5 PM for members. Feel free to bring snacks or beverages. No need to bring chairs, but do bring your crazy sunglasses for a very serious competition after the meeting. But Wait. There's more.

*At 7 PM after your dinner is done
Come back to Simons Triangle for even more fun
Tip's buying a keg and a box o' wine
He wants everyone to feel just fine
If that's not enough, feel free to bring more
He'd like to open up and give you a tour
Of the house on Lawson Road, he and Lori did score!*

*The winter was calm
Thanks to the unusual balm
But if the warm should expire
We'll build a bon fire!*

The BLA Summer Calendar From the Social Committee

Spring has arrived early on Bowman Pond, and the social season is warming up. Rob & Melissa Dawes will be chairing this year's Regatta, and the Bowman Lake Sing will be on Wednesday, July 4th. Still looking for hosts for the Ladies of the Lake Tea, the Men of the Mountain event, and the End of Summer Pot Luck.

Hopefully it will be a full summer by June 16th, when the season kicks-off with the BLA Board and Members meetings, followed by our June Social - this year's theme – "Cheap Sunglasses!" Wear your choice of Cheap Sunglasses, Shades only, or a complete outfit to complement the look....

♪ Now go out and get yourself some big black frames,
With the glass so dark they won't even know your name,
And the choice is up to you 'cause they come in two classes...
Rhinestone shades or cheap sunglasses..... ♪

Calendar:

6/16/12	June BLA Board 4pm, Members Mtg. 5pm: 6pm Social: Cheap Sunglasses (Janice Kullman – host, with bonfire and cocktails post social)
6/??/12	BLA Fishing Derby (Rob Dawes & Shane Cahill)
7/04/12	Bowman Lake Sing, Wednesday 4 th of July Holiday – location TBD (Rachel & Matt – chorale directors)
7/14/12	Bowman Lake Tractor Parade (Chair Pending)
7/28/12	81 st Annual Regatta – Last Saturday in July – Simons/Kullman's dock (Regatta Chairs - Rob & Melissa Dawes)
8/18/12	August BLA Board 4pm, Members Meeting 5pm: 7pm, Bowman Lake Talent Show (Ferguson/Sowalski - hosts)
9/1/12	End of Summer Pot Luck - Sunday of Labor Day weekend – (host/s pending)
10/6/11	Chili Cook-Off - Saturday of Columbus Weekend (LaFleur compound)
TBD	Ladies of the Lake Tea (TBD)
TBD	Men of the Mountain event (TBD)
TBD	Family Outdoor Movie Night (TBD)

A Recap of BLA's Consideration of the Use of Sterile Triploid Grass Carp

The last couple of Bowman Lake Association meetings have focused in large part on what to do with the increased weed infestation of the lake. In August, 2011, the Adirondack Ecologists, LLC were invited by the Association to do a survey of BBP and make a report afterward, which they did. In the report they cited an "overabundance" of bladderwort along the shore and lily pads in the shallow areas of the lake. The report indicated that bladderwort is most problematic when it collects on the surface of the water...when it is ready to fruit resulting in the formation of dense mats which can affect recreational use and aesthetic enjoyment of a body of water. Their primary recommendation for "the most cost-effective alternative to controlling the overabundance of bladderwort and possibly even the lily pad population" was the introduction of sterile triploid grass carp into the lake.

Pros to the carp were identified as the most cost effective alternative to controlling the overabundance of bladderwort; a decrease in the aquatic plant biomass thereby increasing the aesthetics and recreational use of the lake; decreasing the temperature of the lake reducing the metabolic rate of aquatic organisms; and improving the lake water surface circulation, possibly minimizing stagnation.

Cons to the carp identified were: possible increase in mosquito population since bladderwort "eats" mosquito larvae; possible phosphorus concentrations could increase due to less use by the bladderwort and a 60% excretion rate by the carp of what they eat; possible decreased water clarity due to increased algae resulting if there were too much eradication of aquatic plant life or carp foraging stirring up lake bottom sediment; loss of habitat to certain wildlife including insects, birds, and even some kinds of fish; and size of the carp over time startling boaters and/or swimmers.

At the August 2011 Annual BLA Meeting there was discussion about this proposal. Sharon Dawes and Rovie Simons indicated that at this point they would pursue a DEC approval for introduction of these carp into the pond, but that that did not mean anything other than to see if BBP qualifies for this option. They also indicated that if this approach was approved by the Membership that it would be an incremental process since it is recommended to take a cautious approach to stocking to avoid complete eradication of aquatic plant life on the lake but not too cautious that there are no positive results.

A review of the discussion included: questions about stocking and cost of this option; recommendations for BLA members to continue with weed pulling on their own to prevent re-fertilization and increased plant decay; concerns about the eventual size of the carp (up to forty pounds); cost of other methods of eradication; effect of water levels on aquatic plant life; planting along the shore to decrease introduction of nutrients into the water; and a general recommendation to educate ourselves for further discussions this summer.

Editor's Note: In doing some exploring on the Internet regarding different states' experiences using sterile triploid grass carp, I found one not before mentioned piece of information: that these fish are very "wary" by nature, so they tend to avoid humans which is also one factor that contributes to them also being difficult to catch fishing. For those with Internet access, there are a number of sites where you can further educate yourselves about these carp. In "Community News" see some additional thoughts that Elizabeth Marks offered from her experiences with lake biology.

Community News

Another Perspective Regarding Sterile Triploid Grass Carp from Elizabeth Marks:

Despite supposedly being infertile, there seem to be exceptions and carp have already been colonizing some of our waterways. Grass carp will remove much aquatic vegetation. In doing so, they are also removing protective shelter for amphibians, aquatic insects (like dragonflies), and other fish. If predatory fish, e.g. Large Mouth Bass, are in the lake, then many of these organisms can be destroyed. In a research study done by the Farmscape Ecology Program in Columbia County on farm ponds, it was discovered that fish presence affected amphibian diversity and abundance. When ample aquatic or emergent vegetation was present, fish like Large Mouth Bass seemed to have little effect on amphibian diversity and abundance. When such vegetation was absent or reduced (as would happen if there were carp), then the presence of fish clearly reduced the diversity and abundance of frogs and salamanders.

Carp can muddy the waters, literally. Their habitats often seem to result in the stirring up of bottom sediments; something that can be discouraging for pond owners, reduce sunlight arriving to aquatic vegetation, and may destroy the habitat for some aquatic organisms. Having worked as a lake biologist and done weed management on Lake George, I can say that the easiest way to control weeds is hand pulling. Since you don't want to eliminate or dramatically reduce aquatic plants entirely from the lake because of their benefits (remove nutrients from the water, provide habitat for fish, amphibians, and aquatic insects), the thing to do is just pull the weeds in front of people's swimming areas. I'm sure on a hot summer's day and a couple of inner tubes, you'll have no problems finding volunteers! Also, to prevent vegetation from getting out of control, nutrient management is very important. I know it is always a struggle, but properly installed and maintained septic systems are so important at reducing the amount of septic waste reaching the lake.

So, the bottom line is that grass carp will alter the ecology of the lake but it is a matter of whether people think it is worth the sacrifice in order to have less aquatic vegetation. Once in though, it may be difficult if not impossible to remove them.

In the Neighborhood:

Big Bowman Pond borders on New York State's fifth largest intact forest area which includes 105,000 acres of the Rensselaer Plateau area. It runs from Tibbits State Forest in Hoosick, Pittstown State Forest, Grafton Lakes State Park, county owned Dyken Pond Environmental Center, the Capital District Wildlife Management Area, and Cherry Plain Park in Berlin.

While there is little information about the state forest areas, the other areas offer many activities summer and winter and may provide an interesting half-day or day trip to anyone who wants to explore our general vicinity.

Dyken Pond Environmental Center offers six miles of trails for hiking, geocaching (see below), a boat launch and kayak and canoe rentals, fishing, and night camping. Grafton Lakes State Park has five ponds and 2,357 acres and offers sandy beach swimming, fishing, boat launch and kayak and canoe rentals, hiking, biking, and nature trails. The Wildlife Management Area offers 4144 acres of upland hiking trails, picnic areas, hunting, fishing, and trapping. Cherry Plain State Park offers a sandy beach for swimming with bathhouse, boat rentals, picnic areas, hiking, biking, fishing, bridle paths, and camping. Check hours of operation before going to the State Parks since they vary and also expect entrance fees.

Have You Heard About Geocaching?

“Geocaching is a high-tech treasure hunting game played throughout the world by adventure seekers equipped with GPS devices. The basic idea is to locate hidden containers, called geocaches, outdoors and then share your experiences online. Geocaching is enjoyed by people from all age groups, with a strong sense of community and support for the environment.” This is how the Dyken Pond Environmental Center describes one of the activities that is offered at their Center. The Dyken Pond Center has created a beginner’s/easy series of caches. They are located throughout the center, just off trails and in easy terrain. The Center does have GPS units available for rent, please call 658-2055 for more details or to schedule for a guided group experience. For more information about geocaching in general, visit the official Geocaching website: www.geocaching.com.

An Invitation to All to Upcoming Events at Zion’s United Church of Christ of Taborton:

Sunday Worship at 10 a.m. Fellowship and refreshments following worship.

Roast Turkey Dinner—Sat, June 2

Family style all you can eat turkey, mashed potatoes, dressing and gravy, cabbage salad, corn, green bean, cranberry sauce, rolls and butter and a dessert.

Choice of beverage: lemonade, iced tea, milk, coffee or tea

\$12 adult, \$5 child (5- 12 years) Free- five years and under

Seatings at 4:30, 5:30 and 6:30 pm.

**Please call for reservations as soon as possible: Barbara Boughton 956-0096 (cell phone)
Or Diane Hoffman, 674-2746. Reservations no later than Sat noon, June 2.**

If no answer, please leave your reservation, name and phone number in the message box and you will be called back to confirm your reservation. All reservations need to be confirmed if left as a recorded message to assure your seats.

104th Year of our Taborton Picnic-Festival

10 am - 10 pm Saturday, August 4th- 2012

Breakfast sandwiches will be served until 11 am

10 am- 4 pm: Craft Fair

10 am: All Booths Open

Games and Prizes -- Fish Pond, Ring Toss, Darts, Milk Bottles, Gold Fish, Bouncy-Bounce, Basketball Throw, Duck Float, Ball Toss

Balloons, Face Painting

Aunt Evy’s General Store, Bake Sale, Harvest Table, Parcel Post, Raffle Booth, Child Photo ID and Fingerprinting, Taborton Fire Department, Taborton’s Treasures, Used Children’s Toys and Furniture, and 50/50 Raffle

Spring Sightings and Summer Delights!

For those of you who enjoy the myriad wildlife that living by a pond has to offer, you



will be delighted to know that a pair of Bufflehead Ducks (far left photo) took a respite from their Mexico to Canada migration in the clear waters of Big Bowman Pond in late March. While these ducks are a migratory sighting, we have an abundance of Interesting birds that share our community summer after summer and benefit us because their food source is often the insects we find irritating to us.

The Eastern Kingbird (second from left photo) of the Flycatcher family is about the size of the Northern Cardinal. This mostly black and white bird sits lakeside, then periodically swoops out, catches its prey, and goes back to its perch to eat. The Tree and Barn Swallows (tree swallow, third from left photo), a little smaller than the Kingbird, also swoop over the lake, but they tend to cover the entire lake, tirelessly sweeping back and forth, eating dinner, so to speak, on the fly. Finally, one of my favorites because of the rattling sound that makes it distinctive is the Belted Kingfisher (far right photo). This bird is larger and stockier than a Blue Jay, has dark blue-gray coloring with a rust colored “belt” (male), and feasts on fish, insects, and lizards. Hope you get to see some of our feathery “neighbors” this summer.

Transitions:

Congratulations to Erin and Matt Robilotta and to Jamie and Shane Cahill on the occasion of the births of their sons!!

From Your Newsletter Editor:

Sorry to all for this being a Late Edition of the Newsletter. Many circumstances contributed to the delay, but here it is finally.

As always, it's been a pleasure to pull together the Newsletter, and I would not be able to do so without contributions from others including Sharon Dawes, Janice Anne Kullman, Cindy LaFleur, Bruce Sowalski, Elizabeth Marks, Fred Newdom, and Rev. Bob Loesch. Also, because of the tremendous job Cindy LaFleur has done on the BLA Directory, my job is made easier in terms of having an accurate and complete mailing list, both email and snail mail. Thank you, thank you.

Just a reminder to all, that if there is something you would like to share with your community over the Fall/Winter/Spring months, please think of sending it for inclusion in the Newsletter.

Fred and I look forward to seeing you all very soon and sharing in the beauty and community that we are all so fortunate to have access to. Warm regards, Susan Faulkner, Editor