



Lake Life

For Members of the Baboosic Lake Association
and Watershed Area
January-February 2006 Membership Drive Edition
Editor-Linda Matz 429-2457

If you are receiving this newsletter, you live in the watershed area of Baboosic Lake!! It does not mean that you are a member of the Association, but are encouraged to become a member to help preserve the life of our Lake and the surrounding area!! Membership information is contained in this newsletter. Everything anyone does within the watershed area directly affects the quality of the lake. Please keep this in mind with your daily activities and help us keep our lake a great place for future generations to enjoy. Future monthly newsletters are sent to BLA members only, so please join us so we can keep you informed throughout the year. Thank you!

Hello friends of Baboosic Lake,

Just a quick update on lake issues. The board has been very busy this winter, which sometimes feels like spring. We have been working hard on applying for a grant from the NH Dept. of Environmental Services. This will be used to address uncontrolled storm water runoff around the lake. There were 44 other applicants, out of which only 16 were accepted to proceed to the interview process with the DES staff members. New and old board members went to the interview up in Concord. I would like to thank them for their time and help. We have made it to the next step in the process, and are getting our full proposal together for this project. We still have a long way to go and many obstacles to avoid. We will keep you updated on our progress and hopefully we will start to see some of these problem areas around the lake being fixed this year. Thank you.

**Richard Sullivan
President**

Committees

Anyone interested in volunteering some time and joining one of our many committees is encouraged to do so by contacting any of the board members listed on the back of this newsletter. Please remember that you do not have to be available for all committee meetings. Any time that you can give is surely welcomed.

Safety committee update

-Per the request of various snowmobilers, we added extra reflective tape to the permanent buoys to make them more visible & less likely to be hit. Please exercise caution when driving on the lake with the snowmobiles. These buoys are the property of the state and should not be touched or moved. Thank you. ***The weather has been quite warm for the winter months so far and thin ice is a dangerous issue facing many of the lakes around New Hampshire. Please remember to stay away from open water and do not go on the ice if it is not thick enough. The general rule is "Thick and blue, tried and true, Thin and crispy, way too risky". Please see the section on judging ice safety on page 4 of this newsletter.***

2006 Tentative Social Schedule

The Baboosic Lake Association is currently setting the summer social schedule. The dates listed below are only tentative dates. The actual confirmed dates will be published in the monthly member newsletters over the course of the next few months. As always, any questions you may have regarding any event may be directed to Linda Matz or Ellen Fallon. We look forward to seeing lots of you this year!

- February 25th- Winter Carnival 1:00pm to ? 4 Seasons Beach
- June 23rd- Annual Meeting Amherst or Merrimack Town Hall 7:00pm (to be announced)
- June 24th- Volleyball Tournament
- July 4th- Ring of fire around the lake (to be announced in a later newsletter)
- July 15th- Boat Parade 4:00 followed by ice cream social 7-9pm
- July 30th- Cardboard boat race
- August 6th- Canoe/Kayak morning social (no motor boats)
- August 19th- Ice cream Social 7-9pm
- August 26th- Annual picnic
- September Volleyball Tournament ?
- September- Progressive Dinner or Dance?

Please keep in mind that the above dates are tentative and the exact date of events will be published in upcoming monthly newsletters. As always, if there is an event that you would like to see scheduled or if you would like to join the social committee, please contact Linda Matz or Ellen Fallon.

E-coli Water Testing



Location	Map Code	E-coli count
Hillside	1	
4 Seasons	2	
Greenwood/Lakeside	3	
Oliver's Pipe	4	
Carter Road	5	
Jebb Road	6	
Far Cove	7	
Seagull Heaven	8	
Washer Cove	9	
Moonbeam	10	
Amherst Town Beach	11	

Water testing is set to resume again in the spring. The above information is a map and code of the locations that are tested monthly on Baboosic Lake. If you would like to join the water testing committee or would like information regarding the testing process, please contact Wally Kido at 424-9185. Thank you.

Boater Safety Course

This is just a friendly reminder that by the year 2008, **all** boaters in the State of New Hampshire will be required to have taken the boater safety course. Below is a listing of the certification process:

Age 42 & under	Date of Birth on or after 1/1/1963	Certificate required by 1/1/2006
Age 49 & under	Date of Birth on or after 1/1/1957	Certificate required by 1/1/2007
All Boaters		Certificate required by 1/1/2008

Please check the local papers for dates, times and locations of classes or call the Boating Education Office at Marine Patrol Headquarters in Gilford, toll free at (888) 254-2125. You may also take the course on line at www.boat-ed.com/nh. There is also a home study option available by calling 1-800-830-2268.

WHAT'S UP IN WATER TESTING

By Wally Kido

The ability of an electrical current to pass through a substance is called “conductivity”. This ability can be influenced by the amount of charged particles (ions) present in the substance and, in the case of water, by the temperature.

So what does this have to do with water quality on Baboosic Lake? Well, if you think about some of the common sources of lake water pollution (sewage, agriculture, chemical fertilizers, road salt), they all result in the presence of higher ion concentrations. If we had a way to measure conductivity, we might get some clues as to pollution sources by detecting any sudden changes.

Last year the Association acquired a conductivity meter and began measuring conductivity at our four regular lake center monitoring sites as well as one site along the shore in Washer Cove. The readings were fairly consistent and gave us a good baseline for monitoring the shoreline in the future.

While these readings will not provide specific explanations for variations, they can be a “red flag” to tell us to investigate a particular site further. The readings are easy after acquiring the equipment and the information is instantaneous compared to other tests that can take days or weeks. Our intention is to use the meter in our regular monitoring program and also supplement this with special shoreline readings.

The meter is a fairly sophisticated piece of equipment. Because the ion concentrations in a fresh water lake are very low, the probe must be very sensitive. Further, the meter has a microprocessor built in to make all the calculations to compensate for variations in temperature. Thus, it was not cheap. But we hope you'll agree that this was a good investment in our capability to effectively monitor the water quality of our lake.

SAFETY ON ICE- NH Fish and Game

Judging Ice Conditions

*“Thick and blue, tried and true
Thin and crispy, way too risky”*

Look for bluish ice that is at least 4 to 6 inches thick. Even if the weather has been below freezing for several days, don't guess about ice thickness. Check the ice in several places. Use an auger, spud or axe to make a test hole, beginning at shore and continuing as you go out. If ice at the shoreline is cracked or squishy, stay off. Don't go on the ice during thaws. Watch out for thin, clear, or honeycomb shaped ice. Dark snow and dark ice are other signs of weak spots. Choose small bodies of water. Rivers and lakes are prone to wind and wave action, which can break ice up quickly. Avoid areas with currents, around bridges and pressure ridges.

What if I Break through the ice?

If you break through the ice, don't panic. Don't try to climb out- you'll probably break the ice again.

Lay both arms on the unbroken ice and kick hard. This will lift your body onto the ice. Roll to safety.

To help someone who has fallen in, lie down flat and reach with a branch, plank or rope; or form a human chain. Don't Stand! After securing the victim, wiggle backwards to the solid ice. The victim may need treatment for hypothermia (cold exposure), artificial respiration or CPR.

Shoreline Protection Act

Spring is just around the corner and there are a few things that we would like to remind you about the shoreline of the lake.

It is illegal to dump sand without a permit! This is huge and the state is now taking an active roll with this problem. The State has been on the lake and currently has information regarding those properties which have not filed the proper permits and have dumped the sand illegally. We strongly suggest that you acquire the proper permits when making any changes to your property. The algae bloom which we had experienced last year and also in prior years may be directly attributed to improper sand dumping. Because it has become such a problem on this lake, the State has decided to get tough with these offenders. The Baboosic Lake Association stands strongly behind the Shoreline Protection Act. We feel that it is a sure way to help preserve the life of the lake for future generations, so please stand with us to protect our lake and follow all guidelines put forth by the state. If you need more information regarding all the State regulations and the Shoreline Protection Act, please contact the state agencies listed on the back of this newsletter. Thank you.

Clothing

For those of you who may not know this by now, the BLA currently has several clothing items available for purchase. The items range from T-shirt, sweatshirts, hats to water bottles and lots of other items. They do say Baboosic Lake New Hampshire on them. Anyone interested in purchasing any items may do so by calling Toni Paul at 424-3942. Toni will have these items for sale at the Annual Meeting in June, but if you would like anything before or after that date, just give Toni a call and she will be more than happy to help you.

Membership

Each year the Baboosic Lake Association works diligently to improve the quality of the lake, not only the water in the lake, but the quality of life for those who live on and near the lake. In so doing, we are improving the value of every property in the watershed, whether it is a 1940's seasonal camp on the waterfront, a home built in 2004 or a home 1 block or 1 mile from the lake.

Who will be the first person to complain that property values are declining because their home is for sale during a pea-green algae bloom and buyers aren't willing to pay their price? We ask every homeowner "in the watershed" to follow the guidelines often made by the Association, and the more active you are with the committees and events, the more of a contribution you make to your lake.

The following are some of the benefits of membership:

- Monthly newsletters (sent to Members only)
- Voting at the annual meeting (every vote counts)
- Ability to become a Board Member – we have 3 vacancies for the upcoming term, nominations now being taken, votes will be cast at the annual meeting.
- Social activities (boat parade, picnic, ice cream socials and more)
- Educational activities: community septic, lake monitoring, water quality, etc.

Membership dues remain the same this year (and haven't increased for over 10 years!!). Only \$10 for an individual membership or \$15 for a family – such a deal! We thank those Members making a larger contribution. Every dollar is needed and is accounted for. Please complete the enclosed application form and mail it in today. Thank you.

Please indicate on your membership application if you would like to receive our newsletter via email to help cut down on the cost of paper and postage. Be sure to include your email address on your application. Thank you.

Nominations for upcoming Board Vacancies

The nominating committee is currently seeking individuals who may be interested in joining the Baboosic Lake Association's Board of Directors. Anyone interested in sharing some time with us is encouraged to contact Richard Sullivan, Elaine Englehardt, Kathy Boyd or any other board member whose numbers are listed on the back of this newsletter. Elections will be held at the upcoming Annual Meeting in June. Please join us in helping to preserve the life of our lake. Thank you.

Ice Out Contest

Anyone interested in participating in the yearly Ice Out Contest should do so by calling Toni Paul at 424-3942. Entries must be received no later than February 15th.

Community Septic Update

The community septic has been up and running since late last summer. Everything seems to be working as it should. There are 12 homes that are connected, located on West Street and Washer Cove Road. These homes were chosen due to their close proximity to the system. Sealed tanks were installed at each home with a shared leach field. A portion of Washer Cove Road was ripped up and will be used for part of the leach field. Plans to continue the project are supposed to be set for this spring. The town of Amherst at this time does not have a new administrator, for this reason we do not have exact dates on when the project will continue, but we will keep you up to date as information is received.