

# Lake Life

For Members of the Baboosic Lake Association  
August 2007 Edition

Once again, Baboosic Lake is starting to show the effects of both Mother Nature (heat and flooding) and of human causes (sand dumping, lawn fertilization and failing septic systems). Blue green algae blooms which contain Cyanobacteria Oscillatoria are starting to pop up in certain areas of the lake again, then disappear and show up somewhere else. For those of you who continue to be lake smart, and put the lake first, we commend your efforts. But for those of you who continue to abuse the lake with your ceaseless sand dumping, and ripping out of natural vegetation buffers and failing septic systems, we as a board have filed complaints with the towns and also with the DES.

All of you have been given ample educational material, pamphlets, newsletters, fact sheets, and now access to a web site about all of these issues since the BLA came into existence. Those at fault know who you are, and I'm sure most of the residents of the lake know these repeat offenders as well. That is why we are asking the membership to help us by also filing complaints with the towns and DES.

You can get more detail and a link to the complaint form on our website at: <http://www.baboosiclake.com/lakehealth.htm> like the saying goes; the squeaky wheel gets the grease. Remember one of our greatest weapons against these people is a photograph of the deed being done. It is very helpful to the town and state if they have a picture, because it tells no lies.

We have had many questions about why the water level in the lake is so high. One reason might be that the outlet is filling up with sand. Sand you say! How could that be possible when sand dumping is one of the worst things you could do to hurt the lake? Who would do that? Just take a look around the lake next time you're enjoying a cruise. You will notice several sandy spots at the north end, plus several others. The damage that is being created by these parties, now and for future generations of lake

users, is inexcusable. It's unfortunate that we must resort to action that may not seem very neighborly. But neither is it neighborly to do things for selfish enjoyment which jeopardize the interests of the entire lake community.

### **Cyanobacteria Details**

The following information was obtained from the DES web site. To see more on this issue, go to <http://www.des.state.nh.us>

#### **Prevention**

You can help keep the cyanobacteria from forming in the first place. Research indicates that their numbers increase as the nutrients in the water increase. To reduce the chances of a bloom occurring, reduce the amount of nutrients, such as phosphates, that enter the water. Homeowners can help by testing their soils before applying fertilizers and, if they must apply a fertilizer, making sure that they apply only what they need. The [N.H. Shoreland Protection Act](#) prohibits the use of fertilizer closer than 25 feet from shore. Also, between 25 and 250 feet from shore, only low phosphate, slow release nitrogen fertilizer may be used. Keeping your septic system maintained will also help keep nutrients from leaching through the soil into nearby streams or lakes.

Cyanobacteria commonly occur in nearly all of New Hampshire's waterways. When present in low numbers they do not cause recreational or aesthetic problems; however, when conditions are optimal they may form blooms. Factors contributing to blooms include nutrient availability, sunlight, and temperature.

Cyanobacteria tend to colonize mesotrophic (moderately productive) or [eutrophic](#) (highly productive) water bodies, meaning they thrive in nutrient rich waters. Along with nutrient rich conditions they require ample amounts of sunlight to photosynthesize. In order to maximize their potential for photosynthesis, cyanobacteria are unique in that they contain gas vesicles. These vesicles allow cyanobacteria to regulate their buoyancy and depth in the water column, allowing them to out-compete algal species for sunlight. As well as nutrients and sunlight, cyanobacteria seem to thrive in warmer water temperatures and calm (stagnant) conditions for optimal growth. That's why we typically see cyanobacteria during the summer months, especially August, when there is an abundance of sunlight and water temperatures are the warmest.

Cyanobacteria are also less susceptible to predation, compared to other algal species, and often form colonies or filaments too large for zooplankton to eat. The lack of predation and their competitive nature combined with optimal nutrient concentrations may cause bloom conditions. A cyanobacteria bloom may turn the water a bright green (pea-soup) or bluish-green color and/or produce septic or grassy odor. Cyanobacteria can appear in the form of a scum or film on the surface of the water. A bloom may have the appearance of spilled paint on the water's surface, car antifreeze, or bluish green chunks floating throughout the water column. A bloom may cover an entire water body or be confined to a cove area and often congregates along the windward shoreline from wind and wave action.

## **Social Recap: Let the Good Times Roll!**

The summer social season is underway at the lake. First out of the box was the boat parade. This year's letter was "D" and we had some pretty good ideas. Dukes of Hazard took first place, followed by Dunkin Donuts for second (they might have taken first if they had bribed the judges with some free samples), and third place went to the Dirt Boat. Other boats entered in the parade were the Dead Heads, the Domino and Dice boat playing dome games and DJ Danny and the Dancing Disco banging out the disco music.

After the parade, it was Ice Cream time. Once again, we dished out over 120 bowls of that great tasting dessert in two hours. That's just about a bowl every minute. Thank you to all who helped out as judges for the boat parade, and all the ice cream scoopers, toppers, runners, and order takers.

## **Annual Cookout on Saturday August 25, Rain or Shine**

The BLA annual cookout will be held on Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup> from 12 - 4pm at Camp Young Judaea. **Great news this year for the cookout: weather will not be an issue.** If the weather is nice we will be down on the beach; if not the event will be held indoors at the dining hall on Camp Young Judaea. You can come by boat or car. Once again, Celebrations will be catering the event. If you went last year, you'll remember you're in for a good feast. Also there will be assorted soda, juices and bottled water to quench your thirst. There will be some ramps set up from the docks to the beach, so you won't have to get your feet wet and so our elderly members won't have to jump to shore. Back again this year, will be a craft table for the kids, and some great raffle prizes for adults. So kids, start sharpening up on your coloring skills you'll have plenty to color. We also will be providing more tables for you to sit at. All you have to do is remember to bring a chair to sit on. Please see the enclosed flyer for all of the cookout details. If you would like to donate a new item to be raffled off at the cookout, please contact Ellen Fallon at 673-6399. Or just bring it with you that day.

## **Community Septic Update: Good News for Baboosic Lake**

Construction of Phase 2 for the community septic system has begun. The force main is in, despite many boulders that had to be jack hammered out of the road. The treatment portion of the project is underway at this time. The homes should be connected within the next month or two. There are 10 homes being connected, 5 of which are waterfront, the other 5 are across the street from the water. Phase 3 is waiting on grant funding, and is anticipated to begin construction in the spring. There are 8 users already committed, all located on Clark Avenue which has experienced flooding the past two years. If you have any questions, please contact Bruce Barry from the Amherst Department of Public Works. 673-2317

## **New Benefit for BLA members**

One of the most important things you can do to help the lake is to maintain your septic systems. Dave's Septic is going to help you do that with his discounted rates for septic pumping, portable toilets and other services. On septic pumping, they normally charge 22 cents per gallon, but for BLA members, it will be discounted to 15 cents per gallon. So if you have a 1000 gallon tank, instead of paying \$220 you would be only paying \$150. That would be a \$70 savings for you. Now let's say you want to have a big party at your house, but are afraid it will tax your septic system. You can get a portable toilet from Dave's Septic for only \$60. That's half the price they normally charge. These two things alone are well worth the price of a membership. We encourage all of you to take advantage of this new benefit. Not only will it save you money, but it will also benefit the lake in the long run. Thanks to Greg Gendron for all his hard work in acquiring this new service. Greg was in contact with several local companies negotiating the best possible deal for BLA members.

**Dave's Septic: 800-672-3402, mention that you are a BLA member. [Visit Dave's web site.](#)**

## **Community Sponsor Page**

Here is something new we are giving a try: A community sponsor page. If you would like to place an ad in our newsletter and on the web site, the price is \$100 for

members and \$150 for non members. This will get you a business card size ad in our newsletter for 1 year and also a bigger ad on the web site for 1 year. If you would like to place an ad, please contact Greg Gendron at 672 - 8473 or email him at ggend@comcast.net

This will be seen by over a hundred members, so think of the potential business this could generate. Please see our first two ads below. These sponsors have donated generously to support the BLA, in return please give them an opportunity to earn your business if it is appropriate.



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## E-coli Water Testing Results



August 2007		
Location	Map Code	E-coli count
Hillside	1	10
4 Seasons	2	70
Greenwood/Lakeside	3	30
Oliver's Pipe	4	<10
Carter Road	5	40
Jebb Road	6	10
Far Cove	7	40
Seagull Heaven	8	10
Washer Cove	9	<10
Moonbeam	10	<10
Amherst Town Beach	11	10

**\*\*Please note- counts higher than 88ppl will be retested. We'll keep you updated!\*\***  
**Also, please remember not to feed the ducks and geese. Their waste contributes to higher e-coli counts!**

## **Secchi Disk Readings (in Meters)**

DATE	SHARKS TOOTH	CENTER	WASHER COVE	CLARK ISLAND	WATER TEMP	AIR TEMP	SKY
5/30/07	3.3 – 3.8	3.1 – 3.6	3.4	3.5 – 3.8	70°	70°	CLEAR
6/6/07	2.9 – 3.4	2.9 – 3.5	2.7 – 3.3	2.7 – 3.3	67°	55°	CLOUDY
6/13/07	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
6/21/07	3.2 – 3.7	3.0 – 3.9	3.2 – 3.4	3.2 – 3.6	73°	70°	SUNNY
6/27/07	3.0 – 3.4	3.1 – 3.7	3.0 – 3.5	2.9 – 3.5	77°	84°	SUNNY
7/4/07	3.4 – 3.9	3.2 – 3.8	2.9 – 3.5	3.8 – 4.2	72°	71°	SUNNY
7/11/07	3.6 – 4.2	3.5 – 4.1	3.5	3.2 – 4.0	75°	75°	SUNNY
7/18/07	3.7 – 4.2	3.9 – 4.3	3.4	3.8 – 4.3	77°	68°	CLOUDY
7/25/07	3.3 – 4.3	3.7 – 3.9	2.9 – 3.6	3.1 – 4.0	75°	80°	SUNNY
8/1/07	3.8 – 4.1	4.0 – 4.1	3.5	3.8 – 4.1	80°	75°	SUNNY
8/9/07	3.9 – 4.3	3.8 – 4.0	3.3	3.7 – 3.9	79°	67°	SUNNY

Feet	Meters
7	2.1
8	2.4
9	2.7
10	3.0
11	3.3
12	3.6
13	3.9
14	4.3

# Baboosic Lake Cook Out

*Saturday, August 25*

*12 - 4 PM*

## *Menu*

*Fresh Garden Salad*

*Pasta Primavera Salad*

*All Beef Hot dogs*

*1/4 pound Hamburgers and Cheeseburgers*

*Vegetarian burgers*

*Boneless BBQ Chicken*

*Homemade Texas BBQ Baked Beans*

*Corn on the Cob*

*Strawberry Shortcake*

## *Price*

*Adults*

*Members \$7.00 / Non Members \$10.00*

*\$3.00 children 6-12*

*5-under Free*

**Crafts for the Kids!- Come Rain or Shine**