

Lake Life

For Members of the Baboosic Lake Association

May/June 2007 Edition

Once again Mother Nature has unleashed her fury on Baboosic Lake and the surrounding watershed. The lake and Baboosic Brook were overflowing their banks again, less than a year from the last floods in May of '06. This could be a rough spring/summer for the lake with all the phosphates and nutrients and yes, septic systems running off into the lake. We could be in for a green summer, but let's keep our fingers crossed and hope for the best. With the water high, we have plenty of stuff floating around and generally it ends up at the south end of the lake or on Four Seasons beach. Please be considerate and retrieve your belongings. At the time of this publication, there were several canoes, kayaks, a jet ski, assorted barrels and sections of dock.

The annual meeting will be on June 8th at 7:00 pm at Merrimack Town Hall.

This year we have two openings on the board. If you are interested in helping to protect and preserve Baboosic Lake, please contact one of the nomination committee members, Kathy Boyd or Elaine Englehardt or email webmaster@baboosiclake.com. We meet on the second Wednesday of the month from 7:00 to 9:30 pm and put on various social events during the summer where participation is greatly encouraged.

BLA Board Working to Improve Lake Quality

The Baboosic Lake Storm Water Runoff project is moving along. Through a lot of work, the BLA Board received a state grant to help identify and manage sources of storm water runoff. Right now we have 17 potential sites. Out of those sites, 2 will be chosen, with the work beginning in the fall on one and the other slated for spring/summer of '08. Also in the works, is a lake guide that all of the board members have been working hard on during the winter season, which will help explain the project and give you valuable information on what you can do to help. This should be out in the coming months. More info will follow on vegetation buffers, what plants are good for our area, and how to slow down runoff so that it soaks into the ground and doesn't run directly into the lake. A new do's and don'ts list is in the planning stages as well.

You will be able to find all this information out on our website www.baboosiclake.com. Also, things to keep track of on the website

will be a water quality page where you can find out the Secchi Disk readings, water temp, etc. from that weeks testing done by our water quality testing team. Again I ask you all to be lake smart, your continued efforts will only benefit the lake and surrounding water shed. Have your septic pumped out yearly, conserve water whenever possible, the more water in your septic system, the greater the possibility of nutrients leaching out through the system. Maintain a buffer zone of natural vegetation along the shore to contain erosion and assimilate nutrients before they reach the lake. Do not use fertilizer near the lake shore. Encourage shore fronts with natural vegetation, rather than green, manicured lawns. The dumping of sand into New Hampshire lakes or along their shores to create or replenish a swimming beach is an all-too-common practice. In fact, it is so common that many shorefront residents assume that they have a right to dump sand along their shores and that sand dumping causes no harm to the lake. Both assumptions are false. Please do not dump sand.

It's Time for Your 2007 BLA Membership

It's that time of the year to either renew or join the Baboosic Lake Association. Your membership dues go towards helping to protect and preserve Baboosic Lake. Each year the BLA works diligently to improve the quality of the lake. Membership dues remain the same again this year (and haven't increased for over 10 years!!) . Only \$10 for an individual membership or \$15 for a family. We thank those members making a larger contribution. Every dollar is needed and is accounted for. This year you can either fill out the enclosed membership form and mail it back to us with your dues, or something new we are trying is that you can go online to our web site www.baboosiclake.com/members and fill out your membership form and pay your dues online using a credit card. Please include your email address so we can keep you apprise of situations on the lake i.e. water quality, social events and receive your newsletter. Your email address will be kept confidential and only used for BLA matters. Using email helps us save money, resources, and volunteer time.

2007 Social Schedule

Once again the summer social season will be upon us in short order. Here is a list of projected dates below. BLA members will receive updates on these events in your monthly newsletter or by email.

June 8th Annual Meeting 7:00pm Merrimack Town Hall

June 30th Volleyball Tournament (Washer Cove Association Beach)

July 14th Boat Parade 4:00pm
July 14th Ice Cream Social 7 to 9 pm
July 28th Cardboard boat race 2:00pm (Washer Cove Association Beach)
August 11th Ice Cream Social 6 to 8pm
August 25th Annual Cookout further info to be announced

Volleyball Tournament

The BLA has scheduled the Volleyball Tournament for **Saturday June 30th**. It will be held at the Washer Cove Association Beach. For further information or to register a team, please contact Ellen Fallon at 673-6399.

Boat Parade

The Annual Boat Parade will be held on **Saturday July 14th**. It will begin at 4:00pm. Last year we had the letter "C". So everyone decorated their boats with things that start with "C" For example Candle, Castle, Cell Block. This year's letter is "D". Please be sure to keep your theme appropriate for all ages to view. So get those thinking caps on.

Thank You

I hope you will all join me in saying "job well done" to our outgoing board members Marie Junkins and Alan Brewster. Marie and Alan were both on the board for two years. Alan focused his attentions on safety out on the lake. Marie helped out on organizing the social events you all enjoyed. Thank you very much for your time and devotion to the BLA in helping to protect and preserve our lake.

Boating Safety License Required if Born After 1/1/57

This is just a reminder from the safety committee that anyone born on or after 1/1/57 is required to take the course by January 1, 2008. Now for some bad news as of January 1, 2007 online testing stopped and you can no longer take your test from the convenience of your own home. You are now required to take a proctored test in person. Information, including testing schedules, can be found at www.baboosiclake.com/links.htm.

Safety Tidbit's & The Law: Did you know..

...All children 5 years old and younger must wear a life jacket when being transported in a boat. It is recommended everyone wear a life jacket.

...If you don't have a boating safety certificate, regardless of your age, you cannot allow anyone under 16 to operate your boat.

...No person shall operate a motorboat while towing water skiers, aquaplanes, tubes or similar devices unless another person is present in the motorboat that is physically able to observe and assist the person or apparatus being towed. The observer shall be 13 years of age or older.

...When 2 persons are being towed, 2 observers, in addition to the operator, shall be in the towing vessel. Such observers shall be 13 years of age or older.

Fishing Licenses Required for Age 16 and Over

The 2007 fishing licenses are now available. The cost for a New Hampshire resident is 35 dollars and a nonresident is 53 dollars. A fishing license is not required for minors under 16 years of age, but for those of you 16 years and up you need a NH fishing license. Over the age of 68 permanent licenses are issued free to residents of New Hampshire. There are three ways you can buy your license: online, by mail or in person at one of Fish and Games license agents. You may obtain this information at their web site www.wildlife.state.nh.us

Keep Pet Waste Out of Your Lake

Pet waste contains bacteria and nutrients that degrade water quality and can make it unsafe to swim boat and fish. When exposed to rainfall and snowmelt, pet waste can be washed into our lake. **Do pick up after your pet!** Dispose of pet waste in the trash and dispose of it away from the lake. Don't leave pet waste on the street, sidewalk, lawn or beach. Don't dispose of pet waste by placing in a storm drain or any other place that would have it wash into the lake.

Don't Feed Waterfowl

Like pet waste, waste from wildlife such as waterfowl contributes bacteria to our lake. Geese and ducks tend to concentrate in areas where humans feed them and can become a major source of bacteria. Do enjoy wildlife viewing responsibly by allowing wildlife to maintain a healthy, natural diet...keep wildlife wild! Bread and snack food is harmful to waterfowl. These foods lack the roughage and nutrients of a natural diet.