

BUTTERFIELD PRESS

SPRING/SUMMER 2015

President-Joe Pasquini, **Vice President**-Craig Waterstraat, **Treasurer**- Marjorie Hillback, **Secretary**- Edie Pasquini

Board of Directors: Jim Borkman, Janet Buckland, Nicole Caldwell, Shirley Carpenter, Walt Dutcher, Linda MacQueen, Lori Porte

Past Presidents still serving: Shirley Carpenter, Walt Dutcher, Marjorie Hillback

From the President's desk:

Winter has finally ended! Thank the LORD. With the long winter we had a great deal of ice on the lake. The ice did leave the lake on Monday April 13 with the 80+ temperature for the day. On Sunday April 12, when we left for home, there was still heavy ice and only the shoreline open.

Visiting the lake on April 17, 18, and 19 there is quite a bit of boat activity and fishing. We put in the pontoon boat and started to build a new floating dock. I would call this "last out, first in" as in the fall we did not get out until ice was on the lake.

As the lake association president I see my role as providing information and guiding us into the future. I would like to see more lake related activities that bond us to the lake, village and the water. A few thoughts to think about:

- *Redwood Cemetery walk – many notables are there; use your smart phone to look up headstone names and see what you get*
- *Have a history night to learn about people and places for years past*

- *Have an environmental day to learn and discuss wildlife, plants and environmental concerns (why algae floats and sinks)*
- *Sample algae and identify what we have*
- *Establish goals such as increase BLCOA membership and cottage conversions to environmentally friendly toilets*

The Pasquini family purchased a new camp (to us), camp 47. Look it up on the list of cottages to identify it. As a result we have spent a significant amount of time working to make it a place of our own.

We are striving to get more organized information to you! In this newsletter you will find membership information renewal dates and a receipt for your records as well. Fishing derby information, meeting dates, and application form for the septic/toilet conversion to an environmentally acceptable type.

With the summer arriving shortly we hope to see you on the water. - Joe Pasquini

From the Vice President's desk: Remember to send any contact updates you have on the membership form. That ensures you will continue to receive BLCOA newsletters and we will also have your current information for an emergency if one should arise in your absence. - Craig Waterstraat

From the Treasurer's Desk- BLCOA membership dues will be accepted at the beginning of our Fiscal year July 1st for the year 2015-2016. The fiscal year coincides with the officer's terms. If you are not already a member, please consider joining. You will find the application form at the end of the newsletter as well as a receipt for your records. Save a stamp, pay at the picnic-Marge Hillback

From the Secretary's Desk: We waited to start the newsletter this spring until we made our last **winter** trip up to the lake; April 10-12. We were figuring the ice would be on its way out and we were anxious to get our boat on the water. The ice started in the bays just before Thanksgiving. We made trips in January, February and March. January 28th we could walk on the ice and there was not much snow cover. The sun was bright and the sky was deep blue. February 5-7 we arrived and the winter snowstorms had dumped quite a bit of snow. We trudged through and had to really bundle up at night. The Felder's in Spencer Bay had plowed off a big area, put a shelter on the ice and flooded the plowed area to make a nice smooth ice rink. We met an old friend, Les Dollinger, ice fishing, he said Felder's were having a skating party that weekend. There was a fishing derby scheduled too. March 6-8 we drove up north again and son Jim came from MD. and wanted to try some ice fishing. We tried and caught nothing but cold bait left on the hooks. Turns out we are not great winter fishermen, yet. We did talk to Rob Farley and he told us to try down at the creek end; so maybe next year. The following weekend on Sunday we woke with great anticipation to see how the ice would look because quite a bit had melted Saturday. The

beautiful peach orange sunrise made the puddles of water on the thin, blackish, icy lake look like a watercolor pallet. Larry LaRue told us the ice sinks. I was secretly hoping it would during the night and we would wake to find it gone (It has been a winter to remember hasn't it?) Anyway to get back to the story, the ice had puddles and some were very nice patterns; others just plain puddles. I am the kind of person who sees shapes and faces in clouds, knot holes and other things and I guess now puddles. One in particular stood out to me. It was right out in front of the camp. It looked like the little man used in Germany as a symbol to cross the street. Only in this puddle picture he was wearing a scarf because it was 35 degrees and the scarf is flying behind him because he is walking fast towards the head of the lake before the ice melts. "He is the last one to walk on the ice and summer will soon be here" I wrote that under the picture I took with my phone. I sent it to our grandchildren in Germany. They are anxious to come to the lake in August. Looks like next weekend when we arrive again the ice should be out of here. Vunderbar! We had winter fun but now we're done. It is supposed to be in the 60's this coming week. All you snow birds start packing!

-EdiePasquini



If you were getting this newsletter in your email, you could see the pictures in color.

The Trouble with Septics

by Nicole Caldwell, BLCOA Board member

All living things depend on the waste materials of other organisms in order to thrive. Decaying matter and refuse offer the lifeblood that allows all things to receive nourishment. Dirt that black gold responsible for all things grown—is the byproduct of this process.

We are the only animal attempting to exist outside this most natural, circular system of life and decay. Instead of offering our own humanure waste to the earth in a sane fashion so it's usable, digestible and capable of being turned into lush soil, we siphon it away in tanks isolated from all other natural systems. Here, the sewage leaches harmful nutrients directly into our waterways.

On Butterfield Lake, shoreline soils are comprised primarily of quetico-rock and millsite-rock outcrops. These soils are highly permeable, shallow to bedrock and slope downward directly into the lake. That means we have an ecosystem that is unable to properly manage or filter our humanure—no matter how modern, large or expensive a septic system is. If your setup is within a couple hundred feet of Butterfield Lake, your septic is leaching phosphorous, nitrogen, antibiotics, hormones, toxins and viruses directly into the water system we all enjoy so much.

One person produces 6 to 12 pounds of nitrogen in his or her humanure each year—that's the same as three to six 40-pound bags of 5-10-5 fertilizer! Imagine dumping that directly into our beloved lake. Combine this with the hundreds of people using septs on Butterfield and imagine how over-fertilized our lake is becoming. The resulting algae infestations will only get worse as more people occupy the lake. You can see the effects of this runoff in the form of algal blooms; which appear prominently in ring shapes around the lake and as blue-green algae hurting our loved ones, pets and the delicate ecosystem of the lake itself. The locations of these blooms illustrate a directly causal link between cottages and their runoff.

Humanure, which is more than capable of being a healthy addition to the soil structure, becomes a hazardous waste when handled in this way. Septic tanks hurt our environment, health and economy. They cost tens of thousands of dollars to install, destroying trees and greenery in the process. Ripping out vegetation like this reduces soil's ability to filter water and can lead to worsened runoff, erosion and flooding. Septic overflows around Butterfield are common after heavy rainfalls.

Traditional flush toilets and septs have had their day. It is time to put human ingenuity and common sense back into how we handle human waste. There are so many easy solutions to the problem!

A compost toilet is less than a tenth the cost of a septic system. And the technology on compost toilets is so good, by the time you empty the chamber under your house or toilet, you're dealing with black dirt perfect for raised beds or gardens. If you don't have a garden, you can donate the dirt to a neighbor or to a community group in Redwood tending garden beds downtown. In this way you are not only avoiding harm to the ecosystem; you'll actually be actively helping the ecosystem that supports all of us.

Nicole Caldwell owns Fisherman's Rest on Butterfield Lake. She also owns Better Farm, a sustainability campus and artist colony in Redwood. Her first book, *Better: The Everyday Art of Sustainable Living*, is available on Amazon

Further reading

www.solvivagreenlight.com/green-clean-wastewater-management-with-flush-toilets/
www.sunmar.com
www.betterfarm.org

Butterfield Lake Cottage Owners Bob Jennejohn Memorial Fishing Derby Fri., July 24th to NOON Sat., July 25th

All Butterfield Cottage Owner Families & Their Guests Invited to Enter!
Entry fee: \$10 (cash) for ages 16 and up, \$5 (cash) for ages 15 and below.

ENTRY DEADLINE IS Friday, July 24th at 7:30 PM

Forms and fees (cash only) to Steve/Deb Wysocki, Cottage 65 (red cottage, across from Loon Island.)
Or register Fri. night at first measurement at Town Dock

Measurement – at the **TOWN DOCK...**
7 to 7:30 PM Friday & NOON to 12:30 Sat.

Prizes Awarded at BLCOA Picnic
PRIZES INCLUDE: 25% of Pot Awarded for
longest fish in 4 categories:

BASS (large or smallmouth)
Pike
Walleye

Pan fish (perch, rock bass, crappie, sunny, or bluegill)
The more who enter, the higher the prizes!!

So! What are Algae and WHY all the fuss?

Algae are a very diverse group of photosynthetic (produce oxygen) organisms lumped together by a single characteristic- the productive cells of all of them are produced within a structure made up of a single cell.

Facts:

- ❖ Come in a wide variety of sizes, shapes
- ❖ Most are microscopic
- ❖ Are the basis of the entire food web
- ❖ Algae cells tend to sink
- ❖ May be as many as 20 million (20,000,000) cells per milliliter of water or about 20 Billion per equivalent quart of water
- ❖ Some algae can form gas vacuoles (gas pockets) under certain conditions and float to the surface on warm calm days and sink on cool overcast days
- ❖ Blue green algae tend to reproduce more rapidly at warmer temperatures and rarely obvious in lakes early in the growing season
- ❖ after the fall turnover blue green algae, with the higher phosphate level, become more prevalent
- ❖ Blue green algae produce gas vacuoles and float on the surface and collect on the downwind shore of the lake
- ❖ Caution should be used in contacting the algae as toxin-producers may be present
- ❖ Harmful Algal Blooms – HAB, is a bacteria known as cyanobacteria, often called blue-green algae and can be toxic and difficult to identify in the presence of all the other algae
- ❖ Nutrients are responsible for excess algae growth
- ❖ In a NYS experiment phosphorous was added in a controlled lake experiment and the results were more than a doubling of the detectable algae growth in one week - if they are fed they will grow
- ❖ Phosphorous is the limiting factor as it is least abundant in the environment and necessary for algae growth
- ❖ Phosphorous is collected in Butterfield as runoff from residential septic systems and from sedimentation as a result of erosion

The lesson here is to reduce our footprint of phosphorous loading in the lake by controlling run-off of sediments and from direct or indirect leaching of septic systems.

Credits for algae information to author Peter Tobiessen, The Secret Life of a Lake, Professor Union College, New York

Reminders:

Boating License- Anyone born after 5/1/1996 needs to successfully complete an approved course in boater education to operate a motorboat. Not available to children under 10. For information go to:
<http://parks.ny.gov/recreation/boating/education.aspx>

Safe Boating Speed- taken from NYSDEC website. In NY State vessel speed is generally limited to 5mph when within 100 feet of the shore, dock, pier, raft, float or anchored boat. Vessels must always be operated in such a fashion as to not endanger others. The operator is also responsible for any damage caused by the vessel's wake.

Cottage owners are now placing buoys out in the water in front of cottages and the reason is boaters have either gone too fast near shore or come too close to swimmers. The buoys are generating complaints. What would you do in their position?

There are more Jet skiers on the lake having a good time. Some now tow water-skiers. Everyone on the water should be aware of their surrounding water-craft and be sure to have spotters in the tow boats for those skiers. Skiers please make yourself visible if you go down, waving your arms will let your boat know you are ok and it will also let other boaters in the area see you in the water. Better yet raise a ski in the air.

Anyone renting out cottages please remind your renters of the lake rules as part of renter's policy.

WON'T YOU HELP? WHAT STRENGTHS DO YOU HAVE TO OFFER BLCOA???

*****Calendar for 2015*****

Board Meetings- May 23, June 27, August 29- 10 A.M. @ IRLC office on Stein Rd. Please note that we may have to schedule another meeting in July if the June meeting doesn't have things set for the July Annual Picnic. We are trying to have only the Annual Meeting and the Picnic in July rather than take up 3 of your Saturdays in July, so please be sure to attend the June meeting.

Annual BLCOA Member meeting- July 4 @ St Francis Xavier Church- Coffee and donuts will start @ 8:30 and meeting to start at 9 A.M. Please note, if you are a creature of habit, we are starting ½ hour earlier with coffee and donuts so the meeting starts @ 9A.M.

Annual BLCOA PICNIC July 25 @ Elliott and Marge Hillback's camp # 29 –Linda Vista. Rain date will be Sunday the 26th. Cost is \$3.00 per person 12 and up and children under 12 are free. Members bring a dish to pass, that is not dessert, that serves 12 or more and board members provide dessert. Cost covers the hotdogs/rolls, condiments, soda and paper products.

***Something new for the picnic- Plant Swap-** bring a rooted cutting or bulb of a plant that grows well at your camp to swap with another. Be sure to provide growing conditions and instructions. Plantings on bare soil will help to prevent the erosion of the shoreline and run-off into our lake.

***Picnic Auction Donations-** We can always use donated items and the last few years have been great and people are getting creative. It can be more than just about "Things" that you bring. It can be an opportunity for you to offer something of your knowledge or skills. For example maybe woodworking or carpentry is your trade or hobby. Maybe you have some scrap lumber. Offer a how-to and build a Wood Duck nesting box with someone to take home and hang.

Ladies Luncheons - No dates/locations are currently set up

Get to know you teas - **July 10th Friday 2P.M.** - Our hostess will be Kay Bolivar, camp #2. That is the big gray camp at the town dock for anyone who doesn't know Kay or the camp numbers. **Not** the brand new gray camp just built. We can set other dates from the ladies who attend. It is a chance to meet new people and catch up with friends, see the different camps and learn some history of their camp and how her family came to the lake.

*****Articles in the BLCOA newsletters are the opinions of the contributors and you are encouraged to do your own research.*****



April 11 2015 sunrise on the frozen lake



April 17 2015 three days earlier the ice went out

BLCOA Membership Form for Fiscal year July 1, 2015- June 30, 2016

Keep this part for your records

Amount paid to BLCOA\$_____ Date Paid _____2015 Cottage # _____

Annual member fee is \$30.00 and Conservator fee is \$50.00

Please make checks payable to: BLCOA; PO Box 163, Redwood NY 13679

*****CUT HERE*****

BLCOA Membership Form for Fiscal year July1, 2015- June30, 2016

Date_____2015

Cottage #_____

Last name_____ First name_____

If there are any changes from what we already have, please update the information we will need for you:

Winter address_____

Winter Phone (s) _____

Cottage 911 Address_____

Summer Phone (s) _____

Email Address_____

Will you accept the newsletter by email? Y / N

If you want an extra newsletter mailed to another address cost is \$5.

Name/Address_____

Amount Enclosed \$_____

Office use: Money Recorded - Y Address Revisions sent to VP- Y

Wants Email Newsletter Sent to Secretary- Y

Application to apply for:

\$500.00 Grant from BLCOA Clean Water Committee for purchase of an Environmental Toilet

Name _____ Application Date _____

Cottage # _____ Are you willing to talk with others about your particular purchase & answer question? Y N

On a separate sheet of paper please explain the situation at the camp you own and include the following:

- ✓ The age, if known or best guess and condition of system you are replacing. Pictures are worth a thousand words.
- ✓ Please include pictures/details of the outside area in relation to the lake that the septic system impacts. Include where the pipes go from the camp in relation to Lake, for example low water, hill or rocks.
- ✓ After you purchase and install the environmental toilet please attach a copy of the bill of sale with your name on it and include pictures of before and after the installation inside and outside camp. Show that the pipes and former system were removed and taken care of properly.
- ✓ Any receipts relating the disposal of the old system should also be presented.

The committee will take all applications and will award one Grant for \$500.00 to offset the cost of an environmental toilet for the calendar year. Decision will be based on the most imminent threat to the lake. You may apply again if you did not receive the grant; it just means someplace else was more of a threat to the water. Be sure to keep all your information that will be returned, (to apply again) should the grant not be awarded to you. There will be one grant allowed per cottage. Only one grant per year will be awarded. First Grant will be for year 2015.

All information received shall be recorded for historical purposes.

This grant only available to new existing problem areas that need addressing and not available for problems already addressed and past purchases.

Thank you for helping to keep our Lake clean