



# Lake News

P.O. Box 1015 • Ballston Lake, NY 12019 • [www.ballstonlake.mylaketown.com](http://www.ballstonlake.mylaketown.com)

## **Our lead story is news from the sewer committee:**

As many of you have seen in the local newspapers the sewer bids were opened on Jan 30th and were higher than anticipated. The low bid turned out to have a significant math error and was withdrawn by the vendor. The other two bids were millions of dollars higher. (details are posted on the Town website).

The committee has been actively working to understand why there were fewer bids than expected and why the bids were much higher than our engineering estimate. Meetings have been held with two of the bidders and discussions with some of the non-bidders. From this effort a list of suggestions has been generated for changes to our bid requirements that could reduce the project's cost.

Discussions are also underway to determine the next steps to take. One option is to take the input from these discussions, make appropriate changes to our specification, and rebid the project as soon as possible. Another option would be to perform further analysis and plan to rebid the project in 2020.

An effort is also underway to evaluate options for applying for additional grant funding to offset the potential higher than expected costs.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Recently the people who love and support Ballston Lake have received some very discouraging news. The bids on the sewer project for around the lake and adjoining Buell Heights area have come in over budget. I sincerely hope and pray that a solution can be found to reverse this present situation.

The scientific evidence supporting the Lake Sewer Project is irrefutable. The Lake must have our help to avoid a complete breakdown of water quality.

The good news is that the people who have spent many years working on this project are continuing their efforts to develop a new plan for this very important project. The committee is looking at several options that may change the timing of various parts of this project, but still get the job done in the long run.

It is the duty of every person around the Lake to come together with our support for the sewer committee at this difficult time. It may take longer than hoped for, but this project **MUST** be done.

**Peter Herman President**

**DATE CHANGE ---** The March BLIA Board Meeting has been postponed and is rescheduled for Tuesday, April 16 at 7PM at Carney's. The meeting is open to all BLIA members. Please mark your calendars and try to attend.

**Safety Notice:** NYS Law passed in 2009; Anyone out on the water in a craft less than 21 ft long must be wearing a Coast Guard approved personal flotation device from November 1st - May 1st.

## BLIA Board Changes

The beloved (or hated) New England Patriots did it again. Another Superbowl championship. At the helm of this great team is Tom Brady, one of the greatest quarterbacks of all time. When will he hang up his cleats? He is at the top of his game and who knows. The Ballston Lake Improvement Association has its own Tom Brady. Our president, Peter Herman, has been at the top of his game, leading this organization for years. His love of Ballston Lake is unwavering and his tireless dedication is a standard that is hard to emulate. Peter has decided to pass the gavel. He has submitted his notice of resignation to the board that in June, at the annual meeting, he will be passing the torch. We will be honoring him at that annual meeting. This resignation is a wake up call to our organization.

So, please respond to the Nominating Committee's Plea: Wanted – BLIA Members willing to get involved in our organization. There are several open seats currently on the BLIA Board of Directors roster. If you have an interest in serving on the board; contact Nominating Committee members Joanne Frame (518) 384-1940/ maddysma@nycap.rr.com, Ann Pierce 399-6308 / pep416@aol.com , or Joanne DeVoe 518 573-0773 / devoepr@nycap.com. A slate will be presented at the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, June 18 at 7PM at the BL Fire House. A director serves a 3 year term, tries to attend the 5 annual meetings, and can choose the area they would like to assist with.

**WELCOME** – BLIA member, Marissa Goddard, is stepping up to the plate as additional support for our web site and social media activity. Thank you, Marissa. BLIA members wishing to suggest social media items may contact her at: [goddard.marisa10@gmail.com](mailto:goddard.marisa10@gmail.com).

**TREASURER** – Larry Hausheer has been appointed Treasurer of BLIA by Board President Peter Herman and the BLIA Board of Directors. Welcome Larry and sincere thanks to Judy Brodeur who has held this position for several terms.

## Basic Boating Course

United States Power Squadron basic boating course – BLIA will sponsor a United States Power Squadron basic boating course for four evenings at the Ballston Lake Firehouse on Rt. 146A. This course, which is approved by New York State, will be conducted by Dr. Peter Herman, a certified Power Squadron instructor. It consists of eight hours, split between four nights, two hours each night. The classes will be held from 6:30 – 8:30 pm on Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> and Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Upon completion of all eight hours, the student will receive a registered card and a boating certificate. Students must be at least 10 years of age to take the course. New York State requires ALL operators of personal watercraft (jet skis) to hold a NYS approved boating certificate and be at least 14 years of age. Non personal watercraft (motor boat) operators between 10 and 18 must have passed the course and earned the certificate. The cost of the course is \$40.00 for the first family member and \$15.00 for each additional family member. To register for the course, or for any other questions, please contact Peter Herman at [pandsherman25@gmail.com](mailto:pandsherman25@gmail.com) or 518-399-5803.



## Membership

Thank you for showing your love of Ballston lake and support of BLIA by renewing your membership for 2019. We are the only organization to advocate for the Ballston Lake watershed and to work towards preserving and protecting the quality of life in and around the lake. We truly appreciate your contributions and support. Nearly 120 of you renewed by Valentine's Day and became eligible for this year's Membership Renewal Drawing! Thank you again for your continued support.



Congratulations to Robert & Pam Duncan and Mary Kuykendall whose names were drawn for the membership winnings! Robert & Pam are the lucky winners of a \$100 gift certificate donated by Mohawk Valley Marine, located along river in Alplaus. Mary won a \$100 gift certificate donated by Hyde's Boats, on Blue Barns Road in Rexford. Both are "family businesses" with well stocked boating items and marine services. Additionally, Mohawk Valley Marine <http://mohawkvalleymarine.com/> has a boat launch if you hanker for a fun day on the Mohawk and Hyde's <https://www.hydesrvandboats.com/index.htm> is a go to spot for propane.



the

Our strongest asset in our organization is YOU! We're always looking for your input on pertinent topics and feedback. Drop us a line on our website or email us.

Thank you to those that marked their interest in volunteering for the variety of events going on around our lake throughout the year! Someone from our organization will be reaching out as we plan our events. Want to volunteer? Not too late - submit an email to [ballstonlakeassoc@gmail.com](mailto:ballstonlakeassoc@gmail.com).

Would you like to help reduce costs and receive an emailed newsletter? Contact [trotta.nick@gmail.com](mailto:trotta.nick@gmail.com)

It is also important for us to have emails for informational "eblasts". Ex. we notify residents regarding algae blooms each summer.

Nick Trotta  
Membership Chair  
[trotta.nick@gmail.com](mailto:trotta.nick@gmail.com)

### THANK YOU BUSINESS SPONSORS!



Online presence:

[Ballston Lake Improvement Association - ballstonlake.org](http://Ballston Lake Improvement Association - ballstonlake.org)

Facebook- Ballston Lake Improvement Association

## **Too Many Weeds!!!**

**What is BLIA doing to remedy this situation?**

Over the past 5 years all surpluses in the BLIA budget from member dues have gone into a fund dedicated to water improvement. Our plan is to have this fund build so we can use these dollars as matching funds we will need to secure future grants to fund our projects.

Due to your generosity and commitment to this plan, we have the necessary funds to support some grant applications. BLIA is in the process of applying for a \$4,000 grant to do a weed mitigation project. This first part of this project is an Aquatic Plant Survey of Ballston Lake to verify specific invasive aquatic plant species, quantity, and location. This step is required prior to a plant treatment plan so the mitigation companies know what is there, where it is, and the density of the invasive.

After this survey BLIA can develop a program to remove invasive plants from the identified areas. We are targeting invasive plants only since native plants are beneficial to supply oxygen to the water. A well oxygenated lake will bind the phosphorus that enables aquatic weeds and algae to grow.

In addition, BLIA is working with the Town of Ballston and Clifton Park to secure a \$26,000 grant from DEC to combine and update the Ballston Watershed and Lake Management and Protection Plan. This effort is needed so the two towns and BLIA can be better positioned for future grant applications.

Hopefully you will support these efforts with your active membership in BLIA. Only through ALL our support can we succeed in improving Ballston Lake.

## **The Threat of Water Chestnuts.**

Water Chestnut is a fast-producing, floating, invasive aquatic plant that we currently have in Ballston Lake. The plant is grown from seeds that settle and remain in the sediment. The seed is viable for up to 12 years. The weed appears in a circular form called a rosette. A small four petaled white flower may appear in the middle of the rosette during the summer. The seed is a sharp nutlet.

The Lake Management Committee has been working diligently on an annual basis to prevent this weed from getting a strong foothold in Ballston Lake. Each year, a group of people

have harvested the weeds by hand and removed the plants from the lake. This harvesting needs to be done before the seed drops in late summer.

The inserted map with the WC notation and photo show what the weed looks like and where it is currently known to survive. As you travel the lake, please keep an eye out for this plant. Contact Dave Pierce if you come across this invader. ( 518-399-6308 or pep416@aol.com)





**INVASIVE SPECIES** – A program on “Invasive Species” is scheduled for the Ballston Lake Fire House on Wednesday, May 1 at 7PM. It will be presented by Cornell Cooperative Extension through PRISM (Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management). We’re all acquainted with pesky milfoil, curly pond weed and in some cases water chestnuts. This program will help us deal with these and other nonnative species that threaten native species and recreation. Please put this on your calendar and attend.

## Learn about Invasive Species in Ballston Lake



### **What:** Aquatic Invasive Species Workshop

Gwendolyn Temple, the Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator for the Capital/Mohawk PRISM (Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management) and co-sponsored by the Ballston Lake Improvement Association, will be giving a brief introduction to her organization, discussing aquatic invasive species and their native look-alikes within Ballston Lake, and identifying how to minimize/mitigate their impacts.

**Where:** Ballston Lake Fire House, 1125 Ballston Lake Road, Ballston Lake, NY 12019

**When:** Wednesday, May 1st at 7:00 p.m.

**Questions:** Contact Gwendolyn

[ggt25@cornell.edu](mailto:ggt25@cornell.edu) or

(518) 885-8995 (ext. 2215)



**Cornell Cooperative Extension  
Saratoga County**



1. Herbicide product development has progressed to be useful for spot applications by a certified application firm.
2. Herbicides can target specific invasive plants: ie kill milfoil and leave natural plants untouched.
3. Looking at Ballston Lake we could develop a plan to attack the worse weed beds that impair lake use and  
not have to deal with weed beds near wetlands.
4. I made contacts with DEC, applicators and others to proceed with a weed management plan. I will discuss  
this with you all if it looks promising.
5. I am in the process of looking at a DEC Grant to proceed with this idea.
6. To move forward BLIA MUST know ALL the people who use lake water directly for drinking. We conducted a survey on this and got limited response.
7. At present Alum use to decrease phosphorus levels in the lake is not permitted in New York.

## In Memoriam



Frank Ford Shipp, age 79 of Ballston Lake, passed away peacefully on Nov. 29, 2018. Frank and his life partner Joyce Pike, moved to Ballston Lake in 2003 from Delmar, after retiring from a career in financial services. He was a long time RPI season ticket holder and participant in Friends of RPI. He coached both hockey and baseball in Bethlehem and was an avid sports fan. He was a past board member of the Capital Repertory Theatre, Trout Unlimited, U of M Club and served on the board of the Ballston Lake Improvement Association. Frank's contribution to the success of the Ballston Lake Improvement Association cannot be overstated. We could all take a

page from his book on volunteerism and serving the community. His most visible contribution to the association was the results of his efforts as membership chairman. In 2004, BLIA had a membership of less than 60 members. Through Frank's efforts including door to door campaigns, personal contacts and persistence, membership was 150 in 2008. When the need arose, Frank also became treasurer. He served on the Lake Management Committee, worked on establishing the Ballston Lake Overlay District and attended many conferences, bringing back lots of information and "suggestions"! BLIA is indebted to Frank Shipp.

## CLEAN UP DAY

**CLEAN UP DAY – Saturday, May 4 –** This over 45 year Ballston Lake tradition is a great way to introduce the family to public spirited community service. It's a collaborative beautification event with the Towns of Ballston and Clifton Park and the BH-BL BPA set for the first Saturday in May (Saturday, May 4). Meet at the BL Fire House, enjoy refreshments and pick up gloves, trash bags and a road assignment.

## BH-BL BPA FLAG DAY PARADE

**BH-BL BPA FLAG DAY PARADE - Thursday, June 13 -** Join the fun for this community-wide celebration sponsored by the Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake Business & Professional Association. Jon Andersen from Andersen Boats provides a gorgeous new boat as our "float". Kids and a few tolerant, fun loving parents meet at the BH-BL High School parking lot at 6PM board the boat and get ready to roll! Last year we had a Pirate theme and we're looking for ideas for the 2019 theme. Let BLIA secretary, Joanne DeVoe (devoepr@nycap.rr.com) know your theme ideas and your intention to participate, and get those water shooters ready!

## Weed Control

**BENTHIC BARRIERS-** One method of weed control is to use a seasonal Benthic mat. There are a number of lake residents that currently use this method to control weeds. A detailed description of how these mats are used and what some of the DEC regulations are can be found in the New York State Federation Of Lakes newsletter from December 2017. It can be found on pages 9 and 10. A link follows: <https://nysfola.org/wp-content/uploads/Waterworks/2017%20December%20Waterworks.pdf>

Some sources of these mats are:

Lake Bottom Blanket, 32 Juniper Road, Wayne, NJ 07470. <https://lakebottomblanket.com/>

Seaweed Matt Systems [Point Breeze Marina, Inc](http://seaweedmatsystems.com/) 1459 Route 9P ,Saratoga Springs, NY 12866  
<http://seaweedmatsystems.com/>

\*\*\*\*\*

The Safety Committee is considering once again offering the boat inspection this June. Why would you want your boat inspected by the Hudson-Mohawk Sail and Power Squadron?

- It's free, done right on our lake, and takes 20 minutes.
- You will be told if your boat meets the NYS requirements, or if not, what is needed to meet those requirements.
- If your boat passes the inspection it will be given a sticker to show the sheriff if you are stopped during their patrol on the lake.
- There is no penalty for not passing the Safety Committee Inspection BUT there is a fine by the Saratoga Sheriff for failing theirs.

There was minimal interest last June for this inspection. Before we make plans to run this inspection again, we would like to know, by either a quick phone call or email, if this is something that you might be interested in. Please respond to Peter Herman at: 518-399-5803 or [pandsherman25@gmail.com](mailto:pandsherman25@gmail.com)

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

## Important- Ballston Lake Improvement Association

APRIL 16, 2019- BOARD MEETING, ALL ARE WELCOMED.  
CARNEY'S AT 7:00 PM

MAY 1, 2019- AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES WORKSHOP  
BL FIREHOUSE AT 7:00 PM

MAY 4, 2019- CLEAN UP DAY- ANY TIME  
SIGN UP AT THE BL FIREHOUSE AFTER 8:00 AM

MAY 14,15,21,22- BASIC BOATING COURSE- SEE ARTICLE INSIDE

JUNE 13,2019- FLAG DAY PARADE-7:00 PM-RT. 50.  
SEE INSIDE ARTICLE ABOUT PARTICIPATING

JUNE 18, 2019- ANNUAL MEETING, PLEASE ATTEND.  
BALLSTON LAKE FIRE HOUSE- 7:00 PM



P.O. Box 1015  
Ballston Lake, NY 12019