



# Ballston Lake Improvement Association Newsletter: May 2014

## Clean Up Day A Big Success

It is a pleasure be to able to report on a very successful event this year. The cooperation of a great many community residents spread the word and brought out over fifty volunteers to clean up our streets and roads.

Bill Whalen and the Town of Ballston Highway Department offered major support. The cooperation of the Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake Business and Professional Association, under the leadership of President Jim Ireland, with help from Chris Newell was excellent. Fo'Castle Farm and Lakeside Farm donated their wonderful donuts to get our volunteers off to a good start with their effort.

Joanne DeVoe coordinated publicity to inform the public about our event. We tried something new this year in an attempt to spread the word. With the help of Superintendent McGrath, a flyer was sent home via "backpack mail" with a member of each family at Stevens Elementary school. We may expand this effort next year

To all the volunteers who made this event so successful, please accept our sincere THANK YOU for a job well done.

Pete Herman.

Clean up crews include:  
Bill and Kathy Ross  
The Frame and Pollard Families



## Ballston Lake Improvement Association Is Now On Facebook

BLIA on Face Book ---- The newly launched Ballston Lake Improvement Association Face Book page is taking off nicely. It's a great way to augment the web site and newsletter to let our members and the communities know about the lake and its environs. The first 100 people who "Like" our page (not just a photo) will be eligible for a drawing for a \$10 Stewart's gift card donated by Judy Brodeur. Check it out <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Ballston-Lake-Improvement-Association/1458267271074226>! For the time being the administrators are Judy Brodeur [jbrodeur@nycap.rr.com](mailto:jbrodeur@nycap.rr.com) and Joanne DeVoe [devoepr@nycap.rr.com](mailto:devoepr@nycap.rr.com). Either would love you to send them photos of the lake and its environs for posting. Credit will always be given if the photographer so wishes.

## VISIT OUR WEB SITE

Don't forget that you can read our newsletter online: <http://ballstonlake.mylaketown.com>

## New York State Boating Course

Starting in May 2014, law A.3471-A/S.1639-A, will be phased in requiring all watercraft operators to complete an eight hour boat safety course and get a certificate to operate on New York State waterways. At this time it applies to anyone 18 years or younger but in time it will be required in for all boaters. Violators could be fined \$100 to \$250

The Mohawk-Hudson Sail and Power Squadron boating course, America's Boating Course, 3rd edition, was given at the Ballston Lake Fire House on Route 146A on Saturday, May 3rd, 2014 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, May 10, 2014 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Individuals between the ages of 10 and 18 who complete the course will receive a certificate and be allowed to operate a watercraft in New York State. The course requires eight hours of classroom time, and will be divided into two four hour sessions and will include two exams. A score of 80% is required for passing both tests. Students must be 10 years old to take the course. Peter Herman, President of BLIA conducted the course. He will be offering this course again if there is enough interest. You can sign up at the BLIA Annual Meeting on June 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at the Ballston Lake Fire House or email him at [pandsherman25@gmail.com](mailto:pandsherman25@gmail.com).

To check out the ABC 3 course on line, go to [www.usps.org](http://www.usps.org). Click on classroom course under the title America's Boating Course. Click on America's Boating Course, and for complete information on location, click on locate, and the registration information comes up. For additional information, click on America's Boating Course-8 hour.

## MEMBERSHIP CORNER

A great "Thank You" to the 133 people who have paid dues for 2014, especially those who contributed more than the \$40 basic dues. If you have not yet paid your dues for 2014 would you please send them to BLIA, P.O. Box 2015, Ballston Lake, NY 12019.

Our recent survey results indicate many people would prefer an invoice. We are arranging to send email invoices to those who want them. Those who prefer regular mail may consider the Self Addressed Envelope enclosed with our mailings to be your invoice.

June 10<sup>th</sup> I will be stepping down as Membership Chair and Treasurer. BLIA has accomplished a great deal in the last ten years but there is much more to accomplish as we are faced with an ever increasing and costly threat from pollutants to our lake. Your support and dollars are badly needed as we face a future of expensive fixes, some \$20,000 or more. We are soon to apply for 501(C)(3) status which will allow you to take a full tax deduction for your dues and contributions, and for us to more easily obtain grants to support projects to help protect our lake. Nevertheless, your dues are more important than ever.

Sue Bishop will be taking over as Membership Chair. Please give her your full support. My sincere thanks to those of you who have helped BLIA grow and become better lake stewards in these ten years.

*Frank F. Shipp*

My husband and I "discovered" Ballston Lake in 1979 and immediately decided we had found the perfect place to raise a family. And it truly was! Our two sons had a magical childhood growing up on the lake. Now I want to be sure that it is ready to be passed on to the next generation in the same or better condition, than when I found it.

It would be impossible to adequately thank Frank Shipp for his years of dedicated service to the Ballston Lake Improvement Association. When he began in 2004, as membership chair, there were about 55 members. At the end of 2013 there were 183. BLIA is indebted to him for his success in growing our organization three fold!

As I begin my tenure as membership chair, I hope that I can attract new "stewards of the lake" willing to join our association. The Ballston Lake water shed, and consequently the lake, have never been faced with such serious threats. Now, more than ever, BLIA needs a strong membership willing to tackle the challenges we face in order to preserve and protect this precious resource.

I welcome any and all ideas as to how to increase our membership.....and, of course need volunteers for the July Neighbor - to - Neighbor Drive! I am looking forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting at the Ballston Lake Firehouse on June 17 at 7:00 PM.

Best, Suzanne Bishop

Call 518 399.2779

Email [kwenebishop@gmail.com](mailto:kwenebishop@gmail.com)

## Bits and Pieces

**Board Meetings are on the first Tuesday of the Month at 7:00 pm in January, March, May, August and October. We welcome all residents to attend these meetings. Meetings are held at Carney's Restaurant in Ballston Lake.**

**Letters to the editor are welcomed. If you would like to submit a letter for consideration in our next news letter, please send it to BLIA, Box 1015, Ballston Lake, NY 12019**

**To receive email updates on Toxic Algae Warnings, the newsletter and other important notifications, please include your email address with your 2014 dues payment.**

At the January board meeting Sue Bishop was approved as our new Web Master.

BLIA Board Members:

Peter Herman, President

Sue Bishop, Assistant Membership Chairman

Judy Brodeur, Assistant Treasurer

Greg Adams, VP Newsletter

Drew Hamelink, VP

Ann Pierce, Director

Paul Troidle, Director

Frank Shipp, Membership VP and Treasurer

Dave Duglin, Secretary

Dave Pierce, Lake Management VP

Pete Voss, VP

Scott Miller, Director

John Gill, Director

Nominations are being accepted for board members and officers of BLIA. If you have a nomination you would like to submit, please contact Peter Herman, President. You can email him at [pandsherman@gmail.com](mailto:pandsherman@gmail.com) or call 399-5803.

Election of officers and board members will occur at the annual meeting, Tuesday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at the Ballston Lake Firehouse.

## Important Town Board Meeting

**On June 10<sup>th</sup>, during the 7:00 pm meeting, the Ballston Town Board will be voting on whether to go ahead with an engineering study to develop a sewer system around Ballston Lake and in the Hamlet of Ballston in Buell Heights. This is a conceptual vote and any approval will require a public hearing in the future. It is important for Ballston Lake residents to attend at this Town Board meeting.**

## Harmful Algae Blooms 2014

At the recent meeting of the New York Federation of Lakes (NYSFOLA), DEC explained this summer's plan for testing Harmful Algae Blooms (HABS). HABS are blue green algae species that contain toxins in the cells. When the cells die they release the toxins into the water. The prevalent blue green algae in Ballston Lake are microcystis and contain the neuron toxin microcystin.

Algae facts:

1. HABS usually in water over 76 degrees, July and August
2. Floats on the surface to get close to the sun
3. If it is too hot it sinks below the surface
4. Easily blown by wind to accumulate on the east side of the lake.
5. Gets matted around docks, weeds, boats, and coves.
6. Looks like green paint, sometimes with a white crust.
7. Wind and waves can disperse the accumulation.
8. Is usually evident in the morning before it gets hot and when wind is minimal.
9. The toxin concentration is greatest near the shoreline.

If you see what you think is a HAB please contact Dave Pierce at 399-6308 and I will come to your house to take a water sample. We should have the results of tests back in 2 days. In the meantime you should avoid swimming in a dense algae scum. Especially at risk are pets who may drink this water and small children. It is usually safe to swim at the end of your dock or off a boat away from the shoreline. It is always best to rinse off after being the lake to remove any lake water bacteria, toxins, or microscopic creatures.

## Drinking Water - 2014

Most of us around Ballston Lake are on wells or take water directly from the lake for consumption. At the NYSFOLA meeting May 3rd the following recommendations were made by DEC as the best way to "treat" this water for safe consumption. These are recommendations only and you should have your water tested periodically to be sure your drinking water is as pure as you want and to be sure your "treatment" system is working properly. Water tests can be done by CNA on 27 Kent St. Ballston Spa. Call 884-0800 for information and costs.

Best water treatment is done by:

1. Passing drinking water thru a 5 micron filter to remove sediment, particles, and algae.
2. Sterilizing the water with a chlorinator or a UV in line element. This kills bacteria and algae that are still in the water after #1.
3. Filtering the water with an in line activated charcoal filter. When you "kill" the bacteria and algae in #2, toxins and by products are released into the water. The charcoal filter removes this residual unwanted material from the water and also improves the taste of the water.
4. Remember to follow all manufacturer's instructions concerning filter life and when the filter should be replaced. They do not last forever.

# Annual Meeting- June 17<sup>th</sup>

Please mark you calendars and attend the annual meeting of the Ballston Lake Improvement Association. The meeting will be on Tuesday, June 17 at 7:00 PM at the Ballston Lake Firehouse. Many important issues will be presented including:

- New Website and Facebook Information
- Process of becoming a non-profit 503-c corporation
- Update on the town's efforts for water and sewer systems
- Report on New York State Federation of Lakes conference
- Lake Management Report
- Election of officers to your board

**Ballston Lake Improvement Association**

**BLIA**

**P.O. Box 1015**

**Ballston Lake, NY**

