

* News of Blue *

An informal newsletter for Blue Mountain Lake residents, friends and all who want to nurture the town and to protect the Eckford Chain: Blue Mountain Lake, Eagle Lake and Utowana Lake

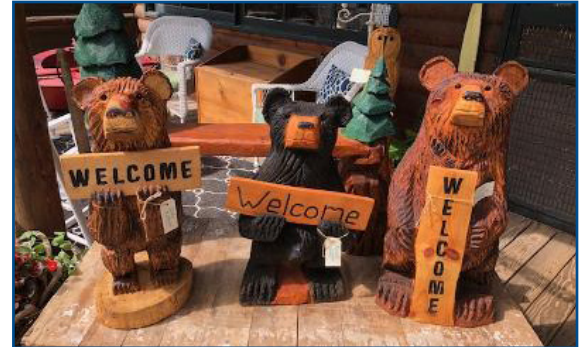
Blue Mountain Lake, NY

August 2020



A hot summer morning on Blue Mountain Lake from West Bay

BML and Hamilton County open for business—welcoming but safe



Chainsaw bears welcoming visitors at Steamboat Landing, carved by Blue Mountain's Forest Ranger, Jason Scott

New emergency service strategy for BML Local recruitment sparse, so EMS reaches out

"We were in a desperate situation in Blue Mountain Lake," says Tim Leach, "Now we have only two EMTs, and it doesn't look like we'll find more volunteers in the community." Tim shares the "job" with Gail Carmichael who at present is out with an injury. A third, Sarah Lewin, is part-time. Volunteer EMTs (Emergency Medical Technicians) are critical to every small community, providing initial medical care and ambulance transport to people with broken legs, cardiac issues, seizures, and all manner of health emergencies. Recruitment is difficult: initial training takes a minimum of 120 hours with mandatory recertification every three years. What to do?

Tim Leach started a low-key recruitment campaign, which caught someone's eye in Raquette who told someone else who called a friend in Virginia. And now Brenda Peterson, a nursing student at the University of Virginia, is spending the summer in Blue as a full-time EMT. She has valuable experience: after majoring in chemistry and physics, she spent six years as a firefighter and paramedic. To take the Blue Mountain Lake job, she had to become a member of



Brenda Peterson, this summer's EMT, stands with local EMT Tim Leach who recruited her

the BML Fire and Ambulance Corps and to apply for a certificate of reciprocity with the NYS Department of Health.

"I love it here," she says. "I could recommend this to 50 qualified people right now. It's beautiful, people are friendly and helpful, and it's a good job."

The BML Fire and Ambulance Corps pays her salary and her accommodations. Very generously, The Hedges provides her meals throughout the summer. She's on call almost full-time, but can trade off with Tim if she wants to hike or go out on the lake.



Lots of visitors are coming to Blue this summer, including this robust fellow.

Important gatherings

See page 5 for the upcoming annual meetings of the Blue Mountain Lake Association and Water Watch.

"We haven't scratched a call yet and our response time has been excellent." When Indian Lake is on an emergency call, she spells them and vice-versa.

It's different from her experience in Virginia. "It's quieter here – so far only about 10 calls, but three of those were over the Fourth of July. It's also different because the transport is much longer." Patients are taken by the BML ambulance to hospitals in Glens Falls or Saranac, with Brenda minding the patient and a volunteer

New EMT strategy.....see page 4



Attention: Killer invasive found in Utowana channel

**Motor boats can
spread it — keep
your boat out!!**

Above: Signage in the channel from Utowana into the dam area asks motorboats to keep out to prevent the spread of VLM.

Right: Dreaded variable leaf milfoil spreads quickly and can displace beneficial native aquatic plants.



One of the most serious invasive species in our lakes is **variable leaf milfoil (VLM, *Myriophyllum heterophyllum*)** which can cause numerous ecological, cultural and economic impacts. It spreads quickly via fragmentation and creates dense beds of itself that degrade water quality for numerous species of fish and wildlife.

How about Blue Mountain Lake? This year, Ava Anderson, our lake steward, found VLM in the channel at the end of Utowana. Water Watch and the BMLA are working to keep motor boats out of the channel as they will spread it farther.

BMLA has requested a permit from APA and DEC to hire a team of scuba divers (Aqualogic) to remove the infestation. Last year one plant was found; now there is an area of about an acre involved. This is the beginning of a long term, expensive effort to control and, if we are very lucky, remove it. We hope to get approval and complete this year's effort by Labor Day. *



BluMouLa-BuFuRa Most boat races were cancelled this year, but, with Andy Coney at the helm of the BluMouLa-BuFuRa (Blue Mountain Lake Buoy Funding Race), the show did go on. On July 26, with five official and several unofficial entrants, a strong wind, and only the short 1½ mile race (the 14- and 7-mile races were cancelled), it was a very exciting race. See page 7 for more photos.

Above: Andy works out of his "race table." Behind him is Pete Jaworski, a major competitor with nine wins under his belt. He uses this race to tune up for the 90-Miler which is cancelled this year. *

August 9, Sunday, 8:30 am

Blue Mountain Sizzler 5K Run/Walk

Hosted by the Blue Mountain Lake Association

Pre-registration required, now open; 50 person cap.

www.runreg.com/bluemtsizzler

website: www.bluemtsizzler.com

Greetings in the summer of 2020

After an uncertain spring, it's mostly good news this summer. Creative, hardworking, and flexible business owners have flung open their doors to visitors wanting to enjoy the fun and beauty of the Adirondacks. Beaches, hiking trails, campsites, rafting companies, hotels, and gift shops are open. But we must be watchful. Just as we must be vigilant with this crazy virus, our lakes and lands must be guarded against equivalent dangers—invasive plants, fish, shellfish, chemicals, salt, septic leaks, and other poisons. Planet Earth is actually very fragile.

Mea Kaemmerlen, editor

P.S. Please forward this to anyone interested or send us their email address, and we'll put them on the list. For comments or questions:

Paul Monroe: paul@drpaulmonroe.com

Andy Coney: AndyConey@PObox.com

Or me: meakaem@aol.com



A very happy moment. Leslie Storrs and Bruce Tondreau are married on the shore of Blue Mountain Lake at Steamboat Landing by Jeff Vander Molen, Steamboat's proprietor. The Storrs family goes back in Blue many generations. See Sarah Vander Molen's report and more photos on page 7.



Pickleball! Several times a week, the Durant Road tennis courts boast a vigorous, but safe, pickleball game. Using a smaller court, a perforated polymer ball, and solid paddles, four players battle through a sometimes viciously competitive (but usually a serene and friendly) game, fit for all abilities. Here, some regular players pose between games. L to R are Tom Riley of BML, Mike Farrell of Long Lake, Paul Monroe seasonally of BML, and John Boya and Daryl Smith of Indian Lake. If you're interested in joining, email Tom Riley at thomaseriley@hotmail.com. All are welcome. *

APIPP now heads battle against knotweed

The Nature Conservancy's Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program named as manager

Ellen Collins

Over the past 12 years, we have made great progress controlling Japanese knotweed here in Blue Mountain Lake through the volunteer organization, Regional Inlet Invasive Plant Program (RIIPP), which our community has generously supported in the past.

The management of that program has changed several times and, this year, the Nature Conservancy's Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) has agreed to a 2020 pilot scaled-down version of the program. APIPP selects its targeted species using a priority-setting process that considers several factors: the New York State invasive species threat rankings; ecologic, economic, and human health impacts; and the cost effectiveness of management efforts.



Japanese knotweed

sion which emphasizes serving the public by protecting the RCN, not private interests.

While APIPP will continue to treat some private properties that align with its mission, other properties will be treated one last time to enable private landowners to more reasonably control infestations on their own thereafter. Ellen Collins, the vol-

unteer coordinator for Blue Mountain Lake has requested indemnity forms from those properties APIPP is willing to try to treat this season. The following link—adkinvasives.com/Resources/knotweed—explains how landowners can manage knotweed infestations on their own properties. Pesticide treatment costs are funded by donations to APIPP. There is no cost to landowners for sites APIPP treats. Landowners may wish to continue future treatments at their own cost and arrangements. Administrative costs are supported by donations and by the NYS Environmental Protection Fund as administered by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. Donations may be sent to "Nature Conservancy -- APIPP/RIIPP PO Box 65 Keene Valley NY 12943.



Wild parsnip

Note: Because wild parsnip, another invasive species, does not fit the mission criteria of APIPP, this pilot program will not be treating it. For information on how to control it on your own property please contact Ellen Collins. *

APIPP is also guided by the Nature Conservancy's Resilient and Connected Lands Network (RCN), a network of sites and connecting corridors that will sustain North America's natural diversity by allowing species to adapt to climate impacts and thrive.

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mission which emphasizes serving the public by protecting the RCN, not private interests.

The following link—adkinvasives.com/Resources/knotweed—explains how landowners can manage knotweed infestations on their own properties.

Pesticide treatment costs are funded

If you have any questions, please contact Ellen Collins at 518-352-7717 or 17ellencollins@gmail.com. (Note Ellen's new email address.)

Historic building in Indian Lake demolished

A super Stewart's will open as soon as September



What a lot of old timers know as Ste Marie General Store is no more. In July, an excavator and other demolition machinery came to Indian Lake to clear the corner of Routes 28 and 30 for a new Stewart's Shop, reportedly the second largest in New York State.



The building had stood on that corner since at least 1878. Reportedly, the Adirondack guide, trapper and hermit, French Louie, came in now and then to sell his furs and stock up on provisions. In 1963, Pete and Mary Farrell took it over and operated it until 1990. It was especially well known for its meat. Since then, it's been home to a number of retail enterprises. *

BMLA and Water Watch

are both alive and well. They share a goal: keeping a close watch on the health of Blue Mountain Lake and its surroundings.

The Blue Mountain Lake Association is a community-based group dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of the economic, cultural, and physical facets of the Blue Mountain Lake community for the benefit of current and future generations.

Paul Monroe, president
Andy Coney, vice-president
Barbara Sullivan, treasurer
Ellen Butz, secretary
Pamela Aall, membership
Belinda Block, beautification
Ralph Coon, transportation/highways
Bob Curry, fire and ambulance
Mary Lynne Heldmann, Water Watch
Mea Kaemmerlen, newsletter
David Kahn, Adirondack Experience
Sarah Lewin, at large
John O'Loughlin, directory
Ardie Russell, Adirondack Lakes
Center for the Arts

Water Watch is a group of community members, working with and through the Blue Mountain Lake community, to maintain the high quality of the Eckford Chain waters and shorelines. The group is seeking interested board members. For more information or to join, contact Dick Cunningham at rcunningham@passonnopaints.com.

Mary Lynne Heldmann, co-chair
Paul Monroe, co-chair
Dick Cunningham, treasurer
Lee Williams, secretary
Christine Blakeney
Phyllis Georges
Charlie Pietrow

The Blue Mountain Lake Association now has its own website, with events, important issues, membership information, newsletters, and more. Check it out:

<https://sites.google.com/view/bluemountainlakeassociation>

Churches open, adhering to 17 pages of guidelines



The Methodist Church in Blue Mountain Lake has opened its doors, very carefully. Here, Bambi Niles, a seasonal visitor to Sixth Lake from Oneida and part of the church congregation, supervises the thorough cleaning by young volunteers. They strictly follow New York State's 17 pages of guidelines to keep groups safe. See story on page 8.

New EMT strategy.....from page 1

driving the ambulance.

Brenda is away the first two weeks in August and another EMT/paramedic, Logan Corron of Watertown, is helping out. "We are really lucky to have two really qualified EMTs this summer," says Tim.

Tim is optimistic about the future for BML. "This has worked out better than expected," he says. "Since the lion's share of our calls come during the summer months, having a paid EMT on call all summer has been a huge success. Hopefully, we can make similar arrangements in the future." Because winter is a much quieter time, he is hopeful that Blue Mountain Lake can work out a deal with Indian Lake to continue to give assistance when needed over the winter months.

Blue Mountain Lake residents and visitors should be extremely grateful to the volunteer EMTs and the Fire and Ambulance Corps for making such an effort to have these critical, life-saving services right in town. *



Boat Wash at Durant Busy This Summer

**It's time to protect against
invasives, as we do the virus**

"The boat wash is critical in this time of spreading invasives," says Adrien Comeau of Long Lake who minds the boat wash at the pull-out across from Lake Durant on Rte 28/30 into Blue Mountain Lake. "There are more boats than last year," he says, "and most people understand that they must have their boats cleaned." It's additionally critical now that variable leaf milfoil has been found in Blue and will soon require great expense to have it controlled or eradicated.

"It only takes about 10 to 15 minutes to have your boat washed—for free. If you don't have a green tag, you can't launch into Blue Mountain Lake."

Adrien works from 7:30 am to 6:00 pm each weekday and 7:30 to 7:30 on weekends when he's joined by another worker. "It only takes about 10 to 15 minutes to have your boat washed, for free. We use a high-power hose and then another attachment to pull water out of the engine. Then we give you a green tag.

In Blue, the only public launch for motor boats is the Boat Livery and, if you don't have a green tag, you and your boat come right back to Adrien. "People are pretty understanding for the most part," he says. *

Keeping us safe on the public beach



Blue Mountain's public beach has been very busy this summer, with canoers, kayakers, swimmers, loungers and families. Keeping everyone safe are, L to R, Emily Deshaw, lifeguard; Victoria Moore, beach monitor; Kristina Oliver, lifeguard. When visitors come, Victoria checks their temperature and gets contact information. Note: The flower pots at the beach and elsewhere in town are maintained by volunteers of the Blue Mountain Lake Association.

Real live meetings coming up

▲ Tuesday, August 11, 6:00 pm

Blue Mountain Lake Association Annual Meeting
Adirondack Experience. *

Critical agenda: the main points of discussion will be the strategy of getting a handle on the newly discovered, devastating invasive milfoil (see page 2): raising funds, surveying the three lakes, close monitoring, control, and eradication.

▲ Saturday, August 15, 8:30 am

Water Watch Annual Meeting
Adirondack Experience *

Critical for meeting:

- * Wear masks.
- * RSVP to BlueMtLakeAssoc@gmail.com (cap of 50 people)
- * Fill in screening form at meeting or get it online: <https://www.thead-kx.org/health-screening-form>



Beloved antique store opens in mid-summer

The ever popular Wide River Antiques and Uniques has just opened in a large, new location in Long Lake, around the bend from the old store. From all reports, business is booming. Congratulations, Pat Benton.

Strong Rope Pub and Blue Line Market team up for fun outdoor dining

Blue Mountain's Strong Rope Taproom, with its beer, wine, and picnic tables, and the Blue Line Market, with its wraps, salads, and pizzas, are right across from each other at the junction of 28 and 30. Now they've teamed up to provide popular outdoor dining and entertainment. Pick up your food order at the Market and take it across to outdoor seating and order your drinks. Blue Line Market: 518-352-1999, Strong Rope Taproom: 518-212-7525.

In addition, the Market is packed with food, gifts, essentials, and delicious ice cream cones. Twice a week, a farmer delivers fresh produce.

And at the Taproom: If you come by boat, it offers "Paddle to Pint," dock access to the bar and its 100 percent New York craft beer, brewed in Brooklyn. It also, as Potters Resort, has three delightful cabins, a wide sandy beach, and gorgeous sunsets. *



The Strong Rope Taproom within the historic Potters Resort, is a popular destination.

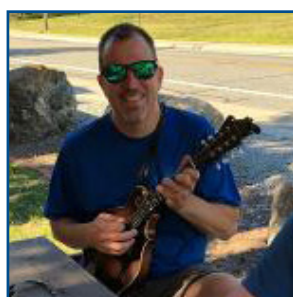


Making things work during Covid-19. Connie Sahler of Potters and Bill Parent of the Blue Line Market hand off a meal for a customer at Strong Rope.



Above, a vacationer at Prospect Point buys fresh corn at the Blue Line Market, just delivered by the local farmer.

Below, Tim Rodrigue relaxing at Strong Rope, where he performs now and then on guitar and mandolin,



playing country blues, bluegrass and rock.

Blue Mountain Lake Association annual dues and donation

▲ Membership runs from January 1 to December 31.

▲ Your contribution is tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

▲ **Thank you for your support!**

Please print page, cut it out, fill it out, and mail it to:

Blue Mountain Lake Association, PO Box 245
Blue Mountain Lake, NY 12812

OR sign up online at www.RunReg.com/bmla

Name(s) please print _____

Dues (for individuals, families and businesses) **\$25.00**

My additional contribution of \$ _____

Total enclosed \$ _____

I/We are (check one): ☐ Year-rounders ☐ Seasonal residents
☐ Resort guests ☐ Renters ☐ Frequent visitors ☐ A business

Permanent address _____

City, state, zip _____

Blue Mountain Lake street address _____

Primary E-mail _____ E-mail addresses of other

family members _____

Phone (permanent) _____

Phone (Blue Mountain Lake) _____



A novel wedding beats the novel virus



Wedding photo on page 2

Sarah Vander Molen, who with her husband Jeff and son Ethan, runs Steamboat Landing, tells of a lovely Blue Mountain Lake happening on July 25:

“Leslie Storrs and Bruce Tondreau had planned a large traditional wedding, but with the pandemic, they cancelled those plans and decided on a small wedding in Blue Mountain at Steamboat Landing. As a friend of Leslie and Bruce, Jeff was asked to officiate. The Storrs family dates back to 1885 in Blue Mountain Lake.

“It was our first wedding at Steamboat Landing. It was rustic and simple with white birch stumps & mason jars with wildflowers. Seeing the bride walk towards the lake brought emotion to all for many reasons. It was a beautiful picture as following the ceremony Bruce picked up Leslie in a 100+ year old family guide boat.

“The families then spent the day on a scenic boat ride from the livery, had a cookout and enjoyed showing Bruce's three daughters Blue Mountain Lake for the first time. They all jumped off Rock Island.

“It was truly a celebration and the Vander Molen family was honored to be a part of the special day!” *



200 friends watched the wedding live on Facebook, but some relatives and close friends came to Steamboat for the real thing, monitoring their distances from each other.



After the wedding, Bruce took his new bride out in a 100-year-old guideboat.

BluMouLa-BuFuRa

Continued from page 2

In the race were David Cunningham on a paddleboard; Mary Lynne Heldmann in a kayak; John Casale and David Vandorpe of Massachusetts in a canoe; Pete Jaworski in an Epic 18X kayak, and, unofficially, Siobhan Levere in a kayak and Art Gates of Saratoga (but with many ties to Blue) in his family's old aluminum Grumman canoe. It was a tough race. Looking over the choppy water after the race, competitor Pete Jaworski, said: “It's for real out there.”



Above: at the starting gate, L to R: Pete Jaworski, John Casale and David Vandorpe, Siobhan Levere, Mary Lynne Heldmann, David Cunningham, and Art Gates. Left: The Winning Team (the young guys): John Casale, 71, and David Vandorpe, 65. Right: David Cunningham braved the choppy water and strong wind on a paddleboard. He says his mother, Mary Lynne Heldmann, strongly encouraged him to race.



Church opens, adhering to 17 pages of guidelines

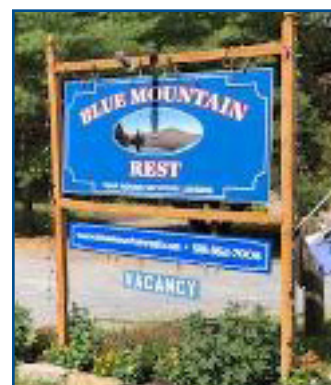


Nina Dickinson is pastor of three Methodist churches: in Indian Lake, Blue Mountain Lake, and Long Lake. For several months, she has Zoomed services, prayer, and classes, but she and her congregations longed to return to church gatherings. Now that has happened, with enormous effort, devotion, and 17 pages of official guidelines from New York State. After each event, congregants volunteer time and effort to make sure the churches are safe and legal for gatherings using the mandated mix of prod-

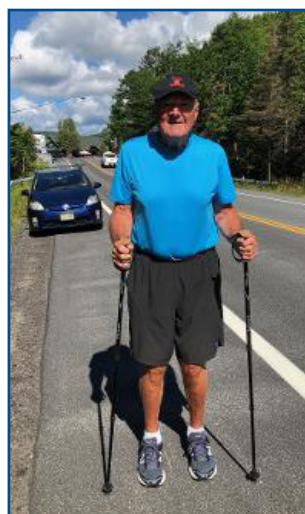
ucts and wiping down every surface in the church. In Blue Mountain, they clean on Thursdays so that the smell has dissipated by the Saturday evening service. Before each service, all visitors, wearing masks, are signed in with contact information and must be seated from front to back, six feet apart. The size of the church now allows for only 18 people: 16 visitors, the organist and the minister. Because they have only one entrance, people must leave in reverse order, so no one passes in the aisle. First in, last out. "It's hard work," says Pastor Nina, "but we're so happy to be worshiping together again."

Please note that for people not yet ready for sustained gathering, the congregations also continue to support a worship service by Zoom at 8:00 am every Sunday. To get on Pastor Nina's Zoom list, email her at nlbd67sigrid@gmail.com. *

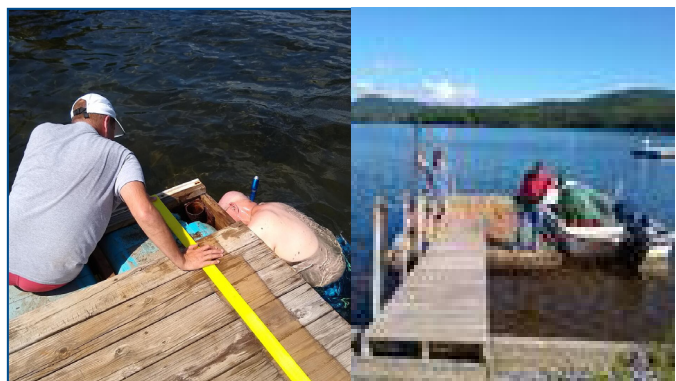
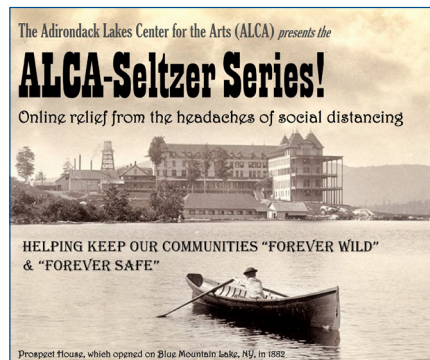
Summer 2020 in Blue



Neowise, the cosmic snowball orbiting about 64 million miles from Blue Mountain Lake, provided evening entertainment to many people in the area in July. It was called many things: a shooting star, a faint smudge, an "Oh, I see it...I think...not sure..." If you missed it, come back in 8820 (that's in 6,800 years from now)!



A familiar sight? Hap Georges and his wife Phyllis have been spending summers in Blue since 1965. Recently Hap has become a cheerful and energetic walker on the main road, "a half hour out, and a half-hour back," he says. Wave next time you see him.



Repairs: the valuable fire dock was wobbly, uneven and in need of repair. Thanks to fire dock swimmers, left, Tom Riley and Jim Gray, and to others (Peter Block, Steve Swanson, Jim Hutt, Jim Pine, and Andy Coney), it's now straight and sturdy.

Above, Some vacancies, some not, but everyone is working hard to make this summer successful. The fabulous gift and art shop, Blue Mountain Designs, has wonderful coffee, breakfasts and lunches. Though the Adirondack Lakes Center for the Arts is closed, it has a lively online presence. Check it out: www.adirondackarts.org.