# \* 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 January 2021



When COVID-19 cancelled the annual holiday party in the Blue Mountain Lake firehall, Santa, with help from a number of trusted elves, mounted his fire truck and delivered gifts directly to homes. Here John Keays happily gets his bag of goodies. See page 4 for more.

# Strong support for invasive control in Eckford Chain

#### BMLA campaign exceeds goal

After the dreaded invasive variable leaf milfoil ("VLM," *Myriophyllum hetero-phyllum*) was found in the channel at the end of Lake Utowana, the town went into action—before the plant has a chance to move through the three lakes of the Eckford Chain. It turns out that other Adirondack

Want to volunteer? See page 4. lakes infested with this invasive spend untold volunteer

hours and upwards of \$70,000 a year to keep VLM in control. Though discovered early, Utowana's invasive was already stretching over an acre of water.

The contaminated area was marked,

motorboats were asked to keep out of the area and research commenced to determine



the best offensive. In August, the Blue Mountain Lake Association launched an emergency campaign to raise \$100,000 toward fighting the invasive. This was generously supported by the Blue Mountain Lake Fund which offered a \$50,000 matching fund.

Response was robust, and the *VLM* campaign was successful. A total of \$140,000, which includes the matching fund, was raised by the end of December. (Though the campaign has ended, contri-

Strong support .....see page 4



### **Sweet sweet bottom Ribbon Candy Rock in West Bay**

Swirls of ribbon candy winding up spires from the floor of Blue Mountain Lake? Who knew?

Andy Coney did, of course. He posted on NextDoor: "A diver who likes Blue Mountain Lake asked me to sell him one of my large, framed bottom maps and during the correspondence attached this picture. Many know an enormous pinnacle rises to within 6 feet of the surface in the middle of West Bay, right next to the lake's deepest point, 102.7 feet. The diver pictured was along the sharp underwater cliffs at 25-30 feet down."

Note: the diver is Brian Thompson; the photo was taken by fellow diver Ray Tucker. 

★

#### Greetings from Paul Monroe President, Blue Mountain Lake Association

Dear Blue Mountain Lakers,

This has been a trying year for all of us. Hopefully, you and your family are healthy. There is *a light at the end of this long tunnel*, and we all hope that the



Adirondack winter will be snowy and that, by summer, things will be close to what we remember as normal.

Our community has struggled with many of the same issues as other small rural towns. But we have also demonstrated our strong community of support. I was pleased with the contributions that the Blue Mountain Lake Association has been able to make. We contributed \$5,000 to Community Action to support food needs for our town last spring. Later, we contributed \$5,000 to Indian Lake schools to help them buy equipment to disinfect classrooms that was not covered in their budget or by state funds.

Of course, in view of COVID-19, there is much more needed to keep our town a vital community. The *Adirondack Lakes Center for the Arts* is struggling as are all non-profits.

Paul Monroe .....see page 2



Sarah Lewin passed along this photo of The Hutt at the public beach in its Christmas finery. She says, "Many fewer folks are around Blue this winter but I wanted to let you know that it didn't stop Ruby Lewin and Bob Lewin from getting a tree up at The Hutt. Adds some nice cheer for the community and those passing through."

Note: Members whose dues are current as of March 31 will be included in the spring member directory.

Paul Monroe ......from page 1

We have offered help to them in order to keep their programs active. I urge you to keep them in your gifting plans. (See page 6 for more information.) The *Adirondack Experience and local businesses* also need all the support we can give them in the coming year.

This year has also been marked by the appearance of invasive variable-leaf milfoil in the channel between Utowana and the dam. The BMLA has been very proactive, and we hope that we have caught this relatively early. But milfoil is a very persistent and invasive plant that will require ongoing vigilance and expensive harvesting to keep it under control and prevent spreading. Fortunately, our members have supported a very successful campaign to fund a monitoring and treatment program for the coming years. We will keep you informed as to the findings and plans. We will ask your help to develop a community surveillance program next summer. Stay tuned.

I want to give a shout out to our board who has moved the BMLA forward in exciting ways. We are slowly getting our members used to using electronic communications which allows us to disseminate information easier and more frequently. This newsletter is a wonderful project that everyone appreciates. Your board is always thinking of ways to help our hamlet. We have a unique lake and a wonderful community.

Thank you for all of your support, Paul

#### Online is the way to go!

# Please join or renew on our new website http://www.signmeup.com/136076

Most Januarys, our thoughts happily return to Blue Mountain Lake with the arrival of a cheery letter from the Blue Mountain Lake Association bearing news from the community along with an appeal to send in your check to join or renew.

This year isn't quite the same. **We're** moving online. Two years ago, we began offering an online membership alternative that's become increasingly popular. For 2021, with disruptions to physical mail, we ask that you use the online method. It's easy and takes less time than filling out the paper form, writing a check and posting the envelope.

Besides, renewing or joining online is less work for our membership committee.

Don't worry though, no one will be left out. There'll still be a way to join or renew by traditional mail—watch for the membership email coming soon. \*

### How to add BlueMountainLakeAssociation.org to your safe senders list

*In Gmail:* if Gmail assigns an email from @ BlueMountainLakeAssociation.org to your Promotions or Spam folder, click on the message, drag and drop it onto the Primary folder, then click Yes in the confirmation box.

In Outlook: Go to the Home tab. In the Delete subsection, find and click on the little down arrow next to Junk then select Junk Email Options. Next, click the Safe Senders tab and click Add. Type (or paste) @BlueMountainLakeAssociation.org into the dialog box and click OK. \*

#### 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, membership
Barbara Sullivan, treasurer
Ellen Butz, secretary
Belinda Block, beautification
Ralph Coon, transportation/highways
Bob Curry, fire and ambulance
Mary Lynne Heldmann, Water Watch
David Kahn, Adirondack Experience
Pamela Aall, at large
Sarah Lewin, ex-officio
Ardie Russell, Adirondack Lakes
Center for the Arts

Committees Mea Kaemmerlen, newsletter John O'Loughlin, directory

Emails: President@BlueMountain-LakeAssociation.org
Membership@BlueMountainLakeAssociation.org
Water@BlueMountainLakeAssociation.org
Info@BlueMountainLakeAssociation.org
Website: https://sites.google.com/ view/bluemountainlakeassociation

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



Above: Pete Hornbeck on Blue Mountain Lake. Photo by Betsy Folwell, a good friend. Right and below: About 60 cars joined the tribute parade to Newcomb to honor boatbuilder Pete Hornbeck. Pete was much beloved in the Adirondacks, and his canoes and kayaks are well known throughout the world. One is featured at the Adirondack Experience. For his obituary in the Albany Times Union, go to https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/timesunion-albany/name/peter-hornbeck-obituary?pid=197398757

#### The face that launched a thousand (or so) ships Fans of Pete Hornbeck hold a road parade in his honor

Pete Hornbeck—a creative, hardworking, charming, internationally known boat builder whose iconic Hornbeck canoes and kayaks have become favorites in the Adirondacks and far beyond—has been honored in a North Country way.

After Hornbeck died unexpectedly at age 77 on December 26, a group in the Blue Mountain Lake area organized a road-trip parade in his honor. On December 30, leaving Blue Mountain Lake,

a convoy of about 20 cars with Hornbeck boats harnessed to their roofs, travelled through Indian Lake, North River and North Creek, where they picked up 40 more Hornbeck-topped cars. Hornbeck owners and fans had come from near and far, including Potsdam and Otisco Lake. Finally, at Newcomb Overlook Park, their final destination, the 60 cars lined up to pay tribute to a good friend to many and an outstanding boat builder. \*\*





#### Greetings:

We're publishing a midwinter newsletter to update you on a few items: Blue Mountain Lake Association membership, aquatic invasives, some celebrations, some news, some needs and some opportunities.

Please have a healthy, happy and hopefully snowy winter. And contact us with suggestions and comments. Please forward this to anyone interested or send us their email address, and we'll put them on the list.

Paul Monroe: President@BlueMountainLakeAssociation.org Andy Coney: Membership@BlueMountainLakeAssociation.org Or me, Mea Kaemmerlen, editor, meakaem@aol.com

#### Its time is coming....

The dazzling new Blueliner Diner (actually a restored 1946 Silk City diner) on Route 30 beckons drivers to stop for eggs-over-easy, home fries—and maybe a chocolate milk-shake. It's nearing completion. A note from co-proprietor Betsy Folwell says, "Looking forward to the 2021 season. Impossible to guess when the diner's opening day will be—depends on COVID along with everything else."



## A volunteer team is sought to monitor lakes for aquatic invasives

Jessy Knoble Gray is heading effort

With the discovery of VLM (variable leaf milfoil) in Utowana, a volunteer support effort is underway. Happily, Jessy Knoble Gray has stepped up to spearhead this project, following the direction of Aqualogic, the company harvesting the milfoil from the lake. Aqualogic suggests organizing volunteers to help with the control of this invasive plant by surveying and marking any suspicious plant beds.

Therefore, in preparation for next summer, Jessy and the Water Committee of the BMLA are recruiting volunteers to help survey specific sections of one of the lakes for invasive plants, especially VLM.

If you would be willing to be a part of this program, looking for these plants while out in your kayak or on your paddleboard or snorkeling, please contact Jessy at Water@BlueMountainLakeAssociation.org. Volunteers will receive some training on what to look for and how to mark the area if any suspicious plants are found.

Thank you, Jessy. No doubt, we'll be hearing from you this spring. \*⊀

Gord





Every year, the BML firehall hosts a lively holiday party, with Santa presiding and distributing gifts to kids in town. But COVID intervened and the 2020 party was cancelled. Undefeated, Santa (Sean Curry) and his creative elves, especially Gail Carmichael, Heidi Russell and Francie Armstrong, found an alternative. Santa reined up a fire truck, driven by Tom Warrington, and went house to house delivering presents.

Top: Santa Claus (aka Sean Curry) readies for his ride through town with Rudolph (aka Tom Warrington) guiding the sleigh.

Left: Santa poses with Ruby Lewin.

Right: Santa stops to see Anna Strader and Jackson Strader—and maybe he's got a treat in his pack for the doggie.

Photos by Greg George

Strong support ......from page 1 butions to this project are welcome any time.)

"Now the work begins," says Mary Lynne Heldmann, head of the BMLA Water Committee. "Our challenge is significant. We'll need substantial funds to hire a company to harvest the existing VLM and do extensive surveys of the three lakes. We have a budget, but if we find milfoil beds other than those found in the Utowana channel, the budget will increase. This will be a multi-year effort." \*

#### Tim Leach: quiet, hardworking all-around citizen

Facilities at #6 greatly improved



Visitors this coming summer to state campsite #6 near Castle Rock will be treated to a vastly improved outhouse thanks to Tim Leach. The former rotten plank seat has been replaced with pressure-treated wood topped with a real toilet seat. And a screwed-down, mouse-resistant container now keeps the paper dry and handy.

The only site on the mainland, campsite #6 is in West Bay above the cliffs that are west of the lake trail to Castle Rock.

We were fortunate to have "Coach" Tim Leach as one of the two stewards who monitored the state-owned islands and Castle Rock in Blue Mountain Lake last summer. Tim is a retired high school teacher and coach who lives year-round in Blue Mountain Lake with his wife Mary. He is the captain of the Blue Mountain Lake Ambulance Squad and works in the summer at Lake Durant campground. In the rare times he's not busy, he, Mary and their golden retriever can be spotted walking Maple Lodge Road or cruising the lake in their skiff with steward placards. \*\*

#### Bits and Pieces

- ★ Report has it that Blueline Market, aka the Corner Store, will be open in 2021. Hard to imagine life without it.
- \* Joanna Pine reports that Pine's Country Store in Indian Lake has managed to stay open through this entire pandemic. She says, "Tim and I are very thankful for that." Again, hard to imagine life without it.
- ★ Joanna also says that the Indian Lake School is still open every day to all students Pre K-12th grade. Well done and stay safe.
- \* Indian Lake Theater is showing a half dozen different films every month to a maximum audience of 50 people. The show must go on.
- \* Sad to say, Community Bank NA has decided to close the branch in Indian Lake. This is another hard blow for our small towns in this difficult time. To show your dismay, call Kent Backus, CB Regional Director, at 518-561-0086 or email him at kent. backus@cbna.com.
- \* The new Adirondack Road Salt Reduction Task Force and Pilot Program, created by the State in December, will look into ways to reduce the impact of road salt in the Adirondack Park. Good news!
- \* Greg George reports: "The fire department and ambulance squad have been trying to keep up with business and training, but people are worried about close contact." Thank you, fire fighters and EMT. With time on his hands, Greg's cutting firewood for 2022!



Jean's newly hatched chicks in June

\* In June, Jean Williams hatched chicks (Black Australorps); in July, she had her first success with cantaloupes and watermelons; in August, she harvested a loaded plum tree; in September, she grew strawberries; in October, she seeded in her new AeroGarden. Jean is known as a great gardener, for good reason. \*



#### Ice-In on Blue Mountain Lake

"I could have paddled the whole lake on the 15th and none on the 16th."

On December 16, Tom Riley of Blue Mountain Lake took this picture as the lake froze over. He says of the photo: "That's all ice... not just near shore. A different view than usual, because there is no snow on it. I consider ice-in when almost the entire lake is covered. From my experience, the west side of the lake freezes last. I could have paddled the whole lake on the 15th and none on the 16th."

#### **Final Bargain Pump-Out**

Deirdre Tomlinson

Two years ago, Eckford Chain Septic Initiative was launched as a joint effort by the Blue Mountain Lake Association and Water Watch with the goal to improve performance of septic systems near the lake and to enhance awareness about septic and sewage issues. Offering a 50 percent discount on septic system cleaning and inspection, the program has exceeded expectations, with 19 pump-outs in 2019 and another in 18 last year. Thank you to everyone who participated.

We are pleased to announce one more year of bargain pump-outs. A final grant from the Blue Mountain Lake Fund will allow half-price pumping (\$145) for up to 20 households.

Many camp owners who live in a city where sewage simply disappears have little understanding of how it really works. This initiative encourages camp owners and residents to start now with the small, affordable step of a pump-out. For many homeowners too, it's a chance to learn the location of their septic tank and leach field.

While Utowana, Eagle and Blue Mountain Lake have some of the highest quality water in the state, some cottages and houses have old septic systems. Since pumped-out septic systems work better, cleaning and inspection is an inexpensive way to do good for the environment at low cost.

Participation is simple: call our septic contractor partner, J.H. Schrade of North Creek at 518-251-3115 to schedule a visit once the ground thaws. Say you're part of the BML Septic Initiative.\*

#### What does the BMLA do, anyway?

The Blue Mountain Lake Association is a community-based group that initiates and supports activities that enhance Blue Mountain Lake and its surrounding community. Here are a few of BMLA's ongoing and completed projects:

- ✓ Currently is launching an initiative to manage invasives in the Eckford Chain
- ✓ Pays for the toilet facilities at the tennis court and the firehall
- ✓ Sponsors a twice yearly town-wide clean-up
- ✓ Buys and places buoys in the lake
- ✓ Sponsors the speed signs and other road improvements
- ✓ Sponsors the July boat race and the August road race
- ✓ Spearheaded the construction of The Hutt at the public beach (with volunteers)
- ✓ Spearheaded the playground equipment at the tennis court (with volunteers)
- $\checkmark$  Contributes yearly to the terrestrial invasives fund
- ✓ Contributes yearly to the Adirondack Experience
- ✓ Contributes yearly to the Adirondack Lakes Center for the Arts
- ✓ Publishes a newsletter several times a vear
- ✓ Contributes to important projects on an as-needed basis. For example, to Community Action to support food needs and to Indian Lake schools for equipment to disinfect classrooms \*\*

### Blue's popular art center asking for help

# "Please support us with a special one-time donation at this difficult time"

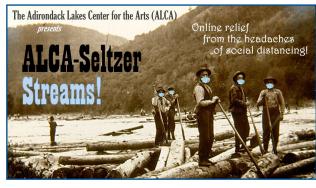
As we enter this new year with an optimistic approach toward virtual programming, the Adirondack Lakes Center for the Arts is simultaneously challenged by not being able to meet our financial goals through traditional fundraising methods.

In addition to budget cuts from the New York State Council on the Arts, we couldn't host our fabulous annual summer Great Arts Benefit or the upcoming winter Woodchopper's Ball.

In lieu of attending these events, will you please consider a special 2021 contribution to the arts center? Additional funds are critical to maintaining our current staff and opening our building for the upcoming summer season. You can easily donate by visiting our website at www.adirondackarts.org. (See below.)

Some supporters have already stepped up with one-time special donations during this extraordinary time. A huge thank you to them. To everyone else, thank you in advance for your help.

With good wishes for health and happiness in the coming year, The ALCA Board



Adirondack Lakes Center for the Arts is very creatively struggling to stay afloat.

#### **ALCA gets real (virtually)**

George Cordes, General Director Adirondack Lakes Center for the Arts

(Note: Imagine George. who has been doing opera and theater for 30 years, singing these words in his deep operatic voice, a la Gilbert and Sullivan.)

"Brilliantly creative!" says one critic. "You'll want to laugh, sing and dance along," says another. ALCA's holiday special (see it online—it's free), cosponsored by the Indian Lake Theater and the Indian Lake Chamber of Commerce, makes for a delightful hour's respite. Above, Elf George Cordes in quarantine and, singing a holiday medley, are Mary Leach, Liz Cordes, George Cordes and Jason Dora.





Among the many ALCA concerts online are the folk duo Brillhart & Smith (above) and Ryan Leddick

It's easy to help us. Visit our website at www.adirondackarts.org and click the DONATE button on the top right. Thank you. Note: If you'd like more information about our financial goals, please reach out to Ardie Russell, emeritus board member, at ardierussell@gmail.com

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Adirondack Lakes Center for the Arts (ALCA) switched to virtual programming dubbed "ALCA-Seltzer Series: Relief from the Headaches of Social Distancing." Video shorts, workshops and full-length livestreams were produced throughout spring, summer and fall. While the Arts Center remained closed, we have tried to entertain, educate and connect to our audiences and will continue until we go live again.

SHORTS: The ALCA-Seltzer Shorts features a wide range of musical performances

by many talented Arts Center performers, both past and future.

STREAMS: The full-length ALCA-Seltzer Streams include concerts by pianist Nicole Wang and violinist Madeleine Jansen, opera and Broadway fun featuring Adirondack Lakes Summer Theatre Festival performers, "Shakespeare on Pause: Parts 1 & 2," concerts and interviews with singer/songwriter Ryan Leddick and folk duo Brillhart & Smith, and a lecture

# You can find all this by searching for the ALCA channel on Youtube. Or simply go to the ALCA website, adirondackarts.org.

on the life of operetta composer Victor Herbert, who spent his summers in the Adirondacks.

IN DECEMBER, the Arts Center joined forces with the Indian Lake Theater and Indian Lake Chamber of Commerce to present "HOLIDAY LIGHTS & SOUNDS OF THE ADIRONDACKS," a virtual fundraiser featuring holiday songs, skits, and instrumental pieces, along with contestants in the Indian Lake holiday-lighting contest. \*

#### Here's to 100 Years of The Hedges

### A century as a dynamic, enduring hotel and, before that, as a Great Camp

Happy birthday, Hedges! You opened your doors as a hotel in 1921, with your first guests arriving on May 28. Since that day, 100 years ago, you—with your beautiful lake, wooded grounds, charming cabins and iconic dining hall—have become a favorite with guests, past, present and future. Under the ownership of just three families and now by a group of your fans, you have been a stalwart presence in Blue Mountain Lake. Many happy returns!

Let's back up to when the property was one of the Adirondacks' Great Camps, to Colonel Hiram Duryea, 1834–1914, a much praised Civil War officer and then wealthy president of the National Starch

Company in New York. In 1880, to escape city life, Duryea bought several hundred acres on Blue Mountain Lake, and, in the way of the Great Camps of the Adirondacks, started constructing his Duryea Camp. He built a cluster of buildings including the Main Lodge, the Stone Lodge, a horse barn and carriage house. Electricity and running water were not included, as Duryea preferred his summers without them.

For 40 years, it remained Duryea Camp. Then in 1920, some years after Duryea died, the property was auctioned, the winner being Richard Collins, caretaker of the Vanderbilts' Great Camp Sagamore in Raquette Lake. He changed the name to



The Hedges and began creating what it is today: a charming, rustic but comfortable, gracious hotel. His additions included the Dining Room Lodge and many other structures.

When Richard Collins died in 1943, his son, John, took charge, and The Hedges continued to grow in popularity, with families returning year after year. In 1972, it was sold to Richard and Catherine Van Yperen who maintained the charm and beauty of the hotel for the next 28 years. In 2000, they sold to Pat and Rip Benton. Two years later, when Rip died, Pat took on the management herself, improving it and placing it on the National Registry of Historic Places. In 2018, loyal guests organized to buy the property as an LLC. It continues to welcome guests and visitors.

We wish you, Hedges, at least 100 more years of giving great pleasure to so many people. ☀

#### **Book Explores Hundred Years of The Hedges**

Sherry Nemmers

In commemoration of The Hedges' 100th anniversary in 2021 as a rustic resort, a fellow Hedges LLC member, Roger Kessel, has written its history called "The Hedges: The Story of Twelve Precious Acres on Blue Mountain Lake," beginning with its builder Colonel Duryea.

The book is in its final stages and will be available this summer in The Hedges gift shop, the Crow's Nest, and perhaps elsewhere. Why did Roger Kessel write this? Although there are histories and books of many other Great Camps, nothing has been written comprehensively on The Hedges. This book includes interviews with owners, relatives of owners, guests, and friends, from when it was purchased at auction by Richard Collins and opened to the public in 1921.

The book's photographs illustrate its history and changes—or no changes—over the years. There is some lovely detail on

B SINE MEDDES, BLUE MOUNTAIN LAKE, NY, 11A





*Left*, Colonel Hiram Duryea. *Top*, Postcard of The Hedges from the 1930's or '40's. *Middle*, The Hedges today. Photo by Tim Ferris. *Bottom:* Ellen Butz passed along this photo of her grandfather, Richard Collins, and some of his granddaughters on Cubby, who, Ellen says, is a legend in the family. The photo was taken around 1940, well before Ellen was born.

the lake itself, as well as on the hamlet.

Trivia question: how many couples met at The Hedges and (sooner or later) married? Sorry, you won't find the answer in the book, but a few of us know, as a few of us were among them.

Instead, Kessel's book is informative, engaging, anecdotal and true. It's a fascinating read for all of us who love The Hedges, a true treasure on Blue Mountain Lake. \*\*

### "Short Carries" by Betsy Folwell now an audio book

Mea Kaemmerlen

You might have read many years ago, as I did, Betsy Folwell's book "Short Carries, Essays from Adirondack Life." It was a compilation of her occasional essays in the magazine *Adirondack Life* where she was editor.

The book has come out in audio form, and it is as fresh and invigorating as ever. Now, as I walk my daily well-trod

path, drive my tedious routes or try to be productive in my kitchen, I can hear the tale of a larger than-life celebrated scallywag ("Ned Buntline"), listen to the charming story of Christmas caroling in the back of a dump truck ("A Little Night Music"), enjoy the history of an Adirondack mine ("Last Train from Tahawas"), wonder about the folly of a local gold rush ("Adirondack Eldorado"), and muse on "the dump,"



past, present and future ("Waste Watching"). Included in the 8-hour audio book are over 50 short essays documenting Betsy's experiences—sometimes comical, sometimes poignant—her keen observations and her insights.

For all who love the Adirondacks or who just appreciate excellent writing and a good story, this audio book is a treasure. The superb narrator is Linda Jones. You can download it from Amazon (Audible) and iTunes. \*\*

#### A fun job for a creative person

The Blue Mountain Lake Association has a website, still in its infancy, covering events, projects, issues, membership information, newsletters, and more. It's looking for a webmaster, a volunteer job with lots of freedom for a creative person. Check it out: https://sites.google.com/view/bluemountainlakeassociation

### Wear (or drink) your support of our town and lake

Proud of our beautiful lake and want to keep it beautiful? Tell the world with a Keep Blue Blue mug or one of the other items now available. Besides the six items pictured to the right, there's also a handsome postcard. "Profits will be donated to the BMLA project fund," says Uncle Andy, the proprietor of the Etsy site where they're for sale. You might know him as Andy Coney.

The editor of this newsletter is proud to be the first customer and is eagerly awaiting the arrival of her KBB t-shirt. Take a look at www.Esty.com/shop/Keep-BlueBlue.\*



## BML paddling and running races still on for this summer

Andy Coney

With hopes that the summer of 2021 will be much improved, the Blue Mountain Lake Association is planning to hold its paddling and running races again. Reserve both dates in your calendar now. Profits go to the BMLA projects fund.

#### BluMouLa-BuFuRa Sunday, July 25th

BluMouLa-BuFuRa ("Blue Mountain Lake—Buoy Funding Race") draws racers from across New York and New England as well as lots of locals. With three race distances—14 miles, 7 miles and 1.5 miles—there's something for everyone. Canoes, kayaks, guideboats, and paddleboards are welcome.

#### Blue Mountain Sizzler 5K Sunday, August 8

The Blue Mountain Sizzler 5K is for runners and walkers of all abilities and is fun for spectators too.

The Blue Mountain Lake Association is a terrific organization—and would be more so if YOU came aboard. We'd like new volunteers, idea people, workers, board members. See bottom of page 3 for whom to contact.

