

# Blue's News

*An informal newsletter for the Blue Mountain Lake Association and supported by Water Watch and all who want to protect the Eckford Chain: Blue Mountain Lake, Eagle Lake, and Utowana Lake*

Blue Mountain Lake, NY

Summer 2017

## Invasives Update

**Good news:  
no RED in BLUE!**

A recent report shows that no invasive plants have yet settled into our three lakes. There's no sign of the dreaded Eurasian milfoil and variable leaf milfoil, the two most threatening invasives now growing in nearby Lake Durant, Rock Pond, Raquette, and several of the Fulton Chain up from Old Forge.

So says the 2016 APIPP/AWI\* survey. This group (adkinvasives.com) conducts in-depth, professional surveys of 38 Adirondack lakes,

**Invasives are very serious: we're just one boat bottom away from an infestation. Keep in mind that the Upper Saranac Lake Foundation has spent about \$3 million on eradication of both kinds of milfoil.**

including ours, every three years. It finished one in 2016 and will do another in 2019.

Its report, available online, indicates GREEN for non-invasive native plants and RED for invasives. We're all green.

Below is the link to the detailed report of last year's survey. There is NO RED on pages 17 (BML), 23

No red!.....see page 2

## Blue's own canoe race: see page 5



### Blue Mountain Lake Association Annual Meeting 2017

**Tuesday, August 8  
7 PM, Art Center, BML**

**Everyone is welcome!**

The meeting is two weeks earlier than usual because more families are at the lake. Please ENCOURAGE attendance by the younger generations. BRING your whole household.

### John Collins

So much has been said about our Blue Mountain lake leader, teacher, friend and colleague who died in June. Maybe this sums it up: "If you have a problem, take a break, sit down, drink a glass of water, and call John Collins."



**Sizzler!! Flotilla!! 90-Miler!!  
See Calendar, page 3**

## Road Salt

**Not good news:  
too much salt  
in Blue**

Studies show that road salt (sodium and chloride) is affecting Blue Mountain Lake. The lake's chloride concentration exceeded 82 percent of ALAP\* lakes and is about 79 times higher than background concentrations. Museum Hill and Route 28 seem to be the culprits. The lake flushes about a third of its volume per year. Unfortunately, residual salt, perhaps from years past, enters brooks and streams each year in spring storms and then makes its way into the lake. The long-term Salt.....see page 2

\* to make sense of acronyms, see page 5

Salt.....from page 1

impact of the increased chloride in Blue is unknown.

Are there alternatives to road salt to make winter roads safe? Yes, but they are expensive and, at the moment, state funding goes to invasives rather than road salt issues.



A good suggestion: we should ask the state to do a study of Museum Hill, Route 28, and salt pollution. \*

### Greetings,

*This occasional newsletter is for spreading news, promoting events and sharing thoughts on the state of our precious waters. Also, hopefully, it will have items of interest—humorous and otherwise. So please contribute your announcements, insights, observations, and jokes. Email to—*

*Paul Monroe:*

*paul@drpaulmonroe.com*

*Mary Lynne Heldmann:*

*mheldmann@achieveinst.com*

*or me: meakaem@aol.com.*

*Thanks,*

*Mea Kaemmerlen, editor*

(Summer person since 1963, but only recently appreciative of how much goes into keeping our lakes healthy.)

## Keeping us invasive-free

So, as of now, no invasives have come to BML, Eagle or Utowana. But we're just one boat bottom away from an infestation. This is very serious: the Upper Saranac Lake Foundation has spent about \$3 million on eradication of milfoil. During a pilot clean-up program, almost nine and a half tons were removed in one month!

### Boat inspection

Boat inspection was initiated by Water Watch last year. So, for the second summer, we are having voluntary inspections of private boats entering our waters. The launch staff was trained last year to thoroughly inspect each entering boat. Thank you, Booths and Currys. Last year, about 10 percent of boats were turned away, a similar rate of invasives detected throughout the park.

Where do these 10 percent of boats go? To a boat wash station, but unfortunately, the Long Lake wash station is closed this year, so Old Forge and Speculator are the closest. Byrd's in Raquette Lake sporadically washes boats as well, although it's not an official station. Boaters, when you leave a waterway:

- ❖ check for and remove any visible plants or debris
- ❖ clean and drain your boat and equipment
- ❖ dry everything that came into contact with water. \*

Good news: in the past we paid \$11,000 to have the valuable invasive survey conducted; now it's done at no charge.

### Water Watch met on July 2

This meeting was very well attended, with full breakfast at Prospect Point. Peter, Paul, and Mary (Bauer, Monroe and Heldmann) were presiding. Excellent minutes went out, compiled by Lee Williams. If you want a copy, email Paul or Mary Lynne (see "Greetings" to the left).

### Valuable Learning Sessions

Two informative meetings in July attracted good audiences.

\* On July 12, APIPP\* sent Erin Vennie-Vollrath, Aquatic Invasive Species Program Coordinator, to talk about invasive water plants on Blue and vicinity.

\* On July 26, 23 years of data concerning the chemistry of Blue Mountain Lake and its streams were reviewed. The data, supported by APPIP/ Protect\* and Water Watch, was presented by Corey Laxson and Dan Kelting of AWI/ Paul Smiths\*. They concluded that nutrient load in the lake and from the streams is very low, its clarity is one of the best in the Adirondacks, but salt is a very concerning issue.

### Water Watch news

Thirty-three members of WW contribute annually to help maintain the health of the lake through water testing and prevention programs to keep invasive species out of the lake. The \$300 annual contribution has just been reduced to \$200, due to the joint partnership between AWI and APPIP to conduct professional surveys for 38 Adirondack lakes. A big thank you to AWI and APPIP and to WW members for their contribution to maintaining the water quality of our lakes. Water Watch also sponsors and pays for water testing, contributes to the Lake Steward, and organizes the boat inspection for the 90-Miler.

No red!.....from page 1

(Eagle), and 58 (Utowana). Compare this to pages 48 and 49 (Raquette) and page 25 (Fifth Lake) which have abundant red areas.

The report starts with an excellent explanation of how the survey was done and an analysis of the results. Here's the link:

<http://adkinvasives.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/2016-APIPP-AIS-Response-Team-Report.pdf>. \*

## BML Flotilla Festival..... Sunday, August 27, 4:00 PM



A festive afternoon and evening, with refreshments served by waiters in 19th century garb, a slow-moving flotilla pulled by an antique steamer with chamber, choral and folk music onboard and, after dark, twinkling Chinese lanterns. On land, cannon fire, bonfires, chamber music, Beethoven's Ode to Joy, followed by fireworks. The BML Flotilla <http://adirondackarts.org/classesevents/bmlflotillafestival.php>

### SOME GOOD NEWS

▲ The pH is rising. Over the past 20 years, the average pH level has trended up due much to a positive effect of the Federal Clean Air Act restricting acid rain. Now there are fewer "dead" lakes in the Adirondacks.

▲ We seem to be dodging the invasive and dreaded Zebra mussels (native to Eastern Europe and Russia) already in Lake Champlain and Lake George. This is because the mussels need 12-20 milligrams of calcium per liter of water and BML has a calcium content of 3.4 mg/L. Same with the aggressive Asian clams—they need calcium 6 mg/L.

▲ We're oligotrophic!! This means Blue Mountain Lake is clear and transparent, down to 8 to 10 meters. It also means that the water quality is excellent, with little organic material and abundant oxygen. This compares favorably to Schroon Lake (transparent only down to 4 meters) and Lake Champlain (to 2 meters). This good news is according to the ALAP\* Lake Survey, in which BML has participated for 20 years. Sampling happens 5 times a year at 4 locations across the lake (Town Bay, East Bay, West Bay, and Halsch Bay). Thanks to volunteers Peter Halsch, Phyllis Georges, Tom and Cindy Cunningham for working on the ALAP surveys.

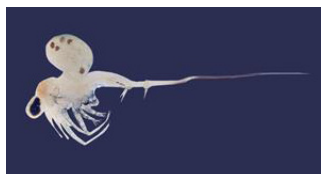


### SOME BAD NEWS

▼ Salt in the water (see page 1)

▼ The spiny water flea loves clean, deep, large lakes like BML. It's not here yet, but has been found in INDIAN LAKE. It's practically invisible, looks like a white dust mite and travels on fishing gear as well as small water pockets in boats. It negatively impacts fish, as it is poor food choice for them, and, thus, the food chain. ONCE IN THE WATER, THE SPINY WATER FLEA CANNOT BE ERADICATED. Clean and dry your boat (for 5 days, if possible) after leaving Indian Lake.

### *M-m m-m good*



After a meeting on invasive water plants, summer resident Jack Crowe suggested we market the variable leaf milfoil, our major threat, as "the new kale," and soon every Manhattan restaurateur will come running. Jack, could you work on the very tasty spiny water flea as a gourmet snack?

### Calendar

*Tuesday, August 8th, 7 PM*

**Blue Mountain Lake Association annual meeting** at the Art Center.

*Sunday, Aug 13, 8:30 AM*

**Blue Mountain Sizzler**, hosted by the Blue Mountain Lake Association. 5K running race. First 60 registrants get tech running shirt. **Info and pre-registration at [www.BlueMtSizzler.com](http://www.BlueMtSizzler.com)**

*Monday, Aug 14, 7:00 PM*

**Indian Lake Town Board Meeting** in Blue Mountain Lake, Fire Station. See, hear and question the people who spend your taxes.

*Wednesday, Aug 23, 7:00 PM*

**Blue Mountain Lake Association Lecture Series** at the Art Center.

*Sunday, Aug 27, 4:00 PM*

**Blue Mountain Lake Flotilla Festival.** See above.

*Wednesday, Aug 30, 7:00 PM*

**Blue Mountain Lake Association Lecture Series** at the Art Center.

*Sunday, September 3*

**Water Watch meeting** at Prospect Point

*Friday – Sunday, September 8–10*

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**The 90 Miler** – three-day canoe race coming through the Eckford Chain on Friday, Sept. 8. With 275 boats entering our waters, we need to check for invasives. Phyllis Georges has volunteered to head up boat inspections at the Marion Carry at the base of Utowana. Interested in helping? Contact her, [PKGeorges@aol.com](mailto:PKGeorges@aol.com). \*



# The day in the summer of a lake steward



*Lake Steward Jake Collins*

This is Jake Collins' second year as our lake steward. But he knows every nook and cranny of the lake, having spent his life (he's 20 years old) in, on, or near it. Son of Cathleen Collins and Peter Bauer and grandson of Ellen and John Collins, Jake has BML in his DNA.

"I love this lake and care about it. I want people to treat it ethically and thoughtfully," he says.

Jake puts in a 40-hour week as lake steward, a position that is sponsored by contributions from people around the lake, Blue Mountain Water Watch, and an endowment from the Hochschild Family at the Adirondack Foundation.

"I'm in the boat by 8:30 in the morning, and my first job is to collect garbage," he says cheerfully. In his 16-foot aluminum motor boat ("with leaks in the bottom"), he heads for Osprey, Rock, and other islands where people tend to congregate and,

either thoughtlessly or intentionally, leave trash. He picks up anything in the water that might impede boats and visits campsites where campers have packed up and left. "The hardest part of trash collection is finding the buried trash. At the campsites, I have to dig around a lot."

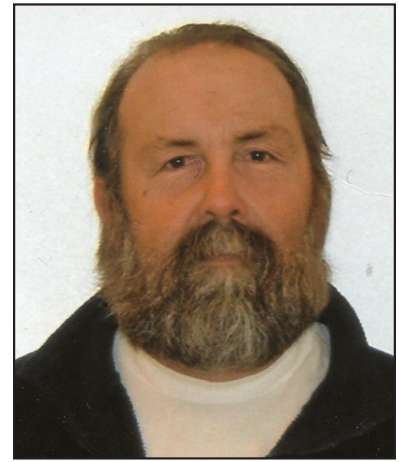
There are six campsites on the lake, four on Long Island, one on Osprey, and one under Castle Rock. Jake makes the rounds to talk to campers about responsible and ethical camping. He thinks of himself more as a teacher than an enforcer. "I spend a lot of time talking to people about respecting the lake, and most listen to me. Not all."

If campers persist in wrong-doing—for instance building fires outside the designated fire pit—he will contact the forest ranger, Jason Scott, who joins him to confront the campers. "I can't issue citations, but Jason can. And he does."

In addition, Jake's job includes surveying for and educating the public about aquatic invasives and precautions to take to prevent their spread.

Tim Leach, also a BML resident, takes on the job in June, the fall, and if Jake needs a day off.

This summer has been happily uneventful for lake stewardship, partly because of the iffy weather. "Last summer, we had some excitement, with lots of ground fires and a large group of campers with a big circus tent." \*



*Donnie Booth*

Blue Mountain Lake will miss Donnie Booth who died in February. Only 57, he and his family have been an important part of recent BML history, and, according to many, strongly supported invasive plants prevention efforts on the lake. In 1977, he and brother Bob bought the Blue Mountain Lake boat livery, and, since then, the five Booth brothers and their families have been strong members of the community. Recently, a boat regatta and festivities on the lake celebrated Donnie's life. \*



*Below: Jake out patrolling in his "office," the Lake Steward boat. He is usually accompanied by his labrador retriever, Sadie, who has her own platform on the boat.*



## BluMouLA–BuFuRa

A mouthful—or rather, a lakeful



*Andy Coney instructs racers*

Only in its third year, this 14-mile Adirondack canoe race—shorter and easier than its name—was a great success. On July 30, 46 canoes, kayaks, shells, paddleboards, guideboats and two outrigger canoes burst through the water competing in 14-mile, 7-mile, and 1.5 mile races on Blue (with Eagle and Utowana in the 14-miler).

Andy Coney created and manages the race. It is sponsored by the Blue Mountain Lake Association and proceeds go to maintain shoal buoys in the lake. Thank you to the many volunteers and participants. \*

## Keep up with breaking BML news

Join our new  **Nextdoor** “neighborhood”

NextDoor is an online private social network that allows neighbors to communicate easily with each other. Blue Mountain Lake has just started one, and many have already joined, sharing all kinds of good information. Others have tried to join and are having trouble being “validated.” NextDoor requires two things: a physical address in Blue Mountain Lake and proof of address—a bill or credit card with your name and that address. If you don’t have a physical street address in Blue Mountain Lake, use the Art Center’s—3446 State Route 28, Blue Mountain Lake, NY 12812. Then let Paul or Andy know, and they will validate you. paul@drpaulmonroe.com or AndyConey@PObox.com. Take a look: <https://bluemountainlake.ny.nextdoor.com> \*



## The Ol’ Station

serving for many years

It’s a big year for anniversaries: The Adirondack Museum is celebrating its 60th year with a new name and high-tech exhibit. The Adirondacks Lakes Center for the Arts is marking 50 years of tireless cultural and artistic waves.

But Blue Mountain Lake also has iconic institutions with unsung anniversaries—like the corner store on 28 and 30. It goes way back: Joe Joyce took it on in the 1940’s. Chris Jay’s father worked there in the 1930’s. How about the ’20’s? Who knows how long it’s served the community. Let’s give a cheer for the Ol’ Station. Below, Flip Joyce, owner, holds a painting of the Ol’ Station by Don Wynn.



## Our own BML stewards

A lake steward is again patrolling the state islands and lands. See page 4 for article. We learned last year that island camping continues through Columbus Day so steward coverage is valuable at that time. Jay Scott, the ranger, is working with the stewards.



NOTE: Shortly, the annual Lake Steward Funding Appeal letter will arrive in your mailbox. Please contribute to this worthy cause—your contributions cover half the funding for this important monitoring. \*



## So many acronyms..... so little time

AWI – Adirondack Watershed Institute. Part of Paul Smith’s College. In its 20th season of monitoring the water quality of dozens of lakes and ponds across the Adirondacks. Monitors Blue Mountain Lake every third year. ([www.adkwatershed.org/](http://www.adkwatershed.org/))

PROTECT – Protect the Adirondacks. Headed up by Blue Mountain Lake’s Peter Bauer, is a grassroots, membership organization dedicated to the protection, stewardship and sustainability of the natural environment and human communities of the Adirondack Park and the New York State Forest Preserve. (<http://www.protectadks.org>)

ALAP – Adirondack Lake Assessment Program. A partnership between PROTECT and AWI. (<http://www.protectadks.org/programs/lake-assessment-alap/>)

APIPP – Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program. Supported by the New York State Environmental Protection Fund. The Adirondacks is one of its eight “prisms” (sections) within the state. ([adkinvasives.com](http://adkinvasives.com))