

BLIMP Newsletter

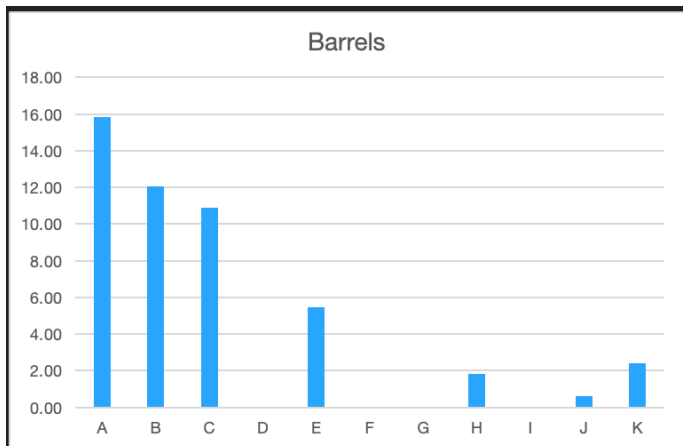
July 2025



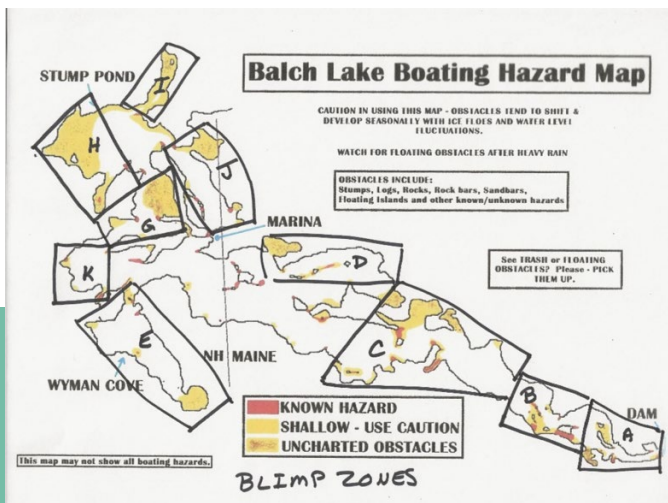
Invasive Plant Harvesting Operations

BLIMP reached the conclusion of a very successful 2025 summer invasive species harvest season. It has been another great season with Aqualogic with 50 barrels of milfoil harvested in 24 dive days. And, we will have them back for up to 3 weeks in the fall.

- Milfoil identification – if you suspect you have milfoil by your camp please send us a text with your name, association &, most importantly, a picture of your camp taken from the lake. Please text Association BLIMP Representative (see the list below) and they will then coordinate with Tom Eichner.



Thank you Aqualogic and good-bye (for now)



More fun events planned for August and September

Shady Nook Rec Committee Presents:
Harrison Goodell, back at Balch Lake
Saturday, August 2nd at 5:30PM
Green Bay Cove

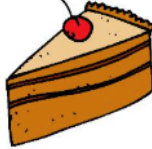


Harrison returns to Chris and Sharon McCarthy's boat house to play a mixture of classic guitar rock and his own original music (which earned him a finalist spot on American Idol and subsequent songwriting stints in Nashville). Bring your boats, a beverage and your singing voice!

Donations to Harrison and BLIMP will be gratefully accepted at the venue.

Check out Harrison's latest songs here:

<https://open.spotify.com/artist/2TV6exHqTKxzI3UGEP2ddy2aisyRU5r3r4SscqaPlx4HERhgQ>



Annual BLIMP BAKE SALE Reminder!

When: Sat. Aug 16, 10-12 or until sold out
Where: Shady Nook Rec Center

Please bring goods well wrapped and labeled for nuts.
Feel free to price your own items

Questions? Elaine Hall - 636-3814 niknakia@aol.com

Water Quality/Analysis

BLIMP continues to proactively do water quality monitoring that is unique among NH and ME lakes. We do this in conjunction with UNH and with Katahdin Analytic Laboratories, a Maine EPA certified laboratory. Balch Lake is demonstrably free of heavy metals, “forever chemicals” like BPA and PFAS and meets the highest standards of quality for a lake of our size and age. Unlike many of our nearby lakes, Balch continues to be free from algae blooms- another testament to our water quality!

Balch Lake Dam Keeping

Please note that the dam is managed by the Town of Newfield so if you have any questions or concerns you can reach out to the Town at 207-793-4348

BLIMP Volunteer Spot Light

Surveying via paddleboard was highlighted at the NH Lakes Congress as one of the best ways to survey for milfoil. That combined with polarized sunglass lenses can make a big difference in seeing through the water.

We have been very fortunate to have increased our volunteer efforts this summer. Mark Matuszewski and Henry Lovejoy of Shady Nook did paddleboard surveys for variable leaf milfoil and their efforts uncovered several places not previously identified.

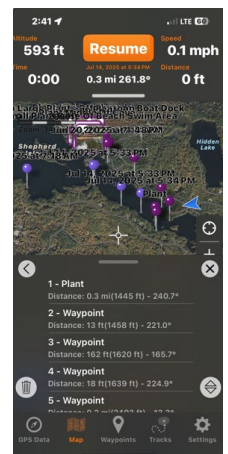
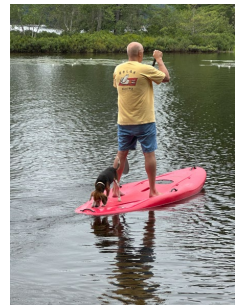
I had an opportunity to interview Mark about his experience. Mark’s family camp is in a shallow area and he was in regular contact with Tom and Dennis regarding the ongoing milfoil issues in his cove. Given that some of our regular volunteers needed to step back this year to manage personal health issues, Mark reached out to Sue to volunteer to help with the milfoil identification.

Mark regularly paddleboards so he expanded beyond Shady Nook and became familiar with invasive milfoil vs. native plant identification. Once he knew what to look for, he could find it easily from the paddleboard. He coordinated with Henry Lovejoy who worked from the dam to the narrows/custom house and Mark worked beyond that area. He focused on cruising along the shorelines, knowing to look in the shallower areas taking photos from the water to help mark for the divers.

He downloaded a GPS track app and he would drop a pin where he was finding the milfoil. The app would provide a way point, he would attach a picture from the water relative to the shoreline to help Aqualogic locate once they were in the water.

Mark’s curiosity and passion for the work he is doing was evident in the many ideas he presented to BLIMP President and to NH DES on innovative ways to identify and eliminate invasive species at Balch.

We thank Mark and Henry for all the work they did this year. And Mark would love to have more paddleboard volunteers on the water next year. Please reach out to Sue Jackman if you are interested in helping in this capacity.





Lake Statistics

Towns: Wakefield, NH, Newfield, ME & Acton, ME
Counties: Carroll-NH & York-ME
Latitude: 43°37'01"N
Longitude: 70°59'05"W
Watershed: Saco River
Elevation: 557 ft
Lake Area: 284.91ha (704 acres)
Maximum Depth: 14.1 m (46.3 ft)
Volume: 6,866,000 m³ (1,813,805,311 gallons)
Average Depth: 2.9 m (9.5 ft)
Watershed Area: 2583.6 ha (9.98 square miles)
Shoreline: 23,500 m (14.6 mi)
Flushing Rate: 2.2 flushes/year
Aquatic Invasive Plants: Variable-leaf milfoil (confirmed 2004)
Fishery Type: Warmwater
Fish Species: Largemouth bass, chain pickerel, brown bullhead, black crappie, yellow perch & pumpkinseed

Sources: NH Department of Environmental Services, NH Fish & Game



WHAT'S AWWA UP TO ON BALCH LAKE?

[Youth Conservation Corps projects](#)

Hosting events and workshops of interest to lake associations and their members

Youth Conservation Corps

The AWWA Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) implements erosion control projects on streams, rivers, lakes and ponds in our [target region](#) while educating homeowners about how their use of their properties may affect water quality. The program, developed in 2006, is designed to reduce pollution caused by runoff from rain events and seasonal melt water that flows into our local lakes, rivers, and streams. The YCC tackles this through the installation of "Best Management Practices" (BMPs) or landscaped features. These features promote the diversion and infiltration of runoff or divert the runoff to allow it to soak into the ground before it reaches the lake. Each project showcases solutions to environmental problems that waterfront property owners could accomplish on their own. AWWA explains to the homeowners about why the design features were chosen, what they will accomplish, and how to maintain them.

Homeowners must partake in a Technical Assistance visit with AWWA's Program Manager prior to becoming eligible for the YCC Program. The labor of crew is funded by donations and grants, and the landowner provides all the necessary materials. Behind these projects is a crew of eager high school students supervised by a crew leader and a technical director. The YCC program gives its youth corps the opportunity to effect environmental solutions and empowers them to become the future stewards of our water resources.



Are you interested in being a YCC Project Host?
Request a Technical Assistance visit to start

Visit <https://awwatersheds.org> to request a technical assistance visit

LOON PRESERVATION

As a reminder, there are several loon nesting platforms around the lake. Please be extra cautious when doing any water activities near these platforms.



BLIMP Board of Directors, Advisors & Association Reps

Contact Information

BLIMP Association contact list - 2025

last updated: 07/17/2025

Association	Office	Contact Name	E-mail
BLIMP Board	President	Sue Jackman	sjackman123@gmail.com
BLIMP Board	Vice President	Tom Eichner	Tom.Eichner.Blimp@gmail.com
BLIMP Board	Treasurer	Ed Suleski	ed.suleski.blimp@gmail.com
BLIMP Board	Secretary	Denise Bowden	bowden.family@comcast.net
BLIMP Board	Secretary	Bruce Bowden	bowden.family@comcast.net
BLIMP Board	Board member	Henry Lovejoy	henry.lovejoy.blimp@gmail.com
BLIMP Board	Communications & Education	Donna Lefebvre	don_ox@yahoo.com
BLIMP Board	Science Committee	John Castellot	john.castellot@tufts.edu
BLIMP Board	Webmaster	Jack McAdam	captjack.mcadam@gmail.com
BLIMP Board	Advisor	Michael Kattman	dmkattman@gmail.com
BLIMP Board	Advisor	Kathleen Lisbon	Kathleen.Lisbon@comcast.net
BLIMP Board	Advisor	Dennis Racine	DRacine999@aol.com

We continue to work with all the associations around the lake to identify the BLIMP Representatives. Please contact Donna Lefebvre @don_ox@yahoo.com to update the information for your association.

BLIMP Association contact list - 2025

last updated: 07/17/2025

Association	Office	Contact Name	E-mail
Ba-Lak	BLIMP Rep	Norm Bergeron	norman_bergeron@hotmail.com
Balch Hill Road	BLIMP Rep	Nancy Brewer	brewnana11@gmail.com
Balch Pond Acres	BLIMP Rep	Steven DeSisto	steven5656@icloud.com
Jennifer Lane	BLIMP Rep	Lynn Nicholson	moxieguy2@yahoo.com
Balch Lake Owners Association	BLIMP Rep	Russ Cooke	russcooke621@yahoo.com
The Ridge	BLIMP Rep	Bruce & Denise Bowden	bowden.family@comcast.net
Shady Nook Improvement Association	BLIMP Rep	Donna Lefebvre	don_ox@yahoo.com
Shepard's Island	BLIMP Rep	Tom Boshar	bigredacres@verizon.net
Walden	BLIMP Rep	Brian Brueggemann	bbrueggemann1@outlook.com
Whitehouse Road Balch Lake Association	BLIMP Rep	Patty Frackleton	pfrackleton@hotmail.com
Wise Cove	BLIMP Rep	Daniel Clark	srchief86@gmail.com
Wyman's Point	BLIMP Rep	Ed Suleski	ed.suleski.wpra@gmail.com
Wyman's Point	BLIMP Rep	Jack McAdam	wymanpointroad@gmail.com
No Association	BLIMP Rep	Kathleen Lisbon	Kathleen.Lisbon@comcast.net
No Association	BLIMP Rep	Ray Boyd	bovdplum@comcast.net
No Association	BLIMP Rep	Pat Boyd	boydplum@comcast.net
No Association	BLIMP Rep	Linny Seaver	seaverl@comcast.net
No Association	BLIMP Rep	Tony Tagliaferro	tonytag63@gmail.com

Visit Balch Lake Improvement Association website to stay connected to all things BLIMP

Invasives – Balch Lake Improvement Association

EXHIBITS:

