

BLIMP Newsletter

May 2025

DASH BOAT

Operations

Aqualogic and the DASH boat will be back on the lake 6/16/25-7/16/25 and will return again 9/15/25-9/26/25.

To better assist in operations on the lake, BLIMP procured an operations boat last year and it has now been branded so if you see this boat near your area or dock, know it is Tom working to mark areas for Aqualogic to focus on during their visits.

NEXT STEPS: If you see any suspicious plants, please contact Tom Eichner @ Tom.Eichner.blimp@gmail.com.



Donations



Use the above QR code to make donations directly to BLIMP

FUNDRAISING

Mark your calendars to join in the fund events that help raise funds for BLIMP and get the lake community together

Saturday, June 28th	Balch Lake 2nd annual Fishing Tournament (rain or shine) Anglers must check in 8:00 AM- 9:00 AM at the Balch Lake Marina  You must have purchased a shirt to be on the registration list <i>2025 Link needed from Brooke</i> Trophies awarded at 2:30 PM for the 3 largest fish
Saturday, July 19	Poker Run  There will be 5 boats anchored in various parts of the lake from 2-4. Pull up to the boat with your tally sheet and you will be dealt a card.
Saturday, August 16th	Bake Sale 10:00am – 12:00pm Shady Nook Rec Center Please drop off wrapped donations at 9am.  Contact Person: Elaine Hall, niknakia@aol.com
July/Aug photo submissions Aug/Sept orders	2026 Balch Lake Calendars. Contact Michael Moscaritolo at michaelmoscaritolo@gmail.com or Facebook at Balch Lake NH/Maine 

Water Samples/Analysis

BLIMP has been actively monitoring Balch Lake water quality since 2021 when we connected with the University of New Hampshire Lay Lakes Program. A dedicated group of Balch Lake volunteers collects samples every two weeks for UNH laboratories to analyze. UNH and our Balch Lake volunteers measure water clarity, chlorophyll levels, and phosphates. These are 3 key indicators of the health of a lake. Since Balch Lake is a very complex lake for its size (only 704 surface acres but nearly 14 miles of shoreline with many bays and coves), we monitor 6 different locations—by far more than any other lake in the UNH Lay Lakes Program. In addition to two “deep spots” of 35 and 46 feet, we also monitor the river entrance, Stump Pond, Wyman Cove, and the Stoddard Narrows just a bit above the dam. These sites were chosen to give us a picture of the water quality coming into Balch as well as the water quality leaving Balch via the dam. The most recent 2024 data shows once again that we are in the top ranking that UNH gives! This data will be shared with AWWA and our abutting towns.

Beginning in 2023, BLIMP initiated an in-depth twice-yearly program to monitor >200 chemicals using an independent Maine EPA-licensed laboratory in Scarborough. The tested chemicals include boat gasoline and oil products, heavy metals such as mercury and lead, “forever chemicals” like PFAS and BPA, and herbicides including the chemical we use to reduce milfoil. Following two years of testing, we are pleased to report that none of these chemicals or related compounds are detectable in Balch Lake. To the best of our knowledge, we are the first lake of our size in NH to undertake such careful water monitoring.

Want more details and technical information? Please contact John Castellot at 617-835-2660 or john.castellot@tufts.edu.

BALCH POND

2024 SAMPLING HIGHLIGHTS

Station Deep

Wakefield, NH

Acton and Newfield, ME



Extension

Water quality data displayed in Tables 1 and 2 are surface water measurements with the exception of the dissolved oxygen data that are collected near the lake bottom. Summary statistics are provided for samples collected between June 21 and September 16, 2024.

Blue = Oligotrophic
Light Green = Mesotrophic
Dark Green = Eutrophic
Gray = No Data

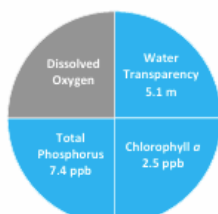


Figure 1. Balch Pond Water Quality (2024)

Table 1. 2024 Balch Pond Seasonal Averages and NH DES Aquatic Life Nutrient Criteria¹

Parameter	Oligotrophic “Excellent”	Mesotrophic “Fair”	Eutrophic “Poor”	Balch Pond Average (range)	Balch Pond Classification
Water Clarity (meters)	> 4.0 – 7.0	2.5 – 4.0	< 2.5	5.1 meters (3.7 – 6.2)	Oligotrophic
Chlorophyll a ¹ (ppb)	< 3.3	3.3 – 5.0	> 5.0 – 11.0	2.5 ppb (1.2 – 3.9)	Oligotrophic
Total Phosphorus ¹ (ppb)	< 8.0	8.0 – 12.0	> 12.0 – 28.0	7.4 ppb (5.2 – 8.5)	Oligotrophic
Dissolved Oxygen (ppm)	> 5.0 – 7.0	2.0 – 5.0	< 2.0	Not Assessed	Not Assessed

Table 2. 2024 Balch Pond Seasonal Average Accessory Water Quality Measurements

Parameter	Assessment Criteria					Balch Pond Average (range)	Balch Pond Classification
Color (color units)	< 10 uncolored	10 – 20 slightly colored	20 – 40 lightly tea colored	40 – 80 tea colored	> 80 highly colored	22.5 color units (range: 20.2 – 25.6)	Lightly tea colored
Alkalinity (ppm)	< 0.0 acidified	0.1 – 2.0 extremely vulnerable	2.1 – 10 moderately vulnerable	10.1 – 25.0 low vulnerability	> 25.0 not vulnerable	8.2 ppm (range: single value)	Moderately vulnerable
pH (nd units)	< 5.5 suboptimal for successful growth and reproduction	6.5 – 9.0 optimal range for fish growth and reproduction				6.8 standard units (range: single value)	Optimal range for fish growth and reproduction
Specific Conductivity (uS/cm)	< 50 uS/cm Characteristic of minimally impacted NH lakes	50–100 uS/cm Lakes with some human influence	> 100 uS/cm Characteristic of lakes experiencing human disturbances			57.1 uS/cm (range: single value)	Characteristic of lakes with some human influence

Strategies to stabilize and improve water quality

Implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) within the Balch Pond watershed to minimize the adverse impacts of polluted runoff and erosion into Balch Pond. Refer to “[Landscaping at the Water’s Edge: An Ecological Approach](#)” and “[New Hampshire Homeowner’s Guide to Stormwater Management: Do-It-Yourself Stormwater Solutions for Your Home](#)” and the [Acton Wakefield Watershed Alliance webpages](#) for more information on how to reduce nutrient loading caused by overland runoff. NH Lakes also provides a series of resources aimed at educating residents and protecting our lakes and ponds.

Balch Lake Dam Keeping

Bruce Colewell, Balch Lake Dam Keeper, closed the dam shortly after “ice out” on 4/13/25. As of 5/3/25, the lake is about 12-18 inches from target levels. Updates will be provided as we receive them throughout the year.

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 Board of Directors, Advisors & Association Reps

Contact Information

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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.

Association	Office	Contact Name	E-mail
Ba-Lak	BLIMP Rep	Norm Bergeron	
Balch Hill Road	BLIMP Rep	Nancy Charest	reehad53@gmail.com
Balch Pond Acres	BLIMP Rep	Steven DeSisto	steven5656@icloud.com
Jennifer Lane	BLIMP Rep		
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
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