

BLIMP Newsletter

May 2026



Invasive Plant Harvesting Operations

Aqualogic will be back on Balch Lake for 40 diving days this season. They will be here 5 weeks starting June 15th and they will return for 2 weeks in mid September. Watch the newsletter and website for posted results.

As a reminder, please contact your association BLIMP Rep to report any milfoil in your area.

BLIMP Association contact list - 2026

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	dln_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	boydplum@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

Balch Lake Summer Activities To Benefit BLIMP

Saturday, June 13th 	NIPS, NOSH and KNOWLEDGE Join us at location at Shady Nook Rec Center 3:00 PM-5:00 PM <i>Loon Preservation Committee.</i> Bring your favorite snack/appetizer, your favorite beverage and get together with other Balch lake residents to listen to the staff from Loon Preservation Committee provide a presentation on the challenges loons face while on our lake, ways to safely share lakes with loons and the conservation efforts.
Saturday, June 20th	Balch Lake 3rd 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. Visit Balch Lake FB page to register. Registration closes on 5/24/26 Trophies awarded at 2:30 PM for the 3 largest fish Contact person: Brooke Peterson, Brooke@bprealstate.com
Saturday, July 4th	Boat Parade 1:00 pm-3:00pm Route to be announced  What a great way to celebrate 250 years of the USA independence! Decorate your boats in your best yankee doodle dandy! Win bragging rights with the most creative decorations! Contact person: Donna Lefebvre, don_ox@yahoo.com

Saturday, July 11th 	Poker Run 2:00 pm -4:00 pm 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. Contact person: Donna Lefebvre, don_ox@yahoo.com
Sunday, July 12th	Concert on the Lake 2:00pm -4:00 pm 2 person band performing <i>Across from Birch Island near Loon Cove</i>
Saturday, July 25 	Fishstock 6:00 pm- 11:00 pm (roughly) Wymans Cove Contact Person: Gary Poisson, garypoisson@gmail.com
Saturday, August 1 	NIPS, NOSH and KNOWLEDGE Join us at location at Shady Nook Rec Center 3:00 PM-5:00 PM <i>AWWA</i> Bring your favorite snack/appetizer, your favorite beverage and get together with other Balch lake residents to John Balanoff from AWWA provide an update on the work they are doing to protect the health of the lakes. .
Saturday, August 22nd	Bake Sale 10:00am – 12:00pm Shady Nook Rec Center Please drop off wrapped donations at 9am.  Contact Person: Elaine Hall, niknakia@aol.com

FUNDRAISING

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



Use the above QR code to make donations directly to BLIMP. *When making donations, please include your lake association in the notes.*

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. *According to the Dam keeper, Bruce Colwell, the dam has been*

COMING SOON....

We are in the process of developing a new and improved BLIMP website with a goal to launch by end of June 2026. The purpose/goal of the website is to:

- *Inform about our mission and goals*
- *Promote our successes and accomplishments*
- *Provide education about invasives, laws and other elements of being a “good lake citizen”*
- *Encourage financial support through fundraisers*
- *Promote volunteerism*

[About Us](#)[Education](#)[Water Quality & Science \(WQS\)](#)[Invasives Species](#)[Events/Photos](#)[Communications](#)[Donate](#)

Education- Boating Laws

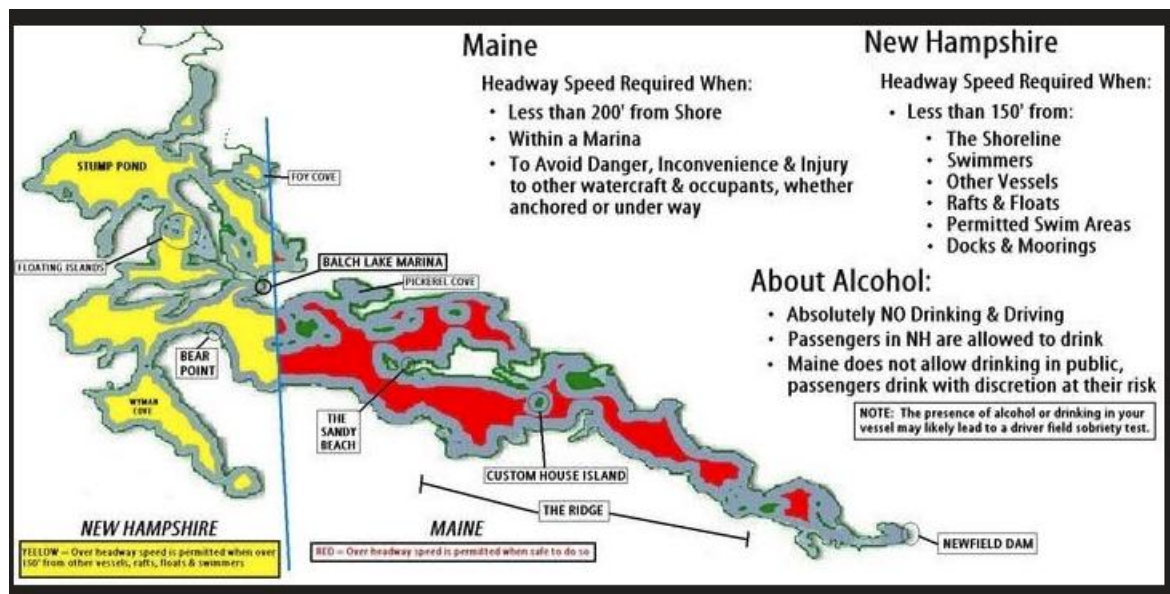


New age requirement for personal flotation devices (sometimes known as life jackets)

Effective January 1, 2026, children **12 years of age or younger**, including a boat operator who is 12 years of age or younger, must wear a United States Coast Guard approved personal flotation device (PFD) while on any watercraft that is underway and being used for recreational purposes. Exceptions to this requirement include if the child is below the decks, in an enclosed cabin or if the watercraft has a USCG certificate of inspection.

This change, initiated and passed by the Maine State Legislature, increased the required age from 10 years of age or younger to 12 years of age or younger to improve youth safety on Maine's waters. The updated age requirement now aligns with federal law.

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife encourages everyone aboard a watercraft to always wear a life jacket. Additional laws regarding personal flotation device requirements can be found in the boating law book.



A friendly reminder of the Headway Speed laws for Balch Lake.

BLIMP- Loon Preservation

BLIMP is asking boaters to please be “Loon-Aware”. Sadly, last summer a loon was killed on Balch Lake from blunt force trauma, almost certainly from a boat or jet ski strike. Making this event even more difficult, was the fact that it was a male from the lake’s only nesting pair, and subsequently the female abandoned the nest. Loons are considered a threatened species, and we hope to do everything we can to help them thrive and reproduce on Balch Lake. We worked with the Loon Preservation Committee of New Hampshire to develop signage. Our hope is that with more education and signs that boaters can see, we can help reduce the chances that another loon will be killed on Balch Lake. The signs will be 2’ x 3’ and placed at strategic locations around the lake with landowner permission. If your camp is on the lake in a location where there is a lot of loon and boat activity, and you would like your location considered for a sign, please reach out.



Contact Information

BLIMP Association contact list - 2026

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	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.

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