

BCA Annual Dinner Meeting

August 2, 2013

68 BCA members in attendance along with 4 guests; Sheriff Carpinelli and his wife and Deputy Sheriff Mike Leviker and his wife.

Meeting was called to order at 8:03pm by President Dal Pos

SECRETARY REPORT: Members were asked to read August 3, 2012 BCA dinner meeting minutes placed at tables. **Pat Dowling motioned to accept minutes as presented. Motion seconded by Vicky Fisher. Motion was so approved by a majority vote.**

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer's reports were placed at individual place settings. Gail Roes thanks all who joined the BCA. Gail Roes explained the treasurer's report line by line. Please see report. **Debbie Tedford motioned that the Treasurer's report be accepted as presented. Motion seconded by David Rider. The motion was so approved by a majority vote.**

INSECT SPRAYING: President Dal Pos explained that there have been 4 sprays this year for insect control by Duflo Chemical Spray. He explained that it has been a tough season for spraying with the wet conditions. The bugs came late this year and there were many days in which it was too wet or too windy to spray. President Dal Pos asked for a raised hand vote of members who believed we should request a 5th spray. A minority of members raised their hands, approximately 10%. Devin stated he would speak to Jeff Duflo about the need for a 5th spray. Devin thanked those present for their membership and reminds them that the primary expense related to the BCA funds is insect spraying.

INVASIVE SPECIES: Judy Wilson reports that the committee will begin to survey the lake in mid-august. This is the time of year that invasive plants would be more visible if they are present. Currently, no invasive AQUATIC plants have been identified. Judy reports it is critical that we continue to be vigilant in the future to prevent these plants from invading the lake waters. There continues to be signage at the boat launch as well as information pamphlets. Judy Wilson reports that an invasive TERRESTIAL (land) plant, Japanese Knotweed, has been identified. Judy reports there have been some organized "pulling parties" to remove the plant. In addition, they have done some spraying. A member asked how to identify Japanese Knotweed. Judy reports it has a heart-shaped leaf and the plant looks similar to bamboo. Devin Dal Pos asked how the plants should be disposed. Judy reports that it should be put in plastic bags. It should not be dumped into a compost pile or at the dump as it may begin to re-grow. This is an invasive plant that will take over and kill native plants and is difficult to control. A member asked where

this invasive plant has been identified. Judy reports they have found it near the dam, on Pleasant Lake and on the North Shore. Judy asks that she be contacted if an individual believes they have identified an additional location of Japanese Knotweed.



JAPANESE KNOTWOOD

Judy Wilson reports that Polly Peterson will be taking over the leadership role for the invasive plant species committee.

Judy Wilson thanks Roger Abbey for his donation of the storage box at the boat launch that holds the information pamphlets.

President Dal Pos makes the statement that the threat of invasive species is a primary reason the BCA encourages the continued \$40 membership fee. If the lake becomes infected with an invasive species, any intervention will be very costly.

FISH STOCKING: President Dal Pos reports a summary of the concerns of this past year regarding fish stocking. (Please see minutes to prior meetings on the www.brantingham.com website) The primary concern is a perception by some members that there has been a drop in the population of Pan fish in the lake. The concern is that the annual stocking of trout in the lake is shifting the fish population. Devin reports that the John Hathway spoke to a Wildlife Fisheries Biologist with the New York State Department of Conservation (NYSDEC); Roger Klindt. Devin Dal Pos contacted a Fisheries Biologist with SUNY Cobleskill – Mark Cornwell. Both biologists agreed that trout stocking is not affecting the pan fish population in the lake. The trout live in a separate climate of the lake. According to both biologists, the likely culprit is the largemouth bass. Largemouth bass are apex predators and are most likely eating the pan fish. Both biologists suggested that those fishing the lake should not release big largemouth bass back to the lake.

SUNY Cobleskill Biologist Mark Cornwell proposed that the lake be surveyed to determine the population of fish in the lake. Devin Dal Pos reports the lake was surveyed many years ago by the NYS DEC. Because Brantingham Lake is a private lake and we do not have a state boat launch, NYS DEC will not perform a survey on the lake. Professor Cornwell and his team can perform a survey of the Brantingham and Pleasant Lake. Devin explained that the team performs the survey at night on a boat with a generator and electro-fish the lake. The team will perform the survey and then produce a report and perhaps come and speak to the membership. The cost of the survey is approximately \$3750.

Kath Tedford motioned that that the membership approves the professional survey of Brantingham and Pleasant Lakes. Polly Peterson seconded the motion. Pat Dowling requested further discussion of the motion.

Mr. Dowling stated that the membership needs to keep in mind that this survey would be a single snapshot of information about the lake. This information is not useful unless it is compared to future studies and trends be identified. Performing several surveys over several years would be costly. Mr. Dowling stated that this need to be a robust study that includes not only what is in the lake, but what is happening in the lake.

Sam Villanti stated that he wonders how many members are truly concerned about the fish population

Vicky Fisher states that she wonders if it might be a waste of money.

Devin Dal Pos responded by stating that the survey would put a fairly contentious issue to rest. Obtaining future surveys and identifying trends could take it further or it could end with the single survey. The study would also determine the quality of the water for the fish.

Kathy Tedford stated that she supports stocking of fish in the lake but questions how we really know what is in the lake.

Pat Dowling asked if a motion could be presented to table the discussion until next year.

Vicky Fisher asked if the study would really make any difference.

Karen Murphy stated it was important to remember that we have 2 separate biologists that have given the same opinion; the reduction of Pan fish on the lake is secondary to the predation of Largemouth Bass

Roger Abbey proposed that we add a line item into the Fish Fund that would allow members who are specifically interested in the survey and the fish population contribute specifically to the expense of performing a fish survey. He also suggested that fish fund be used to offset expense related to the survey. Mr. Abbey suggested that perhaps \$1000 of the survey be paid for using the fish fund.

Chris Murphy stated that the discussion should be tabled to allow for further information gathering of the process and the value of the study. Chris suggested that perhaps the biologist, Mark Cornwell, could speak to the membership about the topic and allow a greater understanding. Mr. Murphy stated he had personal concerns about the welfare of the fish in response to the electro-fishing. In addition, he wonders if they can get an accurate count considering the depth of the lake.

Devin Dal Pos stated that the BCA will continue to gather information and place a sample report and additional information on the website.

Chris Bove motioned to table the discussion to the next meeting. Chris Murphy seconded the motion. The motion was so approved by a majority vote.

Roger Abbey motioned that a special account be created to allow members to donate toward the fish survey is created now in anticipation of a vote to perform a survey at the next meeting. Maria Brook seconded the motion. The motion was so approved by a majority vote.

WATER QUALITY: Karen Murphy read details from the last D.O. meeting of July 13, 2013. “The program requires the committee to collect 9 samples during the summer and ship them to a lab in Syracuse. Approximately 9 months later a report is generated. Mr. Predmore reports that it is important to understand that these values are only meaningful when evaluating the results as trends. In the last 12 years of sampling, there have been only minor fluctuations from summer to summer, but basically no change and no acid rain effects. There have been slightly higher readings of phosphorus because of fertilizer use on lawns near the water”

Dave Rider reports that there is an article in the August 2nd USA Today about swimming area in the United States that have been closed secondary to high fecal coliform bacteria because of resident geese on the waters. (<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/08/02/geese-foul-up-favorite-swimming-holes/2611491/>)

SEPTIC TANKS: Devin Dal Pos states that the biggest threat for fecal coli form on Brantingham Lake is the many septic systems on the lake. Devin reports it is critical that members have their tanks inspected and pumped annually. A septic that is leaking into the lake

could be devastating. In an effort to encourage members to pump out their tanks, Devin has contacted all three septic service vendors in the region and asked them to propose a discount for BCA members. Septic tanks should be pumped every 3 years. In theory at least 10% of membership would schedule to be pumped annually. This would translate to approximately 30 camps. Devin reports that he will determine the best discount for members. Devin reports information will be posted on the website and in the newsletter. However, the service company will be instructed to ask for a BCA membership card to ensure the discount is only offered to members.

WELL TESTING: Devin proposes that the BCA will provide services to encourage and accommodate members who are interested in having their well water tested. The BCA will provide supplies that can be picked up and provide volunteers who are willing to take the sample to Lowville. Devin is going to determine if a discount can be provided for this service as well. Devin requests that any member who is willing to volunteer to take samples to Lowville contact him.

Devin reports that offering these two services (septic cleaning and well testing) will go a long way help to assist members in keeping the lake clean

BUOYS: Devin reported that each buoy should be or will be numbered. In this way if a buoy should break free, it can be returned to the correct location. BCA is getting estimates on replacing the rope on the buoys replaced with chains. Jane Pfeiffer requested that a “no-wake” buoy be placed between Grant Island and the shore. Jane reports that this is a shallow area in which personal watercraft (PWC) and boats drive through way too fast. Her shoreline is eroding and she is concerned that there will be a serious accident. Devin responded by explaining that there is a considerable process to putting in a buoy. The buoy would need to be purchased, the DEC buoy permit would need to be amended, and the buoys would need to be installed by GPS marking. This is a lengthy and difficult process. Jon Korber stated that BCA liability related to the buoys is covered by Lewis County.

DUES: Devin Dal Pos reports that the current BCA Annual membership dues are \$40. The board members discussed membership dues at the July 13th Directors and Officers meeting after Gail Roes, our BCA Treasurer, presented a due analysis. The result of our analysis and discussion is that the board determined it would be best to leave the dues at \$40. Devin reports that there is only one business in Brantingham that pays BCA dues. Devin suggests that the dues for local businesses be reduced to \$20 considering they do not directly benefit from the spraying.

Gail Roes motioned annual BCA dues for local businesses be reduced to \$20 per year. Camille Brown seconded the motion. The motion was so approved by majority vote.

Marie Levesque (owner of the Country Store) stated that she pays BCA dues for her camp on Pleasant Lake. Devin responded by saying that she is indeed a BCA member already and would not be required to pay a business membership as well.

LIABILITY INSURANCE: Devin Dal Pos reported that the board had previously approved the idea of obtaining estimates for liability insurance for the BCA Board Members. Devin reports he has been spoken to the President of Lake of the Pines regarding their costs for liability insurance. The Lake of the Pines is a special circumstance as property owners also own the lake. Brantingham and Pleasant Lake are owned by the NYS DEC. Devin requests that any member that is aware of another member who is involved in insurance contact him.

MEMBERSHIP STICKERS: Devin proposes the idea of having membership stickers in the future. The stickers would have the BCA logo along with the membership year. The sticker could be placed on a car window or house window. The first sticker would be given for membership; additional stickers could be purchased by members.

CAMP ALDERSGATE POTLUCK DINNER: Carol Kunkle reports that the new directors of Camp Aldersgate have invited any interested members in joining them for a potluck dinner on August 21st at 4:00pm. This would give the directors an opportunity to open communication with the community.

SECOND ANNUAL FLOAT-FEST: Pat Dowling announces the return of the annual Float-Fest tomorrow at 1:00pm. Join the fun with anything that floats. This year's theme is to honor our military. Our mission is to have a "pirate raid" at Grant Island to honor John Grant. Then floaters will be at Pat Dowling's camp for music. Anything that floats is allowed.

ELECTIONS: Devin Dal Pos reports that Vice President Eric Martin and Treasurer Gail Roes are up for re-election for a term of two years. In addition all odd numbered area directors are up for re-election. This includes Pat Dowling, Polly Peterson, Karl & Pat Keiffer, Bob Hindman, and Collette Vanyo. Area 11 remains open.

A member present motioned to re-elect all Officers and Area Directors as described. Another member present seconded the motion and the motion was so approved by a majority vote.

Devin asks for a volunteer to become the District 11 area director. Gail Roes reports that she has been trying to fulfill the duties for Area 11 in addition to her duties as Treasurer.

PROPERTY TAXES: Devin reports that he requested a report on taxes paid by property owners in the Brantingham Area. Devin reports that lake properties pay approximately \$998,000.00 in

taxes annually. Devin states that he hopes those writing letters will remind the county legislature that our lake represents an important part of the tax income for Lewis County.

Bob Hindman asks what percentage this money represents for Lewis County income. Devin responded that he did not ask for this information.

SHERIFF CARPINELLI: Devin introduces Lewis County Sheriff Michael Carpinelli. Sheriff Carpinelli began by recognizing Deputy Sheriff Mike Leviker. “We could not provide services on the lake without our Deputy Mike Leviker.” Sheriff Carpinelli reports that they are trying to provide as much coverage as they can on the lake this year. There was a delay in getting the boat in the water and there have been some maintenance issues with the boat. However, the primary problem has been a staffing shortage for marine patrols. Next year, they department plans for a more rigorous patrol schedule. No reports of accidents on the lake this year or in the past years. Sheriff reports that the department has a dive team if the BCA determines a need for it.

Jane Pfeiffer requests that a “no wake” buoy be placed at Grant Island. She reports that the island is being affected by high wakes related to jet skiers, water skiers, party barges and boats. Jane stated the activity is non-stop. Jane is concerned that there will be an accident.

Bob Hindman reports that he frequently sees jet skis towing without a spotter and pontoons boats that are overloaded. Mr. Hindman read a section of the New York State Boaters Guide regarding speed limit 100 feet from shore. He states that he witnesses infractions of this law on the lake with frequency.

Jon Korber states that there used to be Town of Greig laws regarding speed limits on the lake. There was a daytime speed limit of 45 miles per hour and a nighttime speed limit of 25 miles per hour. Jon reports that Mike Leviker requested that the Brantingham Lake laws conform to the New York State Boating laws and the town speed limits were eliminated. New York State boating laws are essentially the same as U.S. Coast Guard rules.

Sheriff Carpinelli stated that there are specific challenges to Brantingham that relate to the small size of the lake. Jon Korber stated that Grant Island has decreased in size by 6 feet in diameter secondary to the erosion. Sheriff Carpinelli stated that owners of the island consider a break wall to prevent erosion.

One member raised concerns about Personal Watercraft (PWC) coming in and out of lily pond too fast and young children on PWC. Another member asked if the department could post someone at the boat launch to counsel boaters as they launch the boat.

Deputy Sheriff Mike Leviker reports that there have been no patrols on Lake Bonaparte this year either because of budget issues. He reminds members that Lake Bonaparte has an invasive aquatic plant species problem and has spent approximately a half a million dollars managing the problem. Deputy Sheriff Mike Leviker reports that the buoy system is governed by the New York State Park System. He asks the members to consider how the lake has been since the decrease in boat patrols. Members responded that there have been more issues on the lake without patrols. Mike responded, "That is what you need to tell your local legislature". Members must voice their concern. Mrs. Leviker stated that the membership needs to take an active role and attend legislative meetings to lobby for recreational patrol funding

Sheriff Carpinelli responded by saying that members must get involved in local government. He reports that he is retired from the military and came out of retirement to get involved. "We must be the change". Remember that we elect them to office and pay them to do their jobs. We must also be part of the decision making

Deputy Sheriff Mike Leviker reports that there will be a Boating Course on August 21st.

Mike Leviker suggests that the BCA work on the buoy situation for Grant Island. He reports that it is important for property owners to call the Sheriff's office regarding infractions or problems on the lake. There have been only 2 calls this season. He reports that it is difficult to lobby for funding when the office has so few complaint calls. Deputy Sheriff Mike Leviker requests that property owners call the Sheriff's office administrative phone line to report problems. The records of these complaints will help support the need for funding for marine patrols. Please call 376-3511 to report problems on lake. This will allow for documentation of issues.

Dave Rider motioned to adjourn the meeting. Vicky Fisher seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen M. Murphy
Secretary - BCA

