
BLCOA NEWSLETTER SPRING 2025

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*Chris and Tami Storey Paddling with Their Dog, Scuppers
Photo by Casey Storey*

President's Report From Joe Pasquini

Winter 2025 will be one to remember for most of us who live in NY, and especially for Edie and me as it was our first as full-time lake residents. Winter is still marching on, but already Redwood had clocked more than 116 inches of snow by the end of February. Despite the wintry conditions, we have had no problem getting in and out, using our tractor to plow and walking our new puppy, Molly, on the sometimes icy surfaces. It's a little quiet, but we have kept busy with cooking, bread-baking, art work, and finishing our upstairs. We even took a trip to Massena to purchase some antique arm chairs for relaxing by the wood-burning stove.

As I considered what to write for this issue of the BLCOA Newsletter, I thought I would start summarizing the management plan developed from 2016 to 2018 entitled "The State of Butterfield Lake, NY and a Plan for Management of Butterfield Lake." The plan was developed and researched with funds from the NY State Federation of Lake Associations (NYSFOLA), the State University of New York (SUNY) College at Oneonta, and the BLCOA.

It was authored by David Andrews, a graduate student at SUNY Oneonta who completed the research for his thesis for his Master's Degree in Lake Management.

President's report cont'd

The research reviewed all relevant water quality papers and past research at the lake in preparation for water-quality evaluations.

There are eight Chapters in the Lake Management Plan and in this issue of the newsletter, I will summarize the first three chapters. In future newsletters, I will summarize the remaining chapters.

The eight chapters are:

- Introduction and Watershed
- Water Quality
- Mud Lake
- Macrophytes
- Zooplankton
- Zebra Mussels
- Fisheries
- The Plan and Recommendations

Chapter 1: The Introduction and Watershed

- The Butterfield Lake parameters are presented as: 3.64 miles long, 0.80 miles wide, 49 feet at maximum depth, and having a total shoreline of 10.14 miles, with hydraulic retention being 2.28 years (Hydraulic retention indicates the time it takes to completely replace a lake's current volume of water with new water.)
- There are five tributaries entering the lake and there is one outlet to Black Lake. The largest tributary is the outflow from Mud Lake, the second largest tributary is from drainage that comes from the wetland entering Butterfield Bay.



Map of Wetland Entering Butterfield Bay.

- Most of the soil types surrounding the lake were found to be unsuitable for conventional septic systems.
- Also included in the introduction is a survey of cottage owners. The result of the survey showed excess plant growth in the water was the major concern of cottage owners. Review of a previous survey done in 1998 showed the major concern of cottage owners was failing septic systems. Other concerns noted were zebra mussels and harmful algae blooms.

Chapter 2: Water Quality

- This chapter includes a review of past and present water sampling at the lake as part of the NYS Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP). We have been taking samples for this program since the early 1980's. To see the 2024 CSLAP results, go to this link: <https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/data/IF/CSLAP/0906BUT0054>.
- Research entailed analysis of dissolved oxygen along the vertical profile. The data and resulting findings indicated summer stratification. From the research, the greatest depth of anoxic (insufficient oxygen) conditions occurred in August when there was no dissolved oxygen below the depth of 8 meters (24 feet). At this depth, the entire southern basin of the lake effectively becomes anoxic.
- Anoxic conditions along the sediment water interface resulted in the release of nutrients from the sediments. Sampling showed elevated total phosphorous levels. When the water is anoxic, and there is no available oxygen in the water column, it is subsequently not fit for fish to survive. Fish require a minimum of 3mg/liter of dissolved oxygen to survive with 5-6 mg/l as optimal. Sampling for dissolved oxygen in 2023–2024 indicated the same findings.
- Nutrient sampling was performed on water inflows to the lake to identify nutrient sources. From the findings, it was determined that "much of the phosphorous loading via watershed inputs appears to be natural, with wetlands acting as natural filters."

Chapter 2: Water Quality cont'd

- A finding over the research period identified that water clarity “shifted from one of the lowest mean values on record (2016) to the record high in 2018. It is assumed this shift was due to the irruption of zebra mussels in the lake, filtering the water.”
- Four inflow areas were selected for sampling of nutrients during precipitation/runoff events. These include the Mud Lake outlet, the major source of runoff, and the wetland that drains into Butterfield Bay, which is the most pristine source as it is an upland wetland surrounded by forests.

Chapter 3: Mud Lake

- Much of the research entailed a thorough overview of the impacts of waters entering from Mud Lake, which has the greatest human influence.
- Findings of the studies indicate that Mud Lake itself appears to have little adverse impact on water quality in Butterfield Lake. Despite this, continued monitoring of Mud Lake and its outlet stream are advisable because of the direct connection between the two lakes.

This concludes the review of the first three chapters of the Butterfield Lake Management Plan. I look forward to including summaries of the remaining chapters in future articles.

Lake Updates

- The lake otters were observed around a dock with bubblers that keep the water free of ice.
- The BLCOA is in the process of having a dozen bat houses built to be distributed at the annual meeting. More on the importance of bats can be read in the article in this newsletter.
- In the fall, the town dock was subjected to some damage most likely due to wildlife, resulting in flotation beads being released into the lake. Several sections of the dock were removed for repair.
- Test kits are now available that will assist in the identification of bacteria sources. Chapter 3 of the Lake Management Plan indicated that there was high coliform entering the lake at the boat launch.

Hopefully it is from wildlife, but it could be due to bacteria surfing on runoff coming from the village or from contaminants seeping out of old septic systems. Extensive sampling found no issue with the sewer treatment plant. *My* sampling showed 200 counts in the village and 10,000 counts at the bottom of the water falls that come down from Redwood to our inlet. Sampling can help determine the source of the elevated coliform. Information about the test kits is available at this website: <https://store.jonahventures.com/collections/frontpage/products/jonahwater-environmental-dna-source-tracking-kit>.

- The village Whiskey Wagon restaurant is in the process of an upgrade with a large addition to the rear section being added.
- The Indian River Lakes Conservancy (IRLC) now has a photo contest called “Seasons in the Wild,” A Year-Long Nature Photo Contest for photos taken at one of the IRLC’s preserves. Details can be found at the IRLC website: <https://indianriverlakes.org/event/seasons-in-the-wild-a-year-long-nature-photo-contest/>.
- There are two lake cottages that may be for sale by owner; both are boat-access only. Please call me if you are interested in receiving information: 585-315-1012

We look forward to seeing everyone’s return to the lake for a happy and prosperous 2025!

Bats on Butterfield Lake

By Lori Porte

In our fall 2024 newsletter, we mentioned an increased interest in bats, their benefits, and misunderstandings people have about them. We included a link to an article from the US Fish and Wildlife Service entitled “Bats Are One of the Most Important Misunderstood Animals (BAOMIMA) (March 2022), and we also mentioned our BLCOA Conservation Project for 2025 being bat houses.

Recently, the Tug Hill Commission provided webinars on topics of interest to northern New Yorkers. Joe Pasquini and I were fortunate to learn about the program and attend one entitled “Bats of New York: Challenges and Conservation (BoNY).

Bats cont'd

Over the years, we have often arrived at the lake in the evening when we would observe many bats around our marina and flying overhead as we would make our way down the channel leading to the lake.

It seems like we don't see as many bats these days as we did in the past, and perhaps it is because there has been a significant decrease in the number of bats that exist here and worldwide.

There are many misunderstandings about bats, and it is vital to recognize their value and how to protect them.

Misunderstandings and Facts about Bats

- A single bat can eat up to a 1000 insects in one night
- It is estimated "that bats eat enough pests to save more than \$1 billion per year in crop damage and pesticide costs in the United States corn industry alone." Indeed across all agricultural production, bat insect consumption is estimated to save more than \$3 billion per year! (BAOMIMA).
- Bats are not flying mice—in fact, they are not rodents all; unlike rodents who only live at most a couple years, bats can live up to 35 years, and they only have one pup per year.
- It's highly unlikely a bat would get tangled in your hair.
- While there are vampire bats who thrive on blood, they are located in tropical and subtropical regions and none at all are found in the United States. Indeed, some bats are vegetarians, while others thrive on insects (BoNY).
- All bats are not carriers of disease (BoNY). Bats can get rabies like any other mammal, thus if you are bitten by a bat or another mammal, it is vital to be treated promptly. In the United States only 1-3 cases of rabies in humans is currently reported annually, unlike in the 1940s when the average was 30-50 cases per year. But that's not because rabies isn't out there. It is because of the post-exposure treatment that has prevented the disease from developing (CDC Press Release, 2019).
- Have you seen low-flying aircraft over forested areas around the lake in recent years? You may have spotted a plane dropping rabies vaccinations to vaccinate the wildlife in the area (Jeffersoncountyny.gov, 2024). Thus efforts to control rabies is ongoing, and it is unlikely that you will encounter a rabid bat (NYS Department of Health, 2020).
- Another misnomer about bats is that they are blind. Bats actually have very good eyesight.
- Interestingly bats are actually the only flying mammal (BoNY).

Nine Species of Bats Live in New York

- Six species live in caves year-round, hibernating in the winter: little brown, big brown, northern long-eared, Indiana, tricolored, and small-footed. Though they are cave bats, sometimes little brown and big brown bats live in houses, barns, and other buildings.



Little Brown Bat Source Reddit

- Three species of bats live in trees, leaf and rock piles, and they migrate south in the winter: hoary, silver-haired, and eastern red (BoNY).

Threats to Bats

Bats have been significantly threatened world-wide in recent years. They have lost their habitats, been disturbed during hibernation, collided with wind turbines, and they have suffered from a terrible fungus called white nose syndrome (BoNY).

White-nose syndrome is a fungal disease that kills hibernating bats. The disease is called "white-nose syndrome" because of the visible white fungus on bats' muzzles, but the real damage is in the wings, which are needed for flying and retaining heat. Bats with white-nose syndrome may act strangely. Since bats are nocturnal animals, if they are seen flying around during the day in freezing temperatures, they may have the syndrome (National Park Service.org).

Bats cont'd

The first cases of white nose syndrome were noted at Howe Caverns in NY in 2006, most likely brought in by tourists from Europe or Asia. Due to the fungus, NY has experienced a 90% reduction in bat population as the fungus has killed millions of bats.

Two of the NY State species of bats are on the federally endangered list: Indiana and northern long eared. Little brown bats have been recommended to be considered endangered, but all of the species have experienced dramatic drops in population.

On the positive side, it appears that big brown bats are becoming resistant to the fungus. Bats can shed the white nose fungus in the spring as long as their wings are healthy enough for them to get to food sources and they can feed themselves (BoNY).

Things that You Can do to Help Bats

- Minimize the use of insecticides
- Maintain suitable roosting and foraging habitats
- Do not enter caves during the hibernation season (waking a hibernating bat could result in the bat dying). Always disinfect shoes before entering caves.
- If you need to remove a tree that has been a host to migrating bats, remove it in the winter.
- If you have a bat or bats that need to be removed from an area or a structure, have trained handlers safely proceed with the process.
- Have-a-Heart traps are preferred, and it is recommended to avoid sticky traps (BoNY).

So, What about Bat Houses?

- Bat houses can provide a welcome habitat for bats.
- Bat houses need to be placed in open spaces on 12 to 20-foot poles or on the side or roof of a building where there is a clear flight path and predators cannot reach them.
- Bat houses should have multiple, tight-fitting, rough-textured roosting areas.
- The houses should have vents to allow air to circulate and prevent overheating.
- Rough landing pads should be provided below the entrance.
- Cedar, redwood, and other rough woods make good choices for bat houses.
- The seams should be sealed to prevent water from entering.
- Predator baffles could be added to a pole mount.

- Once they are living in the bat house, minimize disturbances in the area (AI Overview, "How to Succeed with a Bat House," 2025).

References:

"Annual Oral Rabies Vaccine Bait Program to Begin," July 24, 2024, Jeffersoncountyny.gov.

https://archive.cdc.gov/www_cdc_gov/media/releases/2019/p0611-bats-rabies.html

<https://www.fws.gov/story/bats-are-one-most-important-misunderstood-animals>

https://tughill.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Bat_presentation_2024.pdf

<https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/zoonoses/rabies/>

The Passing of Lifelong Butterfield Lake Cottage Owner, Fred Belcher



Fred Belcher with his family's cottage, Elmhurst, in the background

On February 21, Fred Belcher passed away, leaving Rosemarie, his wife of more than 60 years. The Belchers, especially Fred, enjoyed summers at Elmhurst (#33). The cottage was purchased by Fred's grandfather (Fred Hofferberth) and Fred's mother (Camilla Hofferberth) around 1932 for just \$400. Elmhurst is a small island near the Hillbacks (#29) and Cooks (#30).

As a boy, Fred would spend every summer on the island with his grandmother. During this time, he became friends with Calvert Shelton (Marge Hillback's brother). Fred wrote many stories about the time he spent with Cal on the lake. We hope to receive copies of some of Fred's stories, but one comes to mind about how he and Cal would swim from the island to Cal's dock to steal cigarettes and sips of beer when Cal's mother wasn't looking!

In time, Fred would visit the cottage each summer mostly to work on it. Eventually, the Belcher's retired in Charlotte, NC, and it became too much to drive the 800 miles to work on the cottage. So in 2017, they put Elmhurst up for sale.

Fred Belcher cont'd

Fortunately, the Cooks decided to buy it. Fred and Rosemarie continued to stay connected to the lake after departing, maintaining their membership and sharing stories, as well as recently donating an authentic Adirondack skiff that Fred had in storage. Please take a minute to read Fred's obituary: <https://www.throbertson.com/obituaries/Frederick-Belcher?obId=37784001>.

Indian River Lakes Conservancy (IRLC) Update



By Heidi Sourwine, IRLC Executive Director

Greetings Butterfield Lakers,

As I write this, the days are slowly growing longer, and the transition from winter to spring is beginning.

While many of you are getting excited to return to your lake homes soon, we have been enjoying a real North Country winter this year—with frozen lakes perfect for ice fishing, fresh snowfall for snowshoeing, and crisp, quiet mornings in the woods. No matter the season, these lakes and landscapes continue to inspire and connect us.

Great things are happening for our lakes and forests! We have protected 2,759 acres of shoreline, wetlands, and forests for future generations. This year, we are focusing on stewardship, public access, and deeper collaboration with our lakeside communities to identify challenges and resources that will help protect these waters.

Here are a few highlights:

- **Expanding Public Access & Trails**—Thanks to volunteers, Red Lake Preserve is becoming an even better place for paddlers and hikers. If you are interested, stewardship days this spring will give you a chance to roll up your sleeves and help protect this beautiful place.
- **Working with Our Lake Communities**—Many of you are deeply invested in the health of our lakes,

and we are working to listen, learn, and connect communities with conservation resources. A new survey funded by a Land Trust Alliance grant will help identify what matters most to you and your neighbors when it comes to lake protection, shoreline conservation, and water quality challenges.

- **Partnering to protect Wildlife**—The land and water you care about here are part of something even bigger. The Indian River Lakes are a key link in the Algonquin to Adirondacks (A2A) Corridor, a critical wildlife and climate resilience corridor stretching from the Adirondacks to Ontario's Algonquin Park. We will be partnering with A2A Initiative to protect not just our lakes but get involved in an entire cross-border conservation effort that ensures wildlife can move freely and our ecosystems stay connected.
- **Inspiring the Next Generation**—Kids are not just our future; they are our now. There is nothing more rewarding than seeing a child's eyes light up when they spot a frog along the trail, dip their paddle in the water for the first time, or proudly identify a bird they just learned about. These are the moments that shape a lifelong love of nature. Programs like the WHIRL Teen Environmental Program and the Elizabeth May Duvall Nature Grows Kids Camp are made possible because our members believe in inspiring the next generation of lake stewards.

Please Join Us at our Upcoming Events:

- Birds, Blossoms, & Bugs Hike—Tentatively May 10
- Water Quality Conference—June 6th at Redwood Hill Preserve
- WHIRL Teen Environmental Education—Starts July 8th
- Elizabeth May Duvall Nature Grows Kids Camp—July 15th, 16th, 17th at Redwood Hill Preserve
- Special Nature Art Show Preview Event—July 11th at the Iva Smith Memorial Gallery of Fine Art
- Celebration of Lakes Fundraiser—August 3rd at Thousand Islands Winery
- Hikes & paddles—keep an eye out for upcoming dates!

For more details, visit indianriverlakes.org or call us at 315-482-4757.

IRLC cont'd

As I step into the role of Executive Director, I'd love to hear from you! If you'd like to share your thoughts, get involved, or talk about ways to protect the places we all love, please reach out.

If you're interested in learning more about how to conserve your land and leave a lasting legacy, I'd be happy to talk about options. IRLC is your land trust, and I am grateful to be part of such a dedicated and caring community.

Thank you for your ongoing support in protecting the lakes and lands we all love!

Forever Flowers—Miniatures

By Lori Porte

Last fall, I shared my experience with growing an abundance of strawflowers.

Toward the end of the season, I saw that the tiny buds could work to make miniature arrangements, so I began clipping the "sprites"!

The result was a bountiful harvest of lovely little flowers. I located some tiny bottles to be used as vases and voila: tiny arrangements!

Miniature Strawflowers in a Vase Sitting on a Quarter



Butterfield Lake's Picnic Band, Lost Resort By Steve Smith

Lost Resort is an acoustic duo out of Rochester, NY, consisting of Tom Tills on vocals, guitar, and mandolin and Steve Smith on vocals and guitar.

The title of the band is a humorous play on the term "Last Resort" with a Resort vacationing vibe!

Tom and Steve met when their kids were in daycare together (close to 20 years ago). They first brought the house down at the penultimate festival known as Mommy, Daddy, and Me Night!

Since then, they have honed their craft and pride themselves on their harmonies and unique arrangements on a very eclectic mix of songs, many of which are not covered by traditional acoustic duos: Simon and Garfunkel, Radiohead, Weezer, Neil Young, Led Zeppelin, Glen Campbell, REM, and many more, as they are ever expanding their repertoire.

They are also 2/5s of another band they founded called The Thighmasters, a five-member party alt/rock band which has been regularly gigging around Rochester for ten years.



*Tom Tills (L) and Steve Smith (R)
Playing at the BLCOA Picnic 2024*

The BLCOA thanks Lost Resort for their extreme generosity, donating their time, talents, and the use of their microphone three year's running! And this year, they plan to return for our BLCOA picnic August 9th, with a rain date of August 10.

BLCOA Membership

Membership to your BLCOA is \$30 annually for one cottage and \$50 for owners of multiple cottages.

As a member you may:

- Vote at meetings on any important decisions.
- Receive a directory of all cottage owners (emailed) with annual updates regarding changes.
- Receive a map of the lake with cottage numbers (the updated map is coming out this year).
- Receive an extra door prize ticket at the annual picnic (new in 2025).

Your membership fee helps the BLCOA with many important endeavors including:

- Supporting our local Fire Departments and EMTs.
- Monitoring the quality of the water to assure safety for humans and pets.
- Hosting an Annual Meeting where important updates are shared.
- Putting out two newsletters each year.
- Hosting an annual picnic.

BLCOA Membership cont'd

- Sending one individual to the annual New York State Federation of Lake Associations (NYSFOLA) Annual meeting.
- Supporting local food banks.
- Supporting the Indian River Lakes Conservancy and its scholarship program.

A few great events are planned by the BLCOA each year:

- An annual picnic
- An Amateur fishing derby
- A boat-in concert on the lake
- A boat parade
- A ladies tea

Photos for the Newsletter

We have many talented photographers residing on Butterfield Lake. If you have a photo of lake scenes and/or activities that you would be willing to share with us to be included in the newsletters, please contact Kay Bolivar at kbolivar@comcast.net.

Anna Pasquini was able to get a great shot of one of our Butterfield Lake eagles last summer in Butterfield Bay.



Have you wondered who is sailing around the lake. Wonder no more. Chris and Tami Storey enjoy sailing with their dog Scuppers. Their daughter Casey took this picture.

Pet Column

Many of you have told us that you enjoy seeing pets featured in our newsletter. In this issue we are featuring two new pets on the lake in 2024. Both are named Molly and they have similar coloring.



This little furball belongs to Mary and Don Eggelston from Pat's Island. This picture was taken last fall, so we should see a little bit bigger Molly this summer.

Molly Pasquini arrived in December 2024 at her home with Joe and Edie Pasquini. She has been patiently waiting for summer to arrive so she can get onto the lake in this boat.



If you would like to share a picture of your pet enjoying the lake so it can be added to our newsletter pet column, email your photo to edie.pasquini@gmail.com.

A note about printed mail:

Printed mail (our newsletters and dock mail) has gotten quite expensive to print and for regular newsletters to be sent. Thus we have made the decision to only deliver dock mail to those who are unreachable via email distribution. If email works for you, and we do not have your email address, please let us know on your membership form.

(Membership forms are not included with newsletters for people who have already sent in their dues. Thank you for your membership.)

BLCOA 2025 SUMMER CALENDAR

Board Meetings IRLC Office Building 9 am May 31, June 28, September 6.

Annual Meeting

Catholic Church, Redwood

Saturday, July 5

Social Hour 8:30am

Meeting 9:00am.

Boat Parade

Saturday, July 5, 4pm, Staging at the Town Dock.

Come as you are or decorate yourselves and your boat.

Live Concert

Nate Lazarchuck's Band, Another Round, Peter's Point, #49

Saturday, July 12, 4:00pm

Rain date, July 13

Bob Jennejohn Memorial Amateur Fishing Derby

Sunrise, July 19 until Noon, July 20

BLCOA Annual Picnic

Hosts: Hillbacks and Dengs

Camp, Linda Vista, #29

August 9, 1-4pm

Rain date, August 10.

Music by Lost Resort

Cost: Free; **Bring a large salad or other sides** (rather than desserts or main dishes).

Hot dogs, beverages and desserts are provided by the BLCOA.

Ladies Tea

Hostesses Kay Bolivar and Janet Stamps. Lakeview Lodge, #2

Saturday, August 16, 2 pm

Bring a small treat to share.

Also, bring a bottle of liquid hand soap for a gift exchange. These can be bought at TJ Maxx, Marshalls, Home Goods, Walmart, gift shops, or similar stores.



These soaps were found at TJ Maxx.

They usually cost between \$4 and \$7.

If attending the tea, please RSVP to Kay Bolivar at 505-412-2885.

Fishing Fun 2025!!



2025

Butterfield Lake Cottage Owners

Bob Jennejohn Memorial Fishing Derby

Butterfield Families, Friends & Guests Invited to Enter!

**Sunrise Saturday, July 19th
to NOON Sunday July 20th**

Enter LEGAL size fish to be measured
at the **TOWN DOCK...**

5 to 5:30 PM Saturday & NOON to 12:30 Sun.

Prizes Awarded at BLCOA Picnic three weeks later – 8/9/25 (Rain date is 8/10)
1-4 PM at Linda Vista, Cottage #29 44056 Butterfield Camp Rd.

PRIZES: 25% of Pot Awarded for longest fish in 4 categories: **Bass** (12''+) (large or smallmouth)

Pike (18''+) **Walleye** (18''+) **Panfish:** crappie (min. 10''), perch, rockbass, sunny, or bluegill (any size is legal)

The more who enter, the higher the awards!

Entrants agree to abide by all DEC regulations

RETURN THIS SECTION WITH

\$10.00 entry fee (CASH only)

to Steve Wysocki (267)424-9721 Cottage 65

or pay to enter at 5 PM Measurement 7/19.

Name: _____

Cottage # _____

Phone: _____

ADULT 16+

RETURN THIS SECTION WITH

\$5.00 entry fee (CASH only)

to Steve Wysocki (267)424-9721 Cottage 65

or pay to enter at 5 PM Measurement 7/19

Name: _____

Cottage # _____

Phone: _____

Youth age **0-15**

Butterfield Lake Cottage Owners Association (BLCOA) Membership Form

January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025

Membership Cost: \$30 for 1 cottage, \$50 for multiple cottages

Please make checks payable to BLCOA.

Mail to BLCOA, PO Box 163, Redwood, NY 13679

Email Rene Porte, Treasurer, at RLporte1018@gmail.com if preferred method of payment is Venmo.

Date_____ BLCOA Cottage Number(s)_____

Cottage Name _____

Last Name_____

First Name_____

Winter Mailing Address_____

Summer Mailing Address_____

5 Digit Cottage 9-1-1 number/address_____

(We recommend this number is visible on your cottage for emergency use)

Winter Phone Number _____

Include in the BLCOA directory:

Summer Phone Number _____ Yes_____ No_____

Email Address _____ Yes_____ No_____

I would like to receive the BLCOA Newsletter in color via email: Yes_____ No_____