
BLCOA NEWSLETTER FALL 2025

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Distribution

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Calming Sunset - View of Peter's Point

Painting by Victoria Storey

Butterfield Lake Cottage Owners Association (BLCOA)

Mission Statement:

The BLCOA is Dedicated to the Betterment of Butterfield Lake.

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President's Report, Joe Pasquini

By Columbus Day weekend, most families had closed their cottages and said goodbye for the year. Fortunately, good weather allowed us to do a lot of work on our cottages this year, but the water level is still very low from the summer's lack of rain, and we have experienced several frost events with the last one turning most of the trees into a visual color event. Since the last frost, the leaves have been falling in great numbers and soon the trees will be bare.

New Cottages and Residents

Starting in the early spring and to present, there have been several three-season cottages and a couple full-time residences built along the lake. Welcome to our new residents, including those who purchased Aloha, one of the historic cottages on the lake

A Fond Farewell

After 50 years, Chuck and Mary Shipley, sold Aloha. The Shipleys will reside in Florida and may return from time to time to enjoy the lake in a rental. We wish



Aloha, Cottage #46
Photo from Zillow

them good health and great memories.
Aloha, Chuck and Mary!

Boat Safety Requirements

Our newsletters for the last few years have reported New York State's boating certificate requirement for all boaters. The state inspector has been on the lake checking certificates and at least one inspection took place for required safety gear. Be sure you have your boating certificate with you and review your boat for everything needed from life jackets to flares. I found this handy chart and guide describing equipment requirements on boats in New York State: <https://aceboater.com/en-us/nys-required-boat-safety-equipment://aceboater.com/en-us/nys-required-boat-safety-equipment>



Example of Boating safety certificate
Photo from The Post Journal New York State

Emergencies

A few years ago, several of us set up a messaging group on our phones. The purpose is to provide a help line should one of us have an emergency need: a motor won't start, the need for a ride, a lost dog, a boat needing bailing, or a medical emergency. I agreed to be the point of contact to disseminate to those willing to lend a hand via text message. In one serious emergency this summer, a neighbor was able to guide emergency medical technicians directly to a cottage, improving the time of arrival to a boat-access-only cottage.

Please be sure to post information for your cottage to expedite calls to 911, and also put my number in your contacts so it will be handy should something come up: 585-315-1012.

Water Quality

Eight water samples were taken this summer as part of the New York State Federation of Lake's (NYSFOLA's) water quality program in cooperation with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). In addition, samples were taken to determine dissolved oxygen levels along the water column.

Late summer and early fall are when we sometimes see the presence of harmful algae blooms. So far this year none were reported. Be sure to read Walt Dutcher's article in this newsletter regarding spring's green algae blooms and why we sometimes get harmful blue-green algae blooms.

Clean Up

As observed this spring, cottage owners need to do some clean-up of debris along shorelines at the beginning of each summer season. Dock parts, styrofoam, plastic barrels, etc. get scattered around our shorelines from storms and winter damage.

The Town of Alexandria Tax Assessments

This fall, by request of the town of Alexandria, I escorted the town of Alexandria tax assessor around the lake. He reviewed several properties that have not been assessed for quite a while. Reassessments are taking place this year for adjustments to the 2027 tax year. It was reported that the increase in river property values could cause our lake property tax bills to drop. Let's hope!

State Boat Launch

It has been reported that upgrades are planned for the state boat launch. With the low water, most of the hard surface at the the launch is out of the water. The combination of the low water level and boats powering onto trailers is causing the prop clearance to be highly diminished. **We have been told that it may take approximately three months to complete the upgrades. More information from the DEC will follow in the Spring Newsletter.**



Wildlife

- **Loons:** If you love and observe loons, we have had a great year with what appeared to be 4 successful hatches making it to maturity. As of early October, one late hatch was still on the lake and appeared to be learning to fly!
- **Otters:** Some cottage owners have reported seeing river otters at the lake in the last few years. This summer three were seen along the shore at Spencer Bay grunting at our dog as she barked at them.



River Otter
Photo from
Utica Zoo

- **Ticks:** From my own experience this spring and summer, there have been many ticks in wooded areas. Be sure to check yourself and pets after woodland walks.
- **Walleye:** The committee investigating walleye stocking in the lake presented their findings at the annual meeting. Their findings clearly show that it is not feasible for the association to stock additional walleye. Survival rate and cost were the overriding considerations. Let me know if you are interested in seeing the power point created by the committee that details walleye stocking on our lake.

Boat Storage

Just a note on boat storage and mice. Be sure to protect your boat and motor from mouse damage over the winter. Our son had mouse damage under the motor cowling this summer. Thanks to Morgan's Marine in Penn Yan (where the boat was purchased) parts were ordered for next-day delivery, and after a full-day trip the boat was repaired. A quick internet search offers suggestions to repel mice from vehicles.

In Conclusion

Our events at the lake were well attended this summer! We had great weather for the concert, boat parade, fishing derby, and picnic. Thanks to all that made these events very enjoyable.

Regarding our lake management plan, I will review more chapters and report on them in the spring newsletter.

Be sure to mark your calendar with next year's events! We look forward to seeing you in 2026!

Butterfield Lake and Summertime Algae by Walt Dutcher

This newsletter article will hopefully help you better understand the springtime green algae blooms and the late summer blue-green algae blooms we sometimes have on Butterfield Lake. Whenever I write one of these articles, I learn something in the process, and this time is no exception. Some of this information came from *Diet for a Small Lake, the Expanded Guide to New York State Lake and Watershed Management*, 2nd Edition. Other sources are the NYS DEC water resources web pages and Butterfield Lake CSLAP (Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program) data.

Why do we get algae at certain times of the year in our lake?

The rate of photosynthesis determines how much life can exist in the lake, and most energy enters the lake via the sunlight that plants use. In 1840, agricultural scientists in Europe were studying plant growth and determined that in nature, there are limiting factors that determine growth.

This behavior is referred to as Liebig's Law of the Minimum, in honor of the scientist who first proposed limiting factors as a mechanism for plant life.

Butterfield Lake and Summertime Algae cont'd

In our lake the limiting factors are nitrogen and phosphorus, especially phosphorus. The element that is in the shortest supply for photosynthesis limits the amount of photosynthesis that can occur. If more of the element that is the limiting factor becomes available, more photosynthesis can take place and there is more plant and algal growth. Since the biological functioning of lakes depend heavily on phosphorus and nitrogen, these two nutrients tend to be a focus for lake and watershed management and monitoring plans.

Algae and macrophytes (a plant, especially an aquatic plant, large enough to be seen by the naked eye) produce the most growth using the available nutrients. This article focuses on the algae, especially the overabundance of algae that produces blooms. Hundreds of species of algae are found in New York State lakes, from little green dots, to bubbling masses, to stringy filaments that look a lot like weeds. Algae can be classified by growth habitat. Phytoplankton are the free-floating forms (the little green dots). Periphyton attach to surfaces, such as stones, dock pilings and macrophytes. Periphytons that attach to macrophytes are referred to as epiphytes. In highly productive lakes, stringy masses of filamentous algae attach to boats and submerged objects.

Within these main categories, there are many different varieties of algae. There is a general progression from one type of algae to another through the seasons. Three major varieties dominate most New York State lakes: diatoms, green algae, and blue-green algae. The rapid growth of algae on the surface of lakes, streams, or ponds, which is generally stimulated by nutrient enrichment, is referred to as an algal bloom.

Diatoms

The summer season starts with diatoms, and these are seldom found at nuisance levels in most New York lakes. Diatoms are symmetrical, silica-based, mostly unicellular algae that are literally as fragile as glass, although their cell walls can remain intact in sediments for thousands of years. They form a significant portion of diatomaceous earth and the "skeletal" base of fossil fuels. Their persistence in sediments can be used to construct a historical record

indicating when a lake started suffering excessive algal blooms. In New York State lakes, diatoms tend to be found primarily during the spring, due to their ability to survive somewhat colder conditions and extract silica from the water column at a time of the year when it is abundant from higher spring precipitation and runoff. When diatoms lose their competitive advantage, they tend to be replaced by green algae.

Green Algae

Green algae is the most common and abundant form of algae. This group includes plants as well as mobile animals that contain chlorophyll, flagella (whip-like structures used for locomotion) and even eyespots! Green algae thrives where there are elevated nitrogen levels. Excess nitrogen can come from spring runoff due to the import of nitrate-rich water from acid rain and winter field fertilization. It can also come from long-term use of fertilizers. These algal blooms are occasionally associated with taste and odor problems. The green algae tend to be replaced by blue-green algae in the late summer or early fall in many lakes, particularly those like Butterfield Lake that have high lake productivity.

Blue-Green Algae

Blue-green algae are more correctly identified as bacteria and given the name cyanobacteria. Although referred to as blue-green, they are also capable of turning water brown or red. Cyanobacteria are most often the cause of taste and odor problems, as well as nuisance conditions in lakes and ponds. Cyanobacteria maintain a competitive advantage over other algae. They can extract nitrogen from the atmosphere in a process called nitrogen fixing, allowing them to thrive as phosphorus levels increase in the water. They can avoid predation by producing gas vacuoles to regulate their position in the water, rising up in the morning and sinking later in the day. Some species produce toxins in the water that can be harmful to pets and people.

Green algae and blue-green algae, what's the difference?

Green algae can form thick mats on the water surface but do not produce harmful toxins. Green algae is commonly seen in May, June, and July. The three pictures on the next page are from the NYS DEC Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) identification page:

Green algae and blue-green algae, what's the difference? cont'd



Figure 1. Examples of Green Algae, Bubbling Scum and Floating Mats.



Figure 2. Filamentous Green Algae can attach to boats and docks, and can float below the surface.

A harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) may look like blue, green, or white spilled paint on the water surface. HABs are usually made up of dense concentrations (blooms) of single-celled algae-like bacteria called cyanobacteria (also known as blue-green algae). Warm temperatures, high levels of nutrients in the water, and sunny calm days are some of the conditions that may lead to the formation of blooms in August and September. These pictures are from The NYS DEC HAB identification page:



Figure 3. Examples of Blue-Green Algae, Brightly Colored Scum, Appearing Like Spilled Paint.

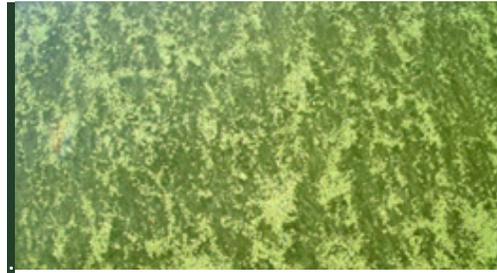
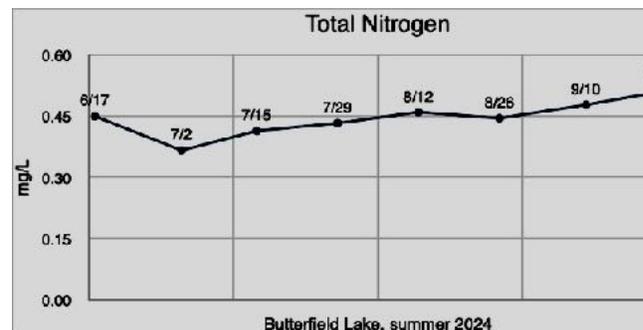


Figure 4. Blue-Green, Appearing Like Pea Soup.

Exposure to any cyanobacteria HABs can cause health effects in people and animals when water with HABs is touched or swallowed, or when airborne droplets are inhaled. This is true regardless of toxin levels. Some cyanobacteria produce toxins, while others do not. Exposure to HABs or toxins can cause symptoms such as diarrhea, nausea or vomiting, skin, eye, or throat irritation, and allergic reactions or breathing difficulties. People and pets should avoid contact with HABs and rinse off with clean water if contact occurs.

Some CSLAP data from Butterfield Lake collected in 2024 showing key nutrients

The chart below shows total nitrogen analyzed in surface water samples in 2024. Our volunteer sampling usually starts in June so the early runoff of nutrients going into the lake are missed. Nitrogen is the limiting element in the spring, leading to green algae blooms that are observed May-July. CSLAP data over the years shows that our nitrogen nutrient levels are slightly improving over many years, but we still have plenty of nitrogen to support the springtime

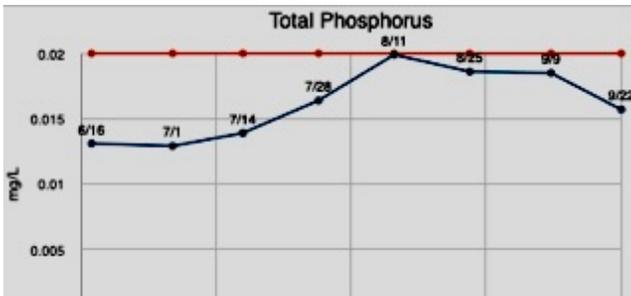


blooms.

The chart on the next page shows total phosphorus analyzed in surface water samples in 2024. The red line is the accepted scientific limit differentiating a mesotrophic lake from an eutrophic Lake.

CSLAP data cont'd

Lakes with an intermediate level of plant and algae productivity are called mesotrophic lakes. These lakes have medium-level nutrients and usually clear water. Eutrophic lakes have high productivity and are generally more cloudy with lots of weeds and algae. Butterfield Lake is a mesotrophic lake bordering on eutrophic. Over the years, our CSLAP data has shown slight improvements in all the key variables like phosphorus.



Summary

Butterfield Lake has green algae blooms in the spring due to higher levels of runoff washing excess nutrients into the lake. The water is generally too cold for the formation of blue-green HABS in the spring and early summer. Once the water warms up and we have hot days with calm winds, we can get blue-green HABS forming along the shoreline and sometimes in the middle of the lake. Since our water quality is improving gradually, we have had fewer HABS than we experienced in the last decade. If you are interested in a couple simple free tests you can perform on an algae bloom, check out this article from The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/wq-swm1-04.pdf>.

2026 BLCOA Annual Picnic by Lori Porte

Plans are already underway for the 2026 BLCOA Annual Picnic! Here are a few things to look forward to:

- The date in August has been tricky for some families due to schools that start earlier than those in NYS, so we were able to move our date up to the last weekend in July for 2026, so mark your calendars for July 25 and the rain date is July 26.
- For 2026, we are also working on offering more fun for kids, and we have a new local musician coming, Kaydence Timmerman.

- The raffle baskets for 2026 will be reduced to five or six big baskets, featuring food, beverages, indoor activities, outdoor activities, and fishing equipment, so please focus raffle donations on these categories.
- For the live auction, we are always interested in special experiences and larger items that can be used at your cottages, and our professional auction family, the Deacons, have graciously agreed to be our auctioneers!
- The Sweet Walk (formally the cake walk) and gift-card raffle will reappear for 2026.

Victoria Storey-Artist

I have been coming to beautiful Butterfield Lake for 53 years, and I have been painting since childhood. My paintings are inspired by my love of God and his creation in nature.

At my page at Fine Art America, you will find prints of my past work featuring beautiful vistas, animals, butterflies, birds, structures, and much more done in watercolors, acrylics, and pastels: <https://fineartamerica.com/profiles/victoria-storey/shop/framed+prints>.

My original works and more recent signed and numbered giclee prints can be purchased directly from me by email at VLStorey71@gmail.com or text 315-750-0169.

Currently, I am working in beautifully fluid watercolors, where I find joy in creating nature scenes, portraits, animals, and structures, such as cottages.

I would be happy to work with you to bring to life a favorite photo of your cottage!

Blessings to you,
Victoria Storey

Below and on the next page are paintings of cottages on Butterfield Lake done by Victoria Storey:



Our Little Oasis, Cottage #37- Owned by James and Nancy Jurewicz

Victoria Storey cont'd



*Beavers' Retreat,
Cottage #78B-
Owned by Bob and
Alice Andrews*

The BLCOA Website Is Up and Running by Lori Porte

After many hours of effort by Tom Pasquini and Samantha Stamps, we now have a wonderful website featuring our newsletters, summer calendar, boater safety information, water quality reports, fishing derby results, membership information, a section for cottage histories, and much much more. Please check it out at ButterfieldLake.com and if interested, share your cottage history using the contact page.

2025 BLCOA Fishing Derby Results by John Baker

Kids Category

Bass

- 1st- Logan Nalen, 22 1/2" Largemouth
- 2nd- Samuel Deacons, 16 7/8" Largemouth
- 3rd- Ike Alexander, 16" Largemouth



Logan Nalen
Grandson of
Norm and Sue
Tessier, Cottage
#84

Ike and Cole Alexander
sons of Craig and Amy
Alexander, Cottage #5



Pike

- 1st- Maverick Deacons, 26" Pike
- 2nd- River Deacons, 25 1/4" Pike

Panfish

- 1st- Lily Deacons, 10 3/4"
- 2nd- Elisha Deacons, 9 3/4" Perch
- 3rd- Ike Alexander, 9 1/2" Perch



The Deacons Family from Left to Right
Maverik, Lily, River, Samuel, Titus, Elisha
Grandchildren of James and Joyce Deacons, Cottage #77

Adult Category

Bass

- 1st- Dave Morris, 19" Smallmouth
- 2nd- Darren Jurewicz, 17 7/8" Largemouth
- 3rd- **TIE** Jessica Middlebrooks & Thomas Baker, 17" Largemouth



Dave Morris,
Cottage #100

Pike

- 1st- Scott Connolly, 30" Pike
- 2nd- Jessica Middlebrooks, 26 3/4" Pike
- 3rd- Jessica Middlebrooks, 24 1/8" Pike

Scott and Dexter
Connolly,
Cottage #93



Panfish (no photo available)

- 1st- **TIE** Jim Jurewicz 10 1/16" Perch & Angelia Jennejohn 10 1/16" Crappie
- 2nd- Nancy Jurewicz 10" Crappie
- 3rd- Brittany Nickles 9 5/16" Perch

Thanks to all who joined us for the fishing derby. The BLCOA extends special thanks to John Baker, Steve Wysocki, and derby photographer Angelia Jennejohn.

In Memory of Those Who Passed

Sadly, two young people who were children of cottage owners passed away this year. Emily Robertson, daughter of Denise and Ed Robertson, cottage #103, passed away at the age of 46 on May 13, and Matthew Borkman, son of Jim and Gail Borkman, cottage #98, passed away at the age of 41 on July 29.



Emily Robertson

Emily was a gifted writer and brilliant photographer with a deep passion for nature and travel. Despite having canoed and hiked national parks across the country and in Kenya and Peru, Emily referred to Butterfield Lake as her “favorite place on earth.” Emily and her children, Drew and Eli, enjoyed swimming, kayaking, tubing, and skiing at the lake every summer.

Em had a kind and empathetic nature blended with a pithy sense of humor and an infectious laugh. Along the path of her life, she easily made lasting relationships wherever she went.



Matthew Borkman

Matthew Borkman so looked forward to visiting the lake each year with his daughter, Cali. From his earliest years, he found peace and joy casting his line from the dock, participating in the annual fishing derby, and spending countless hours soaking in the beauty of what he called “his little slice of heaven.”

Matthew’s love for Butterfield Lake ran deep, as did his affection for the community that made it so special. He cherished the time spent here with friends and family, the laughter, and the simple pleasures that life on the lake offered.

Though they are no longer with us, Emily’s and Matt’s spirits will always be part of these waters and the memories we share at the lake.

The BLCOA extends heartfelt sympathy to Emily’s and Matthew’s families. Their presence will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by all who knew them.

Photo Contests by Lori Porte

For a few years, several Butterfield Lake cottage owners have submitted photos to a Rochester-based photo contest at a nature store called The Bird House. This year, Joe and Edie Pasquini's granddaughter, Anna, won 2nd place for the judges choice and 2nd place for the people's choice in the pet category! Anna received \$100 in gift certificates for her photo taken of Joe and Edie's pup, Molly. (See photo below)



We do not know the name of this dog and its owner. Reach out to us if you know who is having a good time on the paddle board.



If you have any pictures of your pet enjoying Butterfield Lake, please send your pet's photo to Edie Pasquini via email at edie.pasquini@gmail.com.

You can see all the 2025 winners at this link:

<https://www.thebirdhouseny.com/winners-of-the-2025-bird-house-photo-contest/>

The Indian River Lakes Conservancy (IRLC) also has a fun photo contest posted on their Facebook page.

If you have photos taken this fall, submit them to info@indianriverlakes.org by December 15.

Pet Column

The two pets selected for this issue of the newsletter enjoy riding on paddle boards. Both photos were taken by Janet Stamps.



Ottis is owned by Norm and Sue Tessier, Cottage #84

BLCOA 2026 SUMMER CALENDAR

Board Meetings

IRLC Office Building May 30, June 27, September 12 at 9:00am

Annual Meeting

Catholic Church, Redwood

Saturday, July 4

Social Hour 8:30am

Meeting 9:00am

Boat Parade

Saturday, July 4, 4:00pm,

Staging at the Town Dock

Come as you are or decorate yourselves and your boat.

Live Concert

Nate Lazarchuck's Band, Another Round

Location: Peter's Point, #49

Saturday, July 11, 4:00pm

Rain date, July 12

Bob Jennejohn Memorial Amateur Fishing Derby

Sunrise, July 18 until Noon, July 19

BLCOA Annual Picnic

Hosts: Hillbacks and Dengs

Location: Camp Linda Vista, #29

Saturday, July 25, 1:00-4:00pm

Rain date: Sunday July 26

Music by Kaydence Timmerman

Cost: Free

Bring a large salad or other sides to serve 12 (NOT desserts or main dishes).

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

Ladies Tea and Gift Exchange

To be announced in the Spring Newsletter

Butterfield Lake Cottage Owners Association (BLCOA) Membership Form

January 1, 2026 - December 31, 2026

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 CottageNumber(s) _____

Cottage Name _____

Last Name _____

First Name _____

Winter Mailing Address _____

Summer Mailing Address _____

5 Digit Cottage 9-1-1 number/Address _____

(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 _____