
BLCOA NEWSLETTER SPRING 2026

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Call 315-785-2231 for:

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Sport License Information

Wildlife Concerns

Unsafe Boating Concerns



Palinkas Family and Friends During the July 6, 2025
Boat Parade Cottage # 9

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 by Joe Pasquini

A Brief Update:

I spent a considerable amount of time this winter working on understanding the DEC's plan to close the public boat launch and parking lot (see below), thus I didn't spend time researching other topics for this newsletter. However, I would like to highlight some accomplishments from the previous season:

- The BLCOA Committee on Walleye Stocking Feasibility provided a comprehensive report and power point presentation explaining why it is not feasible to stock with larger walleye. That power point is available by request.
- Our BLCOA official website is now available. There you can find copies of our newsletters, water quality testing results, activities calendar, and more: <https://www.butterfieldlake.com>
- We provided a new and popular design of t-shirts and sweatshirts last summer. The design will be available on coffee mugs at the annual meeting on Saturday morning, July 4th, and at the annual picnic, July 25 (Rain Date July 26).



Front and Back of Mugs

- Bat houses were distributed in hopes to help with the restoration of bats who have been threatened world-wide due primarily to white-nose fungus, and to help with pest control, especially mosquitos.
- The fourth annual lake-side concert continued to draw many cottage owners to enjoy the music of Another Round at Peter's Point. The fifth annual lake-side concert is planned for Saturday, July 11 (Rain date: Sunday, July 12).
- Our newsletters continue to be interesting and informative. Our Fall 2025 newsletter was submitted to the New York State Federation of Lake Associations (NYSFOLA) for their annual newsletter contest and won second place.

- The 2025 Annual BLCOA picnic and fundraiser was a success. We made several donations to local emergency departments, food banks, conservation scholarships, and conservation efforts.

My plans to research and provide information for the BLCOA's Fall Newsletter are:

- Historic information about the WalGene fishing camps at the lake from 1910-1921 owned by Wallace and Georgene Wright.
- Information about ticks: bites and how to protect yourself.
- Information about pileated woodpeckers and their behavior.

Information Regarding DEC Plans for State Launch

On the next page, please see a letter from the DEC detailing their plans to close the parking lot and boat launch at the head of the lake for three months from June 1 to August 31, 2026.

I spent countless hours this winter working on communication, attending meetings, and researching since learning about the planned closure.

My goal was to learn what the complete plan is in order to assure cottage owners that there would be emergency access, as well as access for renters, boats needing service, and day-users, as well as there will be no harm to the environment.

My first request for details was sent to the DEC on October 7, 2025. Since then, I sent several requests for details. Finally, on February 20, 2026, I received the letter that you will find on page 3 of this newsletter.

After receiving the letter, I attended a meeting on February 24 with the DEC and Town Supervisor Brent Sweet. I then wrote a letter to the DEC which I copied to the Towns of Alexandria and Theresa, NYS Senator Walczyk, and NYS Representative Gray in response to that meeting.

On page 4, please see my written response to the DEC regarding that February meeting.



KATHY HOCHUL
Governor
AMANDA LEFTON
Commissioner

February 20, 2026

Dear Butterfield Lake Property Owner:

I am writing to inform you of an upcoming temporary closure of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Butterfield Lake Boat Launch. The closure is necessary to complete much-needed rehabilitation work at the site.

The project will include several improvements designed to make the boat launch safer and more functional. Planned upgrades include: a new concrete ramp and abutment with a floating dock, shoreline stabilization around the ramp, pavement with striping that includes American with Disabilities (ADA) compliant van and vehicle with trailer parking spaces, ADA access aisles, and a port-a-john.

To complete the work safely and efficiently, the boat launch will be closed for a portion of the summer with an anticipated closure date of June 1. DEC will conduct the rehabilitation as quickly as possible to minimize disruption while ensuring the work is completed properly and safely. DEC anticipates the new and improved launch will be available for use by the public in early fall.

DEC recognizes the importance of lake access for homeowners, businesses, and the broader community. We are aware that there are no alternative public boat launch sites on Butterfield Lake. Therefore, DEC will provide advanced notice of the closure and construction schedule so that property owners and lake users have sufficient time to make arrangements, including getting boats into the water for the season.

We appreciate your patience and cooperation as we work to improve this facility for long-term public use and safety. Additional updates will be provided as more information becomes available.

If you have questions regarding this project, please contact Jana Lantry, DEC Region 6 Fisheries Manager at 315-785-2263 or jana.lantry@dec.ny.gov.

Sincerely,

Jana Lantry
DEC Region 6 Fisheries Manager

Summary in Four Categories of the Letter I Sent in Response to the February 24, 2026 Meeting I Attended with the DEC by Joe Pasquini

1. Access & Operational Concerns

- The planned construction (June 1–Aug 31, 2026) provides no lake access for emergency responders, cottage owners, renters, or visitors.
- The DEC’s day-use-only parking policy leaves boat-access-only property owners without long-term parking or an alternative launch.
- Private marinas cannot accommodate displaced users; their launches are not available without docking agreements, and the condition of the launches is not good for alternate public daily use.
- The closure impacts emergency response, rental properties, boat servicing, and day-use recreation.
- I requested that the DEC provide temporary alternate boat access during construction.

2. Communication & Policy Issues

- The DEC did not provide timely or adequate notification of the construction plan.
- Multiple requests for details went unanswered before bids were solicited.
- At the Feb. 24 meeting, the DEC representatives were perceived as defensive and dismissive, stating issues are “your problem,” meaning “my problem.”
- There is a need for clarification on whether the launch is officially fishing-access-only, as this affects public use and newsletter communication. If recreational use is prohibited, the Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation should consider adding an adjacent facility.

3. Emergency Access Planning

- Because the DEC did not plan for emergency access, the BLCOA will coordinate with the Butterfield Lake Boat Owners Association (BLBOA) to explore

temporary emergency-only use of their private launch.

- The BLBOA’s launch is small, in poor condition, and lacks parking for public use.
- I expressed that coordination is needed with EMS, fire, and police departments, including maps, GPS coordinates, an on-site meeting, and signage.

4. Environmental & Regulatory Concerns

- I have questions about dredging permit requirements and whether excavated materials must be tested for contaminants (lead, arsenic, mercury, PFAS [per-polyfluoroalkyl substances, synthetic chemicals]).
- I am concerned that the south end of the lake was deemed “clean” without adequate sampling. BLCOA coliform sampling shows extremely high levels of coliform at the base of the falls (12,000 vs. 200 at the top).
- Because we need to understand sediment sources and impact, I requested that the soil be sampled before excavation to determine proper disposal.
- I requested for the site-specific environmental plan addressing stop-work orders, storm events, concrete washout, fueling/storage, spill reporting, site security, off-site soil storage, and noise/idle-time management.
- FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) requests to be submitted for permits, property records, environmental conditions, and prior marina decisions.

I requested a responses or updates on all of the above by April 1 to meet the April 11 newsletter deadline; at least, all information is needed before June 1, the beginning of construction.

Rooted in Purpose

(Originally Published on the Indian River Lakes Conservancy [IRLC] website at <https://indianriverlakes.org/keeping-irlc-rooted-in-purpose/>—September 29, 2025—
Reprinted with Permission from the IRLC
By Katie Syring

Last September, Dani Baker and volunteer Anthony Pittala visited the IRLC Redwood office to tend to the demonstration garden planted in 2024 with native perennial edibles. In just one hour, they weeded, trimmed, applied mulch, and installed a rabbit fence: simple steps that provide all the maintenance the plot will need for the year.

The garden was designed to demonstrate how waterfront property owners can landscape with native plants that:

- Prevent erosion and protect water quality
- Require minimal maintenance
- Provide healthy, delicious food

The plot now features an American plum tree, along with elderberry, honeyberry, aronia berry, juneberry, thimbleberry, and juniper bushes, with wild and alpine strawberries as groundcover. Together, these plants create a sustainable and productive landscape that benefits both people and the environment.

Dani's work is a reminder of how conservation, education, and innovation can come together to protect the Indian River Lakes region for generations to come.

Thank you, Dani, for sharing your knowledge and commitment with IRLC and our community. To reach out to Dani please email her at:

danibaker@crossislandfarms.com



Dani and Anthony in Front of Their Garden

IRLC Spring and Summer Events Calendar

Stewardship Day

April 18—9:30am-12:00pm
Baker Woods Preserve

Birds, Bugs, and Blossoms Hike

May 2—10:00am-12:00pm
Grand Lake Reserve Parking Lot 2

Water Quality Conference

June 5—8:30am-4:30pm
Redwood Hill Preserve

The Places We Call Home

July 10—5:30pm-8:00pm
The Iva Smith Memorial Gallery of Fine Arts

Celebration of the Lakes

August 2—2:00pm-5:00pm
Thousand Islands Winery

TILT's and IRLC's Lake Kayak Trek

September 26—9:00am-12:30pm
Location To Be Determined, Stay Tuned

For more details on these activities, please visit:
<https://indianriverlakes.org/calendar/>

Trivia Question: How many miles of shoreline does Butterfield Lake have? See answer on Page 7.

2026 BLCOA Annual Picnic by Lori Porte

Here's what you can look forward to for the BLCOA 2026 annual picnic:

- The date is July 25 and the rain date is July 26
- There will be more fun activities for kids
- Music will be provided by Kaydence Timmerman
- There will be 5 or 6 Raffle baskets (Please collect and donate items for indoor cottage fun, outdoor cottage fun, including nature exploration, fishing, golf, tools, grilling, snacking, and enjoying food and beverages together at breakfast, lunch, dinner, etc.)
- We are also seeking live-auction items, like those special experiences at your cottages, on your boat, etc., and larger items to use here at the lake. Our professional auctioneer and cottage owner, Jim Deacons, has graciously agreed to be our auctioneer again this year.
- We will create the raffle board of gift certificates again this year as well.

2026 BLCOA Annual Picnic by Lori Porte cont'd

- The Sweet Walk (formally the cake walk) will reappear for 2026.
- Donations and RSVP's can be provided to Lori Porte at: 585-766-0353 or Angelia Jennejohn at: 716-308-1646.

Please enjoy shopping, dining, and engaging in activities at the following business establishments that supported our 2025 picnic:

Butterfield Lake Cottage Owners with Businesses

- Busler Construction & Sanitation-Theresa
- Crossroads Auction Center-Brewerton
- Route 37 Building Supply-Redwood
- Victoria Storey <https://fineartamerica.com/profiles/victoria-storey/shop/framed+prints>

Alexandria Bay 1000 Islands Winery

- Alex Bay 500 Go Carts & Miniature Golf
- Cavallario's Steak & Seafood House
- Coleman's Dock of the Bay
- Dark Island Spirits Distillery
- The North Star Family Restaurant
- The Ship Gift Shop
- Uncle Sam Boat Tours
- Whiskey Wagon Saloon

Clayton

- 1,000 Islands Cruet Gourmet Olive Oils and Vinegars
- Channelside
- Clipper Inn Restaurant & Lounge
- DeLuke's Garden Center
- The Hops Spot
- Michael Ringer Gallery
- River Golf Adventures
- River Rat Cheese Shop
- River Wellness Center
- River Yoga-Philadelphia
- Martin's Country Store
- Martin's Produce & Greenhouse

Ogdensburg

- John Morrow Art Studio

Plessis

- Windy Acres Garden Center

Redwood

- Eclipse Hair Salon
- Felder's Ice Cream and Convenience Store
- JK's Roadhouse
- The Honey Pot Cafe
- White Caps Convenience Store

Wellesley Island

Thousand Island Country Club

Many thanks also to all of our cottage owners who helped out and donated in 2025!

Photos Taken During the 2025 Picnic

Provided by Nadine and Karen Gardner-Bald



Ike Alexander showing off his Wally Walley Award



Lydia, Tessa, Spenser and Tom Deng with their auction winnings

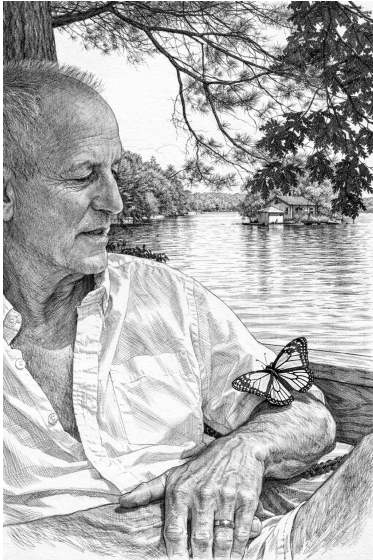


Goodies donated for the Sweet Walk

Piñata Game



In Memory of a Cottage Owner who Passed

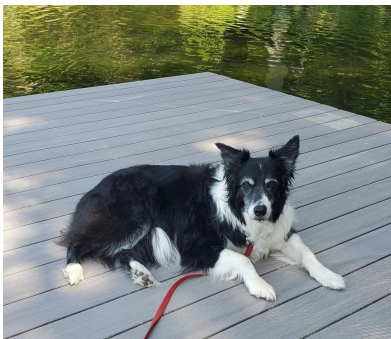


Jerry Enjoying the Lake

Jerry O'Brien, long time Butterfield Lake cottage owner, passed away this year. The BLCOA sends our most heartfelt sympathies to his wife Tammi, his daughters, Allison and Danielle, and their families and friends.

See Obituary at <https://piddockfuneralhome.com/tribute/details/440>

Pet Column by Edie Pasquini



This issue of the newsletter features Jim and Gail Borkmans' dog, Angel. She loves spending time at Butterfield Lake, laying in the sun on the dock, boat rides, chasing sticks and walks on the Redwood Hill Preserve Trail.

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

Answer to Trivia Question from Page 5:

Per the DEC, the miles of shoreline of Butterfield lake are 13.3 miles

Thank You Joe!



BLCOA President Joe Pasquini

The BLCOA extends many thanks for Joe Pasquini's year-round work as president of the association. Joe spends countless hours overseeing every area of significance to the quality of our lake experience, including the lake ecology, safety, social health, and engagement with external organizations.

An example of this is the endless hours he has spent representing the Butterfield Lake cottage owners by communicating to the DEC officials regarding the impact the closure of the boat launch will have on us all.

Joe's unceasing efforts are greatly appreciated.

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-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

Hosts: Janet Stamps and Kay Bolivar

Location: Bolivar's Lakeview Lodge, Cottage #2

Saturday, August 1, 2:00pm

Bring a candle for a gift exchange and a small plate of your favorite food to share.

RSVP by texting or calling Kay at: 505-412-2885

2026 Bob Jennejohn Memorial Amateur Fishing Derby

Butterfield Families, Friends & Guests Invited to Enter!

**Sunrise Saturday, July 18th
to NOON Sunday, July 19th**

Enter LEGAL size fish to be measured at the TOWN DOCK

from 5 to 5:30 PM Saturday & from NOON to 12:30 Sunday

Prizes Awarded at BLCOA Picnic three weeks later on July 25 (Rain date is July 26)
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)
Bring to the Annual Meeting or to a Weigh-in

Name: _____

Cottage # _____

Phone: _____

ADULT
Age

RETURN THIS SECTION WITH

\$5.00 entry fee (CASH only)
Bring to the Annual Meeting or to a Weigh-in

Name: _____

Cottage # _____

Phone: _____

Youth
age 0-15

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 Cottage Number(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 _____