

**BLIMP**  
**P. O. Box 0494**  
**E. Wakefield, NH 03830**

**2018 – 2019 Annual Report**

March 2019

Happy spring to all. This report will summarize the BLIMP activity for the summer of 2018 and set goals for the upcoming 2019 season.

Invasive Variable Milfoil Management and Mitigation

BLIMP's mission has always been to mitigate the impact of invasive variable milfoil by controlling its spread via DASH (Diver Assisted Suction Harvest) and herbicide treatments where allowed. We know that we will never eliminate the plant, but we strive to reduce it as much as possible. We carry out this mission abiding by the rules and regulations of both Maine and New Hampshire.

And, we all know that 2018 was a tough year with expansive growth of all plant materials not only in Balch, but also across the entire region. As our divers reported, the water was warmer earlier in the season providing the plants with ample opportunity to grow.

During the month of June the herbicide 2,4-D was applied to 4+ acres. This was the second year that such a small area was treated. The decision to treat such a small area was partially due to a concern that 2,4,D was effecting not only variable milfoil, but also other native species.

The DASH operation spring season was from May 16<sup>th</sup> through June 15<sup>th</sup>. The fall season ran from September 5<sup>th</sup> through October 5<sup>th</sup>. There were also 4 DASH days in July and August.

Yearly Yields:	2012	6,000 lbs. removed
	2013	9,225 lbs. removed
	2014	11,600 lbs. removed
	2015	8,876 lbs. removed
	2016	7,871 lbs. removed
	2017	15,381 lbs. removed
	2018	22,125 lbs. removed (based on 295 barrels @ 75 lb/barrel)

2018 was a record year. As mentioned above, the warm spring water temperatures allowed very prolific growth. A new significant growth area was located off Sunset Beach in Shady Nook. The river mouth area was so impacted by milfoil growth that a third person was brought on board in early October to assist with transferring harvested milfoil from DASH boat to shore. On September 27<sup>th</sup> a record 35 barrels were pulled.

The communications gear purchased in 2016 continues to be a very effective method to allow the diver in the water to communicate with the surface. In 2018 we purchased a new mask with the comms gear embedded within it. We continued to struggle with getting a 2<sup>nd</sup> on-deck person on the DASH boat as required by OSHA.

With all that in mind, your BLIMP crew has been gearing up for the 2019 season with the following anticipated:

- DASH boat spring operations will begin on May 13<sup>th</sup> for one month. The fall season will run for one month beginning after Labor Day. There are also plans to operate several weekends in July and August. We have budgeted for 72 DASH operations days which will include 2 divers and 1 on-deck crew member. Steve Church, our lead diver, is assisting us with finding both the 2<sup>nd</sup> diver and the on-deck crew member.
- DASH operations this year will be supervised by Kathleen Lisbon, a BLIMP board member and life-long resident of Balch. Kathleen, a project manager for Starbucks, will be in daily contact with Steve Church to set the daily priorities and assist with any concerns or issues. Kathleen is also actively seeking volunteers to assist with the DASH operations.
- Herbicide application is a joint effort with the NH Department of Environmental Services and SOLitude Lake Management. This year, BLIMP's NH DES grant has authorized up to 75 acres with either 2-4-D or a new herbicide ProcellaCOR which has been shown to be highly effective over a longer period of time with much less effect on other plant species. We have budgeted to treat approximately 25-30 acres with ProcellaCOR. (Please see attached case study from SOLitude management) The final determination of exact locations and acreage will be made in conjunction with NH-DES's spring on-water survey. The tentative date for treatment is June 10, 2019.

### Funding and Financials

All of our efforts to manage variable milfoil can only take place if we continue to succeed in fund raising. Our funding comes from three primary sources: 1) camp contributions, 2) state and local governments, and 3) BLIMP fund raisers.

#### Camp contributions:

2012: 446 camps (64% of all camps) contributed \$14,665 (average contribution \$32.88)

2013: 348 camps (50% of all camps) contributed \$12,860 (average contribution \$36.95)

2014: 383 camps (55% of all camps) contributed \$13,356 (average contribution \$34.87)

2015: 405 camps (58% of all camps) contributed \$17,986 (average contribution \$44.41)

2016: 396 camps (57% of all camps) contributed \$27,250 (average contribution \$68.81)

2017: 400 camps (57% of all camps) contributed \$27,185 (average contribution \$67.96)

2018: 469 camps (75% of all camps) contributed \$ 32,356 (average contribution \$68.99)

\*\* As a result of the spring association representative meeting, we have been gathering more detailed information of the % contributions within associations. (That data will be presented at the 2019 association representative meeting). In doing this work there were 19 camps identified with no association affiliation. A letter requesting contributions was sent to those camp owners resulting in 15 contributions totaling \$1800.

#### State and local government contributions:

- Maine Department of Environmental Protection
  - 2018 contributions via two grants:
    - \$ 7275 for plant management (DASH operations)
    - \$ 750 for Courtesy Boat Inspections (CBI)
  - 2019 grant applications:
    - \$ 9498 awarded for plant management control (DASH operations)
    - Not awarded yet - Courtesy Boat Inspections (CBI)
- New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

- 2018 contributions via one grant for herbicide treatment
  - \$ 3061 based on 25 % reimbursement
- 2019 grant approved for two areas
  - Herbicide –25 % reimbursement of approved acres treated up to 75 acres
  - DASH operations – 25 % reimbursement for up to 30 DASH days of operation to a maximum of \$ 3465. This is the first year that NH-DES has awarded BLIMP this grant
- Local governments
  - 2018
    - Acton, ME - \$ 5000
    - Newfield, ME - \$ 2000
    - Wakefield, NH - \$ 7500
  - 2019 – requests are pending

Fund raising contributions:

- 2018 activities included:
 

○ Calendar sales	\$ 793
○ Shady Nook Bake Sale	\$ 858
○ Boat Parade	\$ 120
○ Amazon SMILE	\$ 154
○ Poker Run	\$ 783
○ Fish Stock	\$ 525
○ Donation Box	\$ 298
- 2019 activities planned include all of the above plus a yard sale/auction as well as possible “swim for BLIMP” and craft fair.
- Please continue to use Amazon Smile. It works and it is easy to use. Just bookmark <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/42-1554346> and shop away!

Important Dates

- 05/18 – 9-11 am – BLIMP Crew (Board) meeting
- 06/08 – 9-11 am – BLIMP Association Rep meeting
- 06/10 – tentative – SOLitude dispersement of herbicide in NH approved areas
- 07/06 – 2-4 pm – Boat Parade
- 07/21 – early morning – Swim for Balch
- 07/27 – morning – Auction/Yard sale
- 07/27 – 6-10pm - Fishstock
- 08/17 – morning – Bake/Craft sale
- TBD – Boat Poker Run

BLIMP on the Web:

Last year we introduced BLIMP to Facebook. This year we are bringing back a web site. Wyman Point’s Jack McAdam has graciously agreed to be our webmaster. The site is currently under construction. Email notification will be sent when the site is up and running.

Here are the links:

<http://balchlake.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/BMENH/>

## Volunteerism

This is the year it finally has happened - Nick Statdfeld has been allowed to retire as vice president of BLIMP and get back to his golf game. Nick will continue as a valued advisor to BLIMP. His experience, knowledge and love of Balch Lake will never be matched. There are not enough ways to say, "Thank you", but please try. Give him a shout-out to let him know how much his work has been appreciated.

While transitioning away from Nick's leadership we are very grateful to Kathleen Lisbon for stepping up to manage the day-to-day coordination with the on-water DASH activities. Kathleen's whole career has been focused on project management with much of it being done with remote locations. Additionally, Kathleen has been on Balch for most of her life. She's actively involved as a BLIMP crew (board) member as well as helping organize the annual boat parade and our new boat poker run.

Another new addition to the BLIMP crew is Linda (Linny) Seaver. Little did Linnie know what showing up at the BLIMP association meeting might mean! In addition to co-leading the Boat Parade, Linny was the person who initiated the very successful boat poker run. She joined the BLIMP Crew (board) last year and is helping coordinate fund raising activities.

Another long-time member of the BLIMP Crew, Dennis Racine has retired as an official board member, but will continue to serve as an advisor. Dennis will continue to assist with boat maintenance and storage as well as still allowing us to dump milfoil on his property. Like Nick, Dennis has years and years of DASH knowledge and experience. Many, many thanks for all Dennis has done and will quietly continue to do.

After several years as secretary, Cindy Matuszewski is ready for a break as she helps her son Jack prepare to head off to college. Many thanks for her contributions to BLIMP. And, that, of course, means that we are looking for a new secretary. If you are interested or know someone who might be, please contact Sue Jackman at [sjackman123@gmail.com](mailto:sjackman123@gmail.com).

One of our other helpers is Nancy Charest who manages the schedule for the net cleaning. Be looking for the 2019 net schedule to be available at the annual meeting.

Another quiet contributor is Jack McAdam who donated his cottage in Wyman Point Association for the divers to use in both the spring and fall season. Jack has also agreed to be our webmaster.

Thanks to all who are so passionate about keeping Balch Lake the beautiful place we love.

### Some Final Notes:

- If you observe a loon nesting place please report it to Sue or Kathleen. This is very important in that there are rules we must abide by regarding our milfoil activities and the distance they must be from loon nesting sites.
- Avoid using lead sinkers as they and broken fishing lines are the number one killer of loons.
- PLEASE watch the wakes - more reports of dock, boat, wall, and shoreline damage are reported each year as a result of the large wakes.
- Any questions, comments, or needed clarifications please send them to Sue @ [sjackman123@gmail.com](mailto:sjackman123@gmail.com)

- Donations to BLIMP are greatly appreciated at any time. They may be made to BLIMP, P.O. Box 0494, E. Wakefield, NH 03830. They are tax deductible. Our federal EIN is 42-1554346. A donation form is available herewith.

Best regards,

The BLIMP Crew

Seasonal Contact Information:

Board Members:

Sue Jackman, President – 207-797-2263 (Shady Nook)  
Michael Kattman, Treasurer – 603-522-3785 (Wise Cove)  
Cindy Matuszewski, Secretary – 781-454-8790 (Shady Nook)  
Kathleen Lisbon, On Water Operations - 508-241-7850  
Linda Seaver, Fund Raising - (781) 760-7808

Advisors:

Don Pierce, Advisor - 207-636-3471 (Shady Nook)  
Lee Willson, Advisor – 978-866-4966 (Shady Nook)  
Nick Stadtfeld, Advisor – 207-636-3194 (Shady Nook)  
Dennis Racine, Advisor – 603-986-6380 (BaLak)

Jack McAdam, Webmaster – 207-459-9438 (Wyman Point)

**BLIMP Donation Form**

Please send your donation to: BLIMP  
P.O.Box 0494  
E. Wakefield, NH 03830

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Lake address: \_\_\_\_\_

Association: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount donated: \_\_\_\_\_

Your donation is tax deductible. BLIMP was officially organized as a non-profit on September 16, 2003. BLIMP's EIN is 42-1554346.

Many thanks from the BLIMP crew for helping to keep our lake beautiful.