



2019 – 2020 Annual Report **March 2020**

Review of 2019 Activities

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.

At BLIMP's annual officers meeting on May 18, 2019, the officers reviewed the NH-DES herbicide treatment plan which specified treating up to 75 acres with the new herbicide ProcellaCOR. After discussion which included reviewing BLIMP's financial position, the board agreed unanimously to treat the full 75 acres (that number was reduced to 64 acres after Amy Smagula's spring survey).

The week of the treatment sections of Stump Pond and the floating islands were showing variable milfoil growth close to the water's surface and multiple fragments were floating in that whole area. Many fragments were being carried by the wind and boats to lower sections of the lake.

SOLitude Lake Management's treatment with ProcellaCOR occurred on June 12, 2019. The results were dramatic. Within days of application all milfoil in the treated areas was gone.

The DASH operation spring season was from May 13th through June 14th. The fall season ran from September 4th through October 13th. The volume of milfoil pulled in the spring season was reduced from previous years largely due to harvesting much smaller plants. This combined with the ProcellaCOR meant the lake was, in general, in much better shape than the previous summer.

The spring of 2019 was very heavy on DASH boat maintenance; however, the fall season went very smoothly as a result of the spring maintenance. BLIMP's DASH crew was assisted by our friends at Lake Arrowhead especially with sharing spare parts.

It was Kathleen Lisbon's first season as the head of on-water operations. Kathleen very quickly established a great working relationship with the DASH crew and the folks at Lake Arrowhead. She implemented new documentation for harvest logs, maintenance and spare parts, electronic diver payment, hosted a certification course assuring that our crew was certified for removal of aquatic species in both Maine & NH.

- **See APPENDIX I for Harvest Details**

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 (**See Appendix II for Details**):

- 1) Camp contributions – contributions increased by \$1200. In addition, there are now 30 properties that have been identified as having no association. All 30 were mailed a request for \$50 contribution and 75% responded with at least \$ 50 contributions.
- 2) State and local governments:
 - Maine and New Hampshire both increased grant support for BLIMP. For the first time, NH-DES provided for not only herbicide treatments, but also for DASH activity.
 - The towns of Newfield and Wakefield provided the same funding in 2019 as 2018; however, the town of Acton reduced funding.
- 3) Fundraising expanded in total dollars raised (\$2900 increase) as well as the number of events. Susan Calkins started a new "Swim for Balch" event for both swimmers and kayaks. Anne & Lee Willson once again organized an incredible "Auction for BLIMP". Auction Day was one of the hottest and most humid of the whole summer, but was still supported by folks from all around the lake.

Volunteer Support

2019 was a year of wonderful volunteer participation. Some of the milestones include:

- Website – balchlake.org - Jack McAdam, our web-master, developed a new website for BLIMP. Some of its features include:
 - Listing of all upcoming activities and events
 - Images of what is happening around the lake
 - Dynamic links to all board members allowing direct email to those members
- Science Committee – At the Annual Association Representative Meeting John Castellot volunteered to develop a committee to review science related issues impacting Balch. By mid-August, John had already created a report on the science of ProcellaCOR. John also began interfacing with our contacts at both Maine & New Hampshire environmental agencies.
 - **See Attachment for ProcellaCOR report**
- Fund raising – Linny Seaver's coordination of fund raising activities has helped tremendously. She is supported by many individuals who manage the individual events including: Anne & Lee Willson (Auction); Elaine Hall (Bake Sale); Gary Poisson (Fish Stock Concert); Susan Calkins (Swim for Balch); Mike Moscaritolo (Calendars). In addition, Linny and Kathleen Lisbon coordinate the Annual Boat Parade & Boat Poker Run. Many thanks to Tracey Gibson for ongoing support from the Balch Lake Marina.
- On Water Support - Kathleen has had the quiet support of many people with tasks such as taking the DASH dock in and out. Dennis Racine assisted with DASH boat commissioning, decommissioning, and storage. Kathleen and the DASH crew want to thank Jack and Ellen McAdam for once again allowing our dive crew to use their camp for the whole DASH season.
- Net Cleaning – this was the last year that Nancy Charest managed the Net Cleaning Schedule. Many thanks for her devotion to this quiet, but important function.
- Secretary – after several years as BLIMP secretary Cindy Matuszewski decided it was time to let someone else assume the secretary position. Many thanks to Cindy & welcome to Bruce & Denise Bowden of the Ridge. They have stepped up & will be our co-secretaries.

Thanks to all who helped make it a great year. Not only does it help get the tasks done, it is also critical to our grant funding from both Maine & New Hampshire.

Planning and Goals for 2020

Invasive Variable Milfoil Management and Mitigation

DASH Operations:

- DASH boat spring operations will begin on May 13th for one month. The fall season will run for one month beginning after Labor Day. We have budgeted for 67 DASH operations days which will include 2 divers and 1 on-deck crew member. Steve Church will be back as our lead diver. Dan Ramos will return for his 3rd season as a diver. **We are currently looking for an on-deck crew member for the entire season. Please let us know if you are aware of anyone who might be interested.**
- On-Water Support Team – Kathleen begins her 2nd year in charge of all DASH operations. She is actively recruited individuals to join her newly formed “On-Water Support Team” to help with everything from dock launching to lake surveys.

Herbicide application:

- At the late August, 2019, BLIMP board meeting, all agreed that BLIMP should consider treating for variable milfoil as close to the source as possible. Specifically, discussion centered on the Mill Pond above Chick’s Dam and Woodman Pond. There was agreement to have NH- DES survey those bodies of water for treatment recommendations and grant support. Based on those results and review of projected 2020 budget, the BLIMP board voted via email correspondence to proceed with that treatment in 2020.
- The following has been approved by NH-Department of Environmental Services for herbicide treatment of ProcellaCOR:
 - Balch – 40 acres
 - Woodman & Mill (Chick’s) Pond – 15.9 acres
 - The final determination of exact locations and acreage will be made in conjunction with NH-DES’s spring on-water survey.

Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI):

- Since 2002, BLIMP has had partial financial support for Courtesy Boat Inspections from ME-DEP. Balch Lake Marina does the inspection and gets a reimbursement from BLIMP. After attending the 2019 NH-Lake Congress, Sue has researched their Lake Host program. At the August, 2019, BLIMP board meeting Sue recommended that BLIMP pursue a transition to the NH-Lakes program. The Board agreed and, at this writing, the grant application has been submitted. If the grant is accepted, this will provide an opportunity for 3-4 people to be hired as Lake Hosts for a 14 week season beginning mid-June. Tracey has been very supportive & will continue to conduct inspections in the early/late season. ME-DEP will also continue to support for the early/late season.

Funding and Financials

- Camp Contributions – we anticipate contributions to be on par with 2019
- State & Local Government
 - Maine DEP – DASH support - \$ 10,275
 - Maine DEP – CBI – reduced proportional to NH Lake Host Grant acceptance
 - NH DES – Balch – Herbicide & DASH – \$ 10,050 max
 - NH DES – Woodman & Mill Pond - \$ 5,456 max

- Both NH-DES grants are based on a 40% match (up from 25% in 2019)
 - Towns of Acton, Newfield & Wakefield – yet to be determined
 - Fundraising – we anticipate the total to be less than last year as there will be no auction. We are planning an auction again in 2021
 - **See Attachment – Schedule of Fund Raising Events**

Volunteer & Board:

- Board Committees are growing. If you are interested in any of the following committees, please contact the chair directly:
 - Fund Raising – Linny Seaver - seaverl@comcast.net
 - On-Water Operations – Kathleen Lisbon - blimp-ops@roadrunner.com
 - Science – John Castellot - John.Castellot@tufts.edu
- Bylaws – the Board has been working this winter on a re-write of the BLIMP bylaws which have not updated since 2003. The proposed changes will be sent to association representatives in April of 2020 in anticipation of discussion at the Annual Meeting

Important Dates

- **06/06 – 9-11 am – BLIMP Crew (Board) meeting**
- **06/13 – 9-11 am – BLIMP Association Rep meeting**

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
- 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!
- 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.

Best regards,

Sue Jackman
President, BLIMP

Seasonal Contact Information:

Board Members:

Sue Jackman, President – 207-797-2263 (Shady Nook)

Michael Kattman, Treasurer – 603-522-3785 (Wise Cove)

Denise & Bruce Bowden - (978) 335-7442 (The Ridge)

Kathleen Lisbon, On Water Operations - 508-241-7850 (No Association)

Linda Seaver, Fund Raising - (781) 760-7808 (No Association)

John Castellot, Science Committee - 617) 835-2660 (The Ridge)

Advisors:

Don Pierce, Advisor - 207-636-3471 (Shady Nook)

Lee Willson, Advisor – 978-866-4966 (Shady Nook)

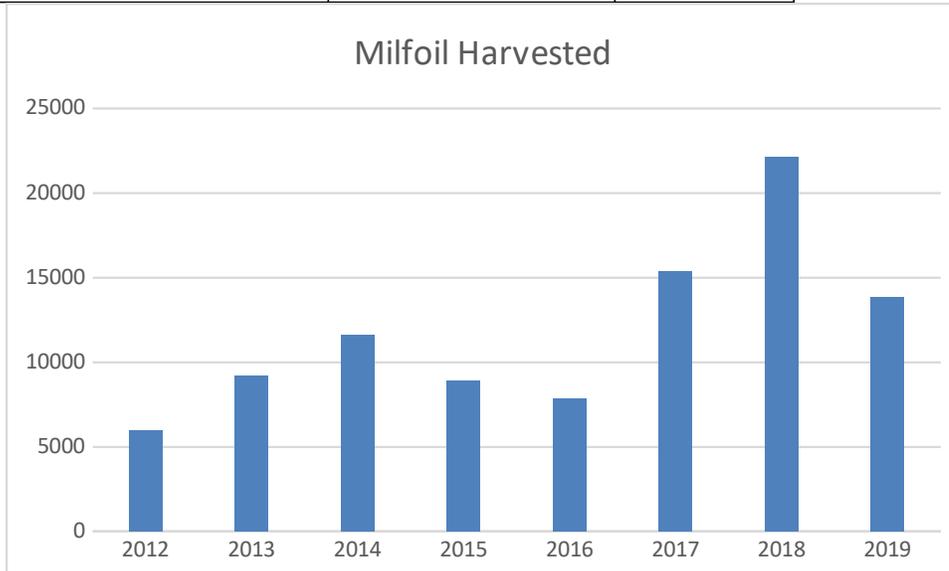
Nick Stadtfeld, Advisor – 207-636-3194 (Shady Nook)

Dennis Racine, Advisor – 603-986-6380 (BaLak)

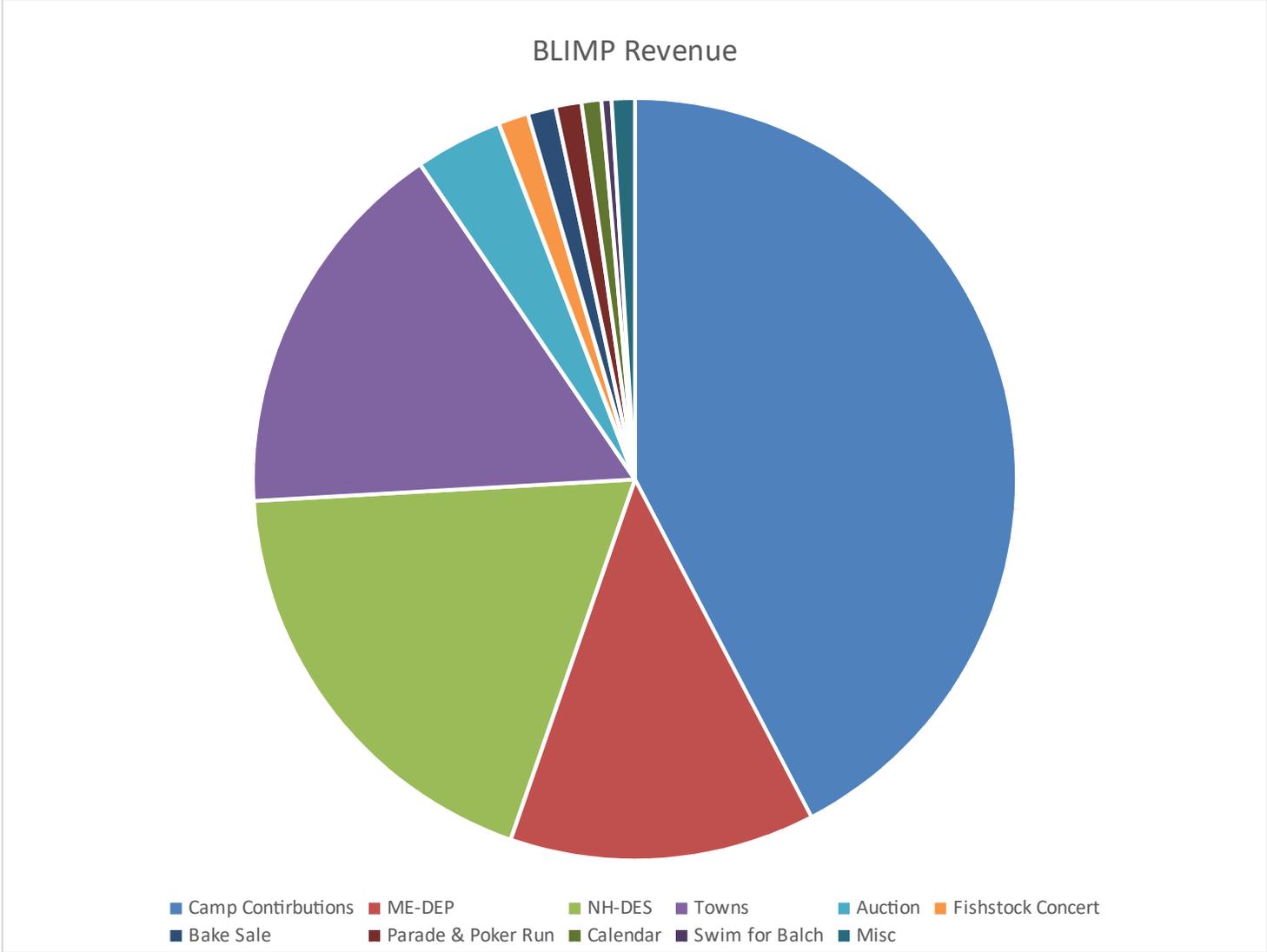
Jack McAdam, Webmaster – 207-459-9438 (Wyman Point)

Appendix I – Variable Milfoil Harvested

Year Harvested	Pounds Harvested	Barrels
2012	6,000	
2013	9,225	
2014	11,600	
2015	8,876	
2016	7,871	
2017	15,381	
2018	22,125	295
2019	13,875	185

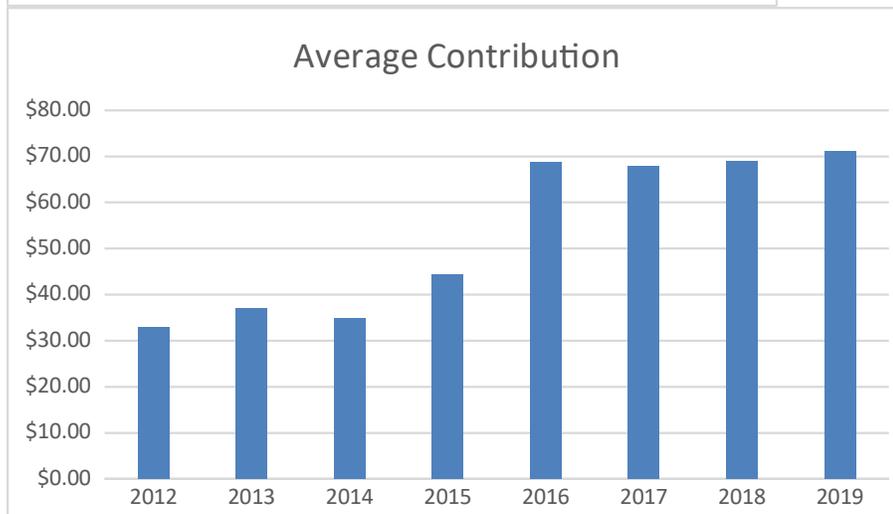
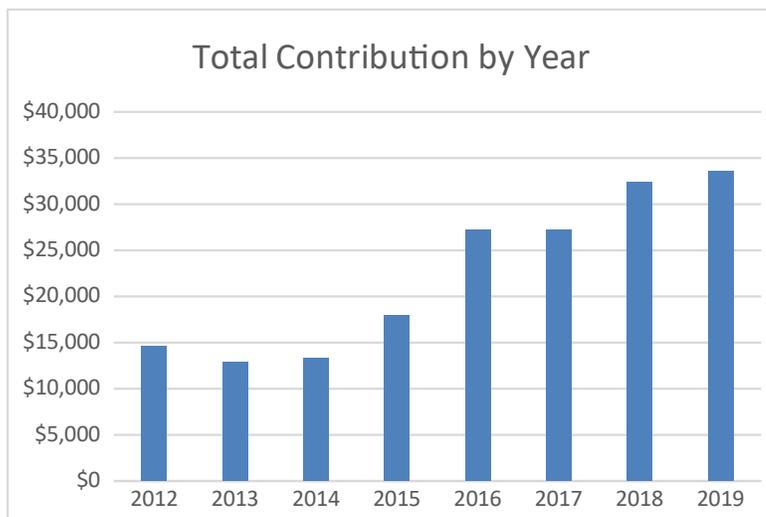


Appendix II – Revenue:



Camp Donations:

Year	Total Contribution	Camps Contributing	% of All Camps	Ave. Contribution
2012	\$14,665	446	64	\$32.88
2013	\$12,860	348	50	\$36.95
2014	\$13,356	383	55	\$34.87
2015	\$17,986	405	58	\$44.41
2016	\$27,250	396	57	\$68.81
2017	\$27,185	400	57	\$67.96
2018	\$32,356	469	67	\$68.99
2019	\$33,560	472	67	\$71.10



State & Town Funding	2017	2018	2019
ME-DEP-CBI (Courtesy Boat Inspection)	750	750	750
ME-DEP-Plant Management	5063	8963	9,498
NH-DES - Herbicide Treatment	2639	3061	10,402
NH-DES - DASH			4,515
Acton	5000	5000	3,500
Newfield	2000	2000	2,000
Wakefield	7500	7500	7,500
Total	22,952	27,274	38,165

FundRaisin

g	2017	2018	2019
Amazon Smile	157	154	189
Auction/Raffle	1,110	-	2,926
Bake Sale	537	858	943
Boat Parade	310	120	360
Boat Poker Run	-	783	510
Calendar sales	755	793	666
Donation Box	-	298	239
FISHstock	500	525	1,020
Marina concerts	883	-	
Swim for Balch			340
Miscellaneous including:	298	85	337
Sale of Beds / Maps			
Lemonade, bracelets & camp			
	4,550	3,616	7,530