



# shorelines

Published By The Balsam Lake Homeowners' Association  
A volunteer, non-profit organization serving the lake community since 1974.



**JUNE 2014**

Avg. Temp . . . .65°  
Avg. High . . . .76°

Avg. Low . . . .52°  
Avg. Rain . . . .3.5"

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*Wait for It...*



*Wait for It...*



## LET'S CELEBRATE!

Back to Summer Get Together for BLHA members at the Thirsty Otter, Saturday, May 31 from 3 to 5. Come, mingle, renew summer friendships. Free appetizers and Happy Hour Drink prices.

*"I had that familiar conviction that life was beginning over again with the summer."* F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*

An excerpt from

# Return to Wake Robin: One Cabin in the Heyday of Northwoods Resorts

By Marnie Mammaing (2012)

Finally, we were here.

And then the door swung open, and we rushed into the cabin's dim darkness.

"We get the boys' room!" my brothers yelled.

"We get the porch!" my sister and I answered.

Spanning out, we took in all our beloved details: the green breadbox with its colorful little painted maiden dancing amid her flowers; the kitchen table tacked with its red-checkered oil cloth; the white-and-black enamel stove with its antique copper kettle and tin coffeepot waiting on the back burners for a hot brew. We peeked into the bedroom to the left with the green metal double bed and matching dresser and mirror and then skipped over to the bedroom on the right with its twin beds and twigged curtain rods draped with our grandmother's original wooden-ringed cotton curtains. Satiating our curiosity that all was as we had left it, on we flowed like a troop of ants into the living room, where the eight-point buck seemed to wink a welcoming smile from his mount high over the mantle. One of us slipped the leather tong latch from the heavy wooden door's iron holder, and we streamed into the porch's lovely dampness.

Below us glistened the moonlit waters of Big Spider Lake. From our porch perch on the hill, we heard the gentle break of waves on the shoreline calling to us with its midnight splendor.

"Can we go down to the lake?" we asked our mother.

"If you go quietly," she said.

"Take this flashlight and watch each other," our father added. "I'll plug in the fuses and the lights will be on in a few minutes."

Leaving baby Mary back with our mother, the four of us joyfully stumbled down the long steps, the leader occasionally remembering to shine the flashlight forward and backward so that we all might see and not fall. Spilling out onto our dock, we surveyed the beauty of the night. By now, the moon had climbed high into the sky, outlining the magnificence of the lovely long island stretched out in front of us; to the north rested the clear silhouette of the tiny island we'd named Sunrise Island, and far across the shore blinked the yard light from Hans Roost Resort.

Most of the cabins were sleeping quietly in the dark, so we could only wonder which lake friends might be up. As we peered intently into the moonlit water, we were reassured to see the brawny boulders that served as our stepping-stones for swimming still in their rightful place.

Standing side by side in a shared sense of camaraderie, we gazed out at the dancing path of moonlight that crossed the lake to exactly where we stood on the dock, as though it were a straight link from heaven above. Tilting our heads back, we drank in the majesty of the twinkling stars sparkling against the backdrop of black velvet sky, a million times brighter than we ever saw them back home. A soft lake breeze brushed our cheeks like angel wings.

Suddenly, the lights winked on in the cabin, and our father switched on the outside light to guide our way back up.

"Come on up now," he gently called. "It's past 2 o'clock. We'll unpack the car in the morning."

Racing up the steps to our awaiting beds, we recognized even as young children, how blessed we were to be back again. Abounding gratefulness was our prayer as we climbed into chilly sheets under wool World War II blankets. Soon the quiet calm of the forest enfolded us, and the steamy cornfields that initiated our long odyssey vaporized like a dream into the cool night air.

A loon's lullaby filled the night. As we drifted off to sleep, we knew a peace like none other.

Reprinted with permission of the Wisconsin Historical Society



**Nature Photography by Brian Collins, naturalist and Biology instructor. To see more of his work and follow his wildlife odyssey *One Thousand Days in Nature*, visit [saintcroixbirdspot.com](http://saintcroixbirdspot.com)**

*Recommended cabin reading:*

## **Return to Wake Robin: One Cabin in the Heyday of Northwoods Resorts**

by Marnie Mammaing

In the preface to her memoir, Marnie Mammaing writes:

*Return to Wake Robin is a series of vignettes reflecting on the golden years of Northwoods resorts through the history of one camp and cabin from the 1920s through the 1960s: my family's 1929 log cabin, Wake Robin, and the former neighboring resort, Moody's Camp, both located on Big Spider Lake—part of a chain of five lakes connected by beguiling thoroughfares—near Hayward, Wisconsin. This time frame represents the historical high point of camps and cabins, sandwiched between the turn-of-the-last-century logging era and the 1970s right-angle turn toward modernized lake homes, condo associations, and Jet Skis.*



## **Bridge Complete! Millpond Here We Come! (and Go!)**

The culvert that passed under County Road I from Town Bay to the Millpond has been replaced by a beautiful twenty-foot-wide bridge. A paved walking path on the North side runs from Park Drive to the village beach. Take a drive over to see it; or better yet, take your boat.

*Photos submitted*



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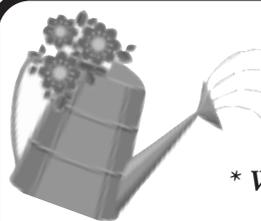
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## Mark Your Calendars!

### May 23/24: Boater's Safety Course

Friday 5-9 p.m.  
Saturday 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

### May 31: Welcome to Summer Party!

3-5 p.m. Thirsty Otter

### June 13: Balsam Lake Farmers Market

Fridays 3-6 p.m., parking lot  
Our Lady of the Lakes

### June 14: BLYC Regatta

### June 21: Wooden Boat Cruise

### June 28: BL Invitational Ski Show

7 p.m. Paradise Landing

### July 4-6: Balsam Lake Freedom Festival

Friday, July 4

Fireworks at dusk

Saturday, July 5

**Boat Parade 3 p.m.**

Sunday, July 6

Parade 2 p.m.

A complete schedule will be included in the next issue.

### July 12: BLYC Regatta

### July 19: Wooden Boat Cruise

### July 19: BL Protection and Rehabilitation District

Annual Meeting  
Unity School Auditorium

### August 9: BLHA Annual Meeting

Paradise Landing

### BLYC Regatta

### August 16: Wooden Boat Cruise

### August 31: BL Water Ski Show Team

6 p.m., Paradise Landing

### September 6: Farewell to Summer Party

### September 20: Wooden Boat Cruise

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# Histories From Around the Lake: Perry Mound

I grew up in a small mill town that happened to be located by some beautiful lakes of its own. I never had the reason or opportunity to stay at any of the fine resorts that lined those lakes. However, when I moved to this area in the mid-seventies, I was fortunate enough to live at two resorts: Holin's East Balsam Lake Resort and Perry Mound. How lucky I was to finally have a place (albeit temporary) on the beautiful Balsam Lake!

As anyone over 50 knows, the landscape of resort towns and the lakes that created them has changed dramatically. In the preface to her memoir **Return to Wake Robin**, Marnie Mammaing writes:

*The log cabins are disappearing.*

*The camps are nearly gone as well. Like the early morning mist slowly vaporizing on the water, so, too, have vanished the ribbed wooden rowboats, the sound of squeaking oar locks, the red-and-white bobbers bobbing off lines at sunset, the call of square dances, the warm blow of kerosene lanterns, the putzing purr of 3-horsepower motors, the ring of the lodge bell, the combined laughter of chore boys and cabin girls.*

*The remaining relics symbolic of this era, these quaint log cabins are swiftly being replaced by large, suburban-style homes along the shorelines of Northwoods lakes. Sadly, with these teardowns a valuable history of a time, place, and culture is vanishing.*

To help preserve some of the history of that culture, wouldn't it be a good project to gather a history of the resorts that once lined the shores of Balsam Lake? If you have stories, information, pictures you'd be willing to share for future issues of Shorelines, please contact me at <http://balsamlake.com/home.htm>



## PERRY MOUND, The First Resort on Balsam Lake?

### 1874-1944: The Early, Missing Years

In 1874 the state of Wisconsin sold the property Perry Mound sits on to the Wisconsin Northern Railway. The property passed through many hands until an L. A. Perry bought the property from a D. C. Coolidge in 1913.

### Who were the elusive Perrys of Perry Mound?

We're not sure who L. A. Perry was. The owners at the time of the next sale (1944) are listed as Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Perry. A Mr. E. C. Perry was a Balsam Lake Supervisor from 1923-1928 and 1941-1945. Know about the Perrys? Let us know too.

### 1944-1946: The Seiberts

At this point, not much information has been gathered about Clarence and Grace Seibert and their ownership of the Mound. The war time years were tough on many Northern Wisconsin Resorts. Food, gas and tire rationing had to be dealt with. Maybe that was part of the reason for the short ownership. Maybe not. If you can help us with information about the Seiberts, please do!

### 1946-1976: The Johnston Years

Earl and Lorraine had been through a number of ventures before Perry Mound. Car sales, a fish business, the lumber business, the shipyards during WWII. Earl writes in his scrapbook, "Guess I'll try the resort business." He and a partner opened Greenwood Lake Lodge in Grand Marais, Minnesota. Looking around for the next adventure, Earl spotted this ad. In his scrapbook, Earl had written "TIME TO MAKE A CHANGE. THIS LOOKS INTERESTING!"

*Perry Mound Resort, Balsam Lake, Wisconsin, has about 9 a. with 900 ft. of good sandy lakeshore on beautiful Balsam Lake with its more than 300 miles of lakeshore. Balsam Lake is famous for its large black crappies and black bass. The main lodge is on a knoll with a beautiful view of the lake, has dining room 25 x 30, spacious equipped kitchen, lounge with fireplace, private sleeping room down, ten furnished sleeping rooms up and room for more. There is a large screened porch around two sides of lodge. There are 8 cabins, mostly with 3 rooms and screened porch. There is a separate building which has a laundry room, work shop and garage with 3 sleeping rooms above for the help, icehouse, large garden plot. Lodge and laundry rooms have running water which can easily be extended to all buildings. High line electricity. 8 boats. They have a beer license and liquor license is possible as this place is in the village limits. This place has an enviable reputation for good meals, serving 250 to 300 on Saturday evenings. Taxes \$87, Price \$14,000 half cash, terms on balance.*

And so they purchased the property.



During the course of their ownership, the Johnstons built up the resort by putting in two new cabins (one a dormitory and the other a rental unit.) They also remodeled all the cabins. The large living room in the main lodge was remodeled in 1956 to match the dining room.

Although Perry Mound was a popular resort under the American Plan, locals would crowd the dining room on the weekends for the good food. Well-known for her chicken, pancakes, and orange muffins, Lorraine was the head cook and organizer while Earl took care of maintenance and the resorts grounds, which for a time included a small golf course.

In the 1958 edition of the Duncan Hines "Vacation Guide," Perry Mound was listed as the only resort in Balsam Lake and was recommended among some 1,000 vacation places in the United States. National recognition for this local resort!

1968 ushered in the "new" Perry Mound under the Johnstons. Gone were many of the cabins, sold off to those who wanted a lake cabin of their own. The Johnstons kept three cabins as rentals but remodeled the lodge into four luxury apartments, one for the owners and three to rent on a year-round basis. The spacious "sun decks" overlooking Balsam were a selling point!



**The Current Owners: Dave and Pat Stark**

In 1976, Dave and Pat had been married for seven years and had three children. Dave had been teaching history at Unity for seven years. During the summer months he had been travelling back to Ellsworth, WI to help on the family farm and help his father who was a well known mason in that area. As with many adventures, owning the Mound began with a comment Dave made in the teacher's workroom about needing to find summer employment closer to home. Fellow teacher Don Leisch, who'd lately become a real estate agent, remarked that Dave should buy a resort. Dave related that they had set up a viewing of a local resort, but the night before the walk through the resort sold. Don then suggested looking at Perry Mound. Dave commented that they never thought they could afford Perry Mound, so they didn't want to look at it. Don persisted and, Dave remarked, "It was like every time I put a road-block, the next day something knocked it down."



And Perry Mound, with its three cabins and five apartments, became their home where they raised those three lovely children and their 'summer' business. It wasn't necessarily as easy as they thought it might be at first. Dave continued teaching and coaching, and remained in the Army Reserves (652nd Eng. Co.) while Pat worked as an x-ray tech then later as a bank teller. With Dave serving in the Reserves, Pat became proficient in handyman repair! Overall, they both agree there are more plusses than minuses. They have met wonderful people, many who've been coming to the resort for decades. They have formed friendships that have lasted through lifetimes.

Corby (daughter) remembers it this way:

*"When I think back on growing up at Perry Mound, I think of Mr. Ed Ekberg "the Krappie Killer" with his boat of the same name. I think of sitting in the fish house watching Mr. Schulenberg with fascination as he filleted fish with his electric knife; my mother deciding I was better suited for the outdoor work than helping clean the cabins with my sister, and my father constantly sneaking up behind me as I mowed lawn with his John Deere, reminding me to go slower (we still disagree on the appropriate speed to mow the lawn). I think of the inevitable calm of summer Sunday nights that often left Balsam Lake looking like glass, and having free reign with my siblings to play, swim and explore. I will forever be grateful for the people I've met, the stories I've heard, and the memories I have because I grew up on Balsam Lake at Perry Mound."*

The Mound still operates three seasonal cabins and four year around apartments. For more info contact: Perry Mound Rentals, 101 Perry Mound Road, Balsam Lake, WI 54810-9001 or dpstark@centurytel.net



# *Always Good Times at the Lake*



all photos submitted



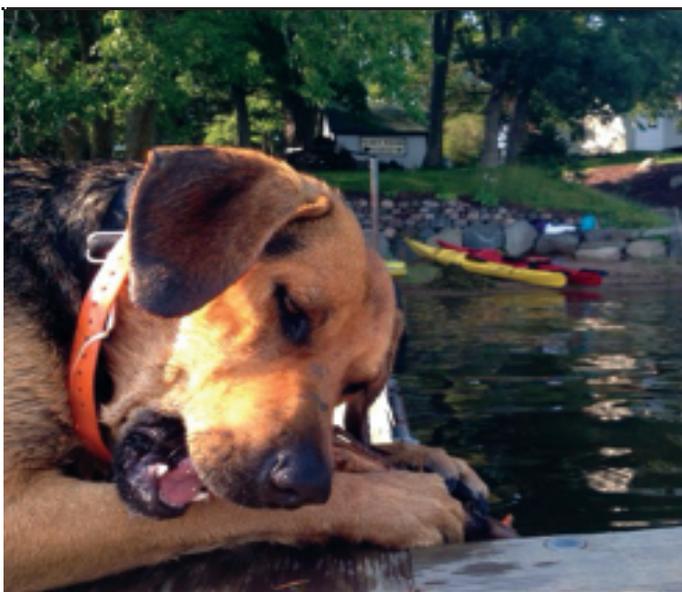
*From action-packed to laid back, we love our lake.*

Camera at the ready? Get snapping now because a photo contest is in the works. Watch for details in future issues.



***"If people concentrated on the really important things in life, there'd be a shortage of fishing poles."***

Doug Larson  
American columnist



To caption or not? Most pictures explain themselves. Most. The boy carrying the goose creates some interesting conjecture. And the fisherman? Tom Verplank and his boys (Sheryl and Carl Holmgren's grandkids): Warren (The Fisherman) and Nathan (The Lookout).

# A Word from the DNR

Dear Boat Owner:

This letter is to inform you of the boat registration regulations in Wisconsin and to respectfully remind you that this is the time of year to register or renew your boat registration. Please read the following two paragraphs to learn if this letter applies to you and the boat you use on Wisconsin waters.

- If your boat is already registered in Wisconsin and expires this year, this is a reminder to renew your boat registration before June 30, 2014.
- If you own a boat registered in another state AND you use it on Wisconsin waters, this letter is provided to you with the goal to help you understand Wisconsin's requirements. continue to read this letter.

The following boats are required to be registered in WI:

- 1) Equipped with any type of motor (gas or electric).
- 2) Sailboats greater than 12 feet in length.
- 3) The boat is used primarily in Wisconsin.
- 4) The boat is kept in Wisconsin for more than 60 consecutive dates.

*Please note:* Canoes do not need to be registered unless equipped with a motor or a sail.

If you determined your boat requires Wisconsin Registration, please take action to get your boat into compliance. You may complete your boat reg-

istration: online, by U.S. Mail or in-person at a Wisconsin DNR Service Center.

You can find documents and information regarding how to register your boat at [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov). Use the search keywords "boat registration."

If you have any questions or need assistance in this process, please contact the Department of Natural Resources' customer service office at the toll-free number -- 1-888-936-7463. The line is staffed 7 days a week from 7 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Sincerely,  
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# It's All About the Boats!



## **Boater's Safety Course Memorial Weekend**

The course, instructed by Police Chief Tom Thompson (485-3544), begins Friday night, May 23 (5-9 p.m.) and continues Saturday, May 24 (10-2) at the Balsam Lake Village Hall (404 Main Street).

Just a reminder that anyone born on or after 1989 is required to complete a boating safety course to legally operate a motorized boat or PC on Wisconsin waters. However, the DNR recommends that all operators complete a safety course. Go to [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) for more information and to register. You will need a DNR Customer ID number to complete registration. (When you go to the website, tap on EDUCATION in the top menu bar. Or call WI DNR at 1-888-936-7463.)

Participants must be at least 11 years old, but the certificate doesn't become valid until the child reaches 12.



## **Vintage Boat Monthly Cruise**

If you have a vintage wooden speedboat or classic fiberglass boat, please join us for a monthly group cruise leaving from the docks at Paradise Landing, the third Saturday of June, July, August and September at 11:00 am. We can return to Paradise for lunch for anyone who's interested. In case of rain, make it Sunday. Please shoot an email to Bruce Bildsten at [bbildsten@comcast.net](mailto:bbildsten@comcast.net) so we can put you on the email list.

## **Sail Away! Regatta Expands**

For each of the past two years the Balsam Lake Yacht Club has hosted an annual regatta in August. With the successful turnout and excitement of the many sailors, we are hosting three regattas this summer, the second Saturday of each month: June 14, July 12, and August 9.

Meet at Ward's resort on Main Bay near Hwy. 46 at 1:00 for registration, a captain's meeting at 1:30 with racing beginning at 2:00. After the races refreshments, awards, stories and gloating again at Ward's resort. A big thank you to the Ward family for supporting this activity.

Please mark your calendars to sail, spectate or just socialize. If you have any questions, contact [Elliott@Mallin.com](mailto:Elliott@Mallin.com)

## **Balsam Lake Boat Parade**

The boat parade will be held on Saturday, July 5, beginning at 3 p.m. in East Balsam. Participants meet around 2:45 in East Balsam to line up. We plan to continue the tradition of having the wood boats lead again this year. If you would like to participate, please send your name, address, boat theme (if any) and phone number to [daveturbenson@yahoo.com](mailto:daveturbenson@yahoo.com) or call 612-207-9023. If you know anyone who has participated in the past, they will tell you the whole experience is a blast!

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# The Opening Season

I've lived near water for as long as I can remember. Growing up in the small resort town of Alexandria, Minnesota, we had at least fifty lakes at our disposal, many of them within biking distance from our home. I was a "townie," and many of my friends lived on the lake, so I would tirelessly ride my bike to meet them at the beach on summer afternoons with a jelly sandwich and an apple tucked into my towel.

When I wasn't spending time at the local lakes, I was at this friend's cabin, or that family member's cottage. Some of my best memories were tagging along on the first trip of the season to get the cabin or cottage ready for summer. Now I live as a rural resident of Balsam Lake, Wisconsin, with about as many lakes near me as I had growing up, so not much has changed. My boyfriend's family has a cottage in Jim Falls and opening it up for the summer never fails to bring me back to the time when I was just a small town girl filled with summer's promises.

Something about turning the buttoned up cottage inside out: replacing storm windows with screens, shaking out rugs, and turning on the pump brightens my senses and helps me rid my soul of winter's burdens. By early afternoon most of the work has been done and I can sit on the decaying dock, lichens digging into the backs of my thighs, toes dipped in the lake, and enjoy a cool drink, just as I did ten, twenty, and thirty years ago.

There are rituals here that must be kept: hunting for

the prettiest rocks along the shore, getting our ankles tangled in weeds, hanging wet bathing suits on rope strung between two trees, playing lawn darts in the sun, searching the woods for campfire kindling, playing cribbage after dinner, and feeling the effects of the day's sun on our faces. I have never gotten over the thrill of having a tug at the end of my line, be it a tiny pumpkin sunfish or a giant northern.

Putting a worm on a hook or taking a fish off my line always brings me back to being in a boat with my sister and my dad, the big blocky orange life preserver up around my shoulders, up to my ears, and my dad saying we were officially old enough to start baiting our hooks and taking the fish off by ourselves. I remember the first few attempts at getting a sunfish off my hook, the top fins raking the insides of my fingers, but not being upset about it because I was feeling so adult doing this by myself.

After a day of fishing and frolicking, nighttime descends upon the cottage. I hear the call of the loon, and see the moon's reflection on the black stillness of the water for what feels like both the first time and the millionth time. Surrounded by fresh air and pine, I realize I am more myself here than anywhere else. I may be older, but this place takes me back - - every time.

*--Christine Carlson is a freelance writer who lives in Balsam Lake and works as an event planner at Dancing Dragonfly Winery in St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin.*



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The show is free and fun for all ages. Spectators are encouraged to bring a blanket or chair to sit on the lawn in front of Paradise Landing or come by boat. Please respect the area of the show course on the water if you come by boat in order to maintain the safety of our skiers and boat drivers.

For more information please see our website: BLWSST.com.

We look forward to seeing you all there for another fantastic ski show on Balsam Lake!



**The Balsam Lake Water Ski Show Team hosts the 7th Annual Balsam Lake Invitational Ski Show (BLISS) on Saturday, June 28th, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in front of Paradise Landing.**

## shorelines

Published and distributed three times a year, during the summer months, to over 800 homes adjacent to Balsam Lake, Wis., by The Balsam Lake Homeowners' Association, a private, non-profit volunteer organization supported by membership dues, contributions and advertising subsidies. Comments and advertising inquiries are invited by the Internet at [www.balsamlake.com](http://www.balsamlake.com) or via mail at Box 8, Balsam Lake, WI 54810.

*I owe many people a big THANK YOU for their help with this, my first issue of Shorelines. To Debbie and Gayle, (I promise not so many emails and questions in the future.) To Corby, Pat and Dave Stark for continuing to answer the phone and respond to Facebook messages. To my go-to friends, Christine and Brian. To Dave T. and the rest of the BLHA board members for their support. To Carl Holmgren for sharing info and photos. To all those who sent me such awesome photos. Thanks so much, Sue*

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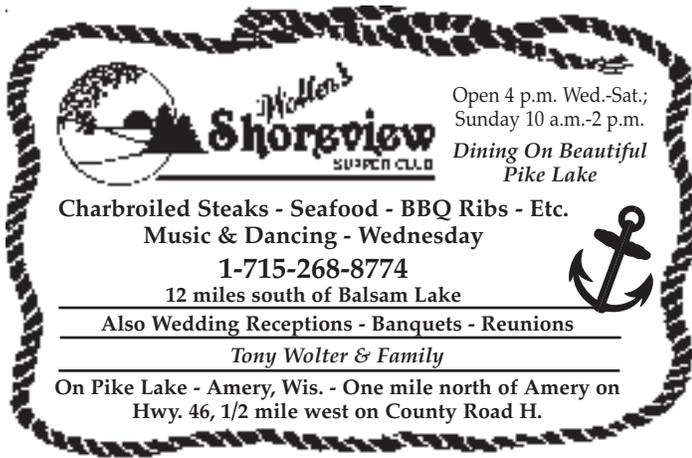

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