

Welcome to

Bauneg Beg Lake

A package of local information prepared by:

Bauneg Beg Lake Association

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Welcome Neighbor!

We are happy to hear that you have purchased a home on Bauneg Beg Lake. We consider Bauneg Beg Lake a little piece of heaven.

We want to give you some general information about Bauneg Beg Lake including the lake association. Bauneg Beg Lake Association is an association whose mission is to protect the water quality of our lake and to protect the dam it owns. All monies that Bauneg Beg Lake Association raises is reinvested into the betterment of our lake.

Included within this welcome package is a wide range of information about the Association and the local area and resources available to better understand boating, fishing, ATV and snowmobile rules and regulations. We encourage you to join the Association to keep abreast of local issues and opportunities to meet your neighbors at general membership meetings and through annual lake events. There are also opportunities to get involved on the board of trustees or several committees that do volunteer work in support of the lake community.

We hope that this information helps you settle into your new community and that you consider joining the lake association. Check us out at www.baunegbeg.net

See you on the Lake,

BBLA Welcome Committee

BBLA HISTORY

Bauneg Beg Lake Association (BBLA) was incorporated in 1965 and is a non-profit organization with a 501(c)3 designation. This means that your donations may be tax-deductible. BBLA owns the dam that maintains our waterfronts. The dam is located on the southwest side of the lake on Morrills Mill Road in North Berwick. Without the dam, we would not have a lake. The dam property isn't owned by the State of Maine, it is the responsibility of BBLA to maintain the dam property. BBLA isn't a social organization. Our principal mission is to operate and maintain the dam, maintain water quality and navigational safety of our lake.

BECOME A MEMBER

How to become a member of Bauneg Beg Lake Association

Send a check for \$35.00 to BBLA, P.O. Box 538, North Berwick, Maine 03906.

In the memo please put BBLA Dues. Please include with the payment your first and last names, your address (at the lake and your primary address) and your email address. Most of our communication is sent via email. The funds the association receives goes directly to the maintenance of the dam and to pay for state water testing. Thank you for becoming a member.

We are not a homeowner's association. We DO NOT get involved with issues regarding your property.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President: Lorraine Boston

Vice President: Bob Cavicchio

Treasurer: Al Brearley

Secretary: Anne Whitten

Trustee: Ron Descoteaux

Trustee: Mandy Sumner

Trustee: Todd Goldenberg

Email: bbla.board@gmail.com

ASSOCIATION MEETING DATES

General Membership Meetings are held three times a year on a Sunday in May, July, and August. Meetings are held at the Wormwood Center located at Waban starting at 9:00 am. The dates are:

May 28, 2023

July 23, 2023

August 27, 2023

ASSOCIATION COMMITTEES

Dam Committee

Water Quality Team

Invasive Patrol Team

Fundraising Committee

Buoy Master and Assistant Buoy Master

Welcome Committee

Boat Parade

Dance Committee

DAM COMMITTEE

The Morrills Mill Dam was constructed in the eighteenth century for the purpose of providing waterpower for the operation of a sawmill whose remnants can still be seen. The impounded water created the 180-acre lake, Bauneg Beg Lake, having water depths up to 29 feet, with its easterly shores being in Sanford and its westerly shores in North Berwick. The dam is owned solely by the BBLA.

The Dam Committee recommends the annual pre-planned summer raising and winter lower dates for the lake to facilitate lake owner's scheduling for waterfront work, docks, etc. The membership approves the lake levels at the August Membership Meeting. Typically, the levels are lowered about the fourth weekend in October. The levels are raised after the ice is determined to be out of the lake. In addition, the Dam Committee is empowered to make any adjustments to lake level it feels are warranted in response to an emergency event such as an imminent weather event or damage to the dam itself. The Committee also makes long term maintenance and repair recommendations to the Board.

WATER QUALITY TEAM

The Water Quality Team works all summer testing the waters of BBL. Are you interested in becoming a water quality testing committee member? If so, please email the BBLA Board of Trustees at bbla.board@gmail.com. Committee members go out monthly from May to October to test. The following links to Lake Stewards of Maine provide additional information about BBL including the test results.

Stewards@lakestewardsme.org

[Lake Stewards of Maine](#)

[Water Quality Reports Lake Stewards of Maine](#)

FUNDRAISING

BBLA raises money each year in addition to the membership dues to pay for improvements to the dam, water quality testing and buoy repairs or replacement. The State of Maine had recommended that the lake set aside a *minimum* of \$25,000 for a "rainy day" fund for catastrophic events.

2023 fundraisers include:

Roger Bisson Memorial Pledge Drive: Tickets are \$100.00. Prizes include 1st-\$1000, 2nd-\$500, 3rd thru 6th-\$250 each and 7th thru 11th - \$100 each. Tickets are sold throughout the year and the drawing is the first Saturday of December.

Steve Bekeritis Loon Print raffle: The raffle tickets are \$10.00 each or 3 for \$25.00. Tickets will be sold through the May membership meeting at which time the winning ticket will be drawn.

Other ways you can help:

Make a tax-deductible donation.

Send your check to:

BBLA, P.O. Box 538, North Berwick, Maine 03906 or email us at bbla.board@gmail.com

Please put in memo what the funds are for: Dues, Donation, Pledge and please include your phone number and email address.

BOAT PARADE

Bauneg Beg Lake Boat Parade is held each year on the 4th of July. This is a judged parade with winners in the first, second and third place.

319 GRANT

Bauneg Beg Lake Association was awarded a 319 Grant from the DEP/EPA to undertake projects with the lake watershed that will reduce erosion from stormwater runoff and help improve water quality in the lake. There are several projects still in the implementation stage and BBLA volunteers are needed to provide labor to meet the Association's matching requirement. There are also 50/50 matching grants and technical assistance available for homeowners who want to make improvements on their property. The Work Plan and the Matching Grants Available for Conservation Practices are available at www.BaunegBeg.net.

BAUNEG BEG DANCE

Each year on the third Saturday of August, we have a dance! Good Times! The dance is held at the Wormwood Center and is a self-funded event.

BUOY MASTER

The Lake Buoy Master and assistant place the navigational buoys each year in the spring and remove them in the fall. The Buoy Master also makes repairs and/or replaces buoys as needed and conducts a weekly inspection of all the buoys to ensure they are in proper place to maintain the safety for navigating the lakes shoals and obstructive areas.

ROAD REPS

Road Representatives post news on the road kiosks located at the entrance of roads that border the lake. News includes information about meetings, dock removal, lake levels and other valuable information to lake residents.

STATE RESOURCES

Boating Laws

<https://www.maine.gov/ifw/docs/maine-boating-laws.pdf>

Milfoil Stickers

<https://www.maine.gov/ifw/fishing-boating/boating/protection-sticker.html>

Safety Courses

<https://www.maine.gov/ifw/programs-resources/educational-programs/safety-courses/boating-safety.html>

Fishing Laws

<https://www.maine.gov/ifw/fishing-boating/fishing/laws-rules/index.html>

ATV and Snowmobile Laws

<https://www.maine.gov/ifw/atv-snowmobile/index.html>

BOATING REGULATIONS

Boating regulations for the State of Maine can be found at: maine.gov/ifw/docs/maine-boating-laws.pdf. You can go the BBLA website, baunegbeg.net, to find the websites for other fishing and watercraft laws. Some regulations particularly relevant to Bauneg Beg Lake include:

- Give way to non-powered watercraft such as kayaks, canoes, sailboats and rowboats. Slow down and give a wide berth to avoid upsetting such crafts in your wake.
- Pass an approaching boat on its right (starboard) side, give way to a watercraft crossing your path when approaching from the right.
- Use navigation lights when boating at night.
- The river section of the lake has been marked with navigational buoys. Maintain red buoys on your right and green buoys on your left when going upstream and reverse when coming back down to the lake.
- The river section and Otter Cove are official no-wake zones marked by no-wake buoys. Compliance is enforceable by the Maine Warden Service. Violations can result in fines between \$100 and \$500. Waters within 200' of shore are also considered no-wake zones, except for boats pulling up water skiers from a dock.
- The Maine Warden Service enforces all Maine State boating laws. Several of particular interest include:
 - Prohibits the operation of a motorboat (more than 10 hp) by a person under the age of 12 unless under the supervision of a person 16 or older; prohibits the operation of a personal watercraft by a person under the age of 16.
 - Molesting/chasing wildlife
 - Maintaining proper safety equipment on board (one personal flotation device per person)
 - Tampering with aids of navigation
 - Proper installation of registration and milfoil stickers
- The lake is also marked with hazard-to-navigation buoys in areas where water is shallow (Waban Point/Lollipop Island, Brushy Island in Turtle Cove) or where boulders exist (Poole's Point/Blueberry Island)

BUOY PLACEMENT

The Buoy Master provides for annual placement and retrieval of both hazard buoys and no-wake zone buoys to be in place by Memorial Day until at least Labor Day.

SEAPLANE BASE

There is a seaplane base located on Bauneg Beg Lake at 121 West 51st Street, North Berwick. You will see a plane taking off and landing at various times. If you see a seaplane maneuvering for a take-off run, clear a runway lane for it. Pilots looking to land on the lake will typically circle first asking boaters to clear the way. Planes have the right of way except for non-motorized watercraft.

BOAT LAUNCHING

The only public boat launch on the lake is at Bruce Abbott Park in North Berwick. This is a hand carry launch only and requires a permit that can be purchased at the North Berwick Town Hall. All other launches are private right of way launches.

ATTRACTIONS, ACTIVITIES, SHOPPING

Golf: Sanford Country Club (Sanford)

Pine Hollows Little Par 3 Golf (Sanford)
Mountain View Range – driving range and mini-golf (Sanford)
Lebanon Pines Golf Course (Lebanon, ME)
The Links at Outlook (South Berwick)

Bowling/Arcades:

Bowl-A-Rama (Sanford)
Smitty’s Game Lab (Sanford)

Movie Theaters:

Smitty’s Cinema (Sanford)

Hiking Trails:

Bauneg Beg Mountain (North Berwick)
Negutaquet Conservation Area (North Berwick)
Herrick Groveland Conservation Area (North Berwick)
Mousam Way Trails (Sanford)
Waban Tree Center Trails (Sanford)
Orris Fall Conservation Area (South Berwick)
Vaughn Woods (South Berwick)

Grocery shopping:

Shaw’s, Hannaford’s, Walmart, Jerry’s Market (Sanford)
Hannaford’s, Allard’s Market and Deli (North Berwick)

HISTORY OF BAUNEG BEG LAKE¹

The dam was constructed on the Great Works River in the eighteenth century for the purpose of providing waterpower for the operation of a sawmill. The impounded water created a 180-acre lake, Bauneg Beg Lake, having water depths of up to 35 ft. with its easterly shoreline being in Sanford and its westerly shoreline being in North Berwick.

In 1763 Jedediah Morrell built the first dwelling on the lake, a log cabin followed by a small frame house and his lumber mill. In 1769 Winthrop Morrell built a house on what is now known as Morrells Mill Road just above the dam. Before that time there were one or two smaller ponds and a broad area of surrounding marsh that were the deepest parts in the lake, well below the 13-foot height of the dam.

At the foot of the lake where Morrell built his mill was an important crossroads of two Native American trails, which they called “The Stopping Place”. In addition to being an intersection, it was a popular summer camping ground during the salmon run right up into the 1930’s. The Morrells were Quakers and bound by their faith, charity, and non-violence. The Abenaki, feeling their fish camps infringed upon, burned down Jedediah’s sawmill. The peaceful friend did not retaliate, but he rebuilt. Burning and rebuilding were repeated twice. The fourth barn was allowed to stand. The Indians understood that the Morrells were “William Penn People”. They never attacked the Quakers again. The story is handed down is that they never barred their door at night and would often awake in the morning to find groups of travelers who had let themselves in during the night to roll out their mats by their hearth. The Morrell house was fully restored to its original character beginning in 1970 and was placed on the National Register of Historical Places in Maine in 1976. The ruins of the mill’s foundation can still be seen next to the dam.

Recent research into the derivation of the lake’s name has pointed to the name likely being an anglicization of the Abenaki word “Pano Pekw” meaning place of “Still waters at base of hill” referring to both our lake and the

nearby Bauneg Beg Mountain to the west that overlooks it. The Abenaki name makes more sense when you understand that “P” was pronounced like a “B” and the “W” was silent.

In 1902 the original Bauneg Beg Grange located on Morrells Mill Road near the dam was built. The original grange hall burned in 1923 and the present hall was built in 1925. The Grange was said to have had the largest membership in the state. In 1911 the Grange established a band and named it “The Bauneg Beg Band”. The Bauneg Beg Lake Association utilized the Grange for its meetings for several years until its closure.

During the nineteenth century Bauneg Beg Lake became a popular summertime retreat for locals who enjoyed picnicking, swimming, and boating. Several notable artists attending the nearby artist’s colony in Ogunquit came here to paint. The nearby Sanford Country Club is one of the oldest golf courses in the State dating back to the 1920’s long before golf became a popular pastime.

The dam was donated in 1996 to the Bauneg Beg Lake Association who maintains it through memberships and donations.

¹Excerpts of this document was derived from “Doughty Falls, The History of North Berwick, Maine 1831-2006. This book is available at D. A. Hurd Library, North Berwick.

WILDLIFE SEEN AROUND BAUNEG BEG LAKE

Over the last 20 years, the residents around Bauneg Beg Lake have seen an increase in the number of varieties of most area wild animals. Below is listing of the types of animals you may encounter and how to co-exist with them.

Large Mammals

Black Bear – Black Bears have been seen around Bauneg Beg Lake and captured on game cameras, typically in the springtime soon after they emerge from hibernation and are searching for food. Some residents have found their bird feeders smashed or garbage cans upended and strewn about by these nighttime or early morning raiders. Bears are usually wary of people and go out of their way to avoid them.

Moose – Maine’s most iconic animal is also seen occasionally around the lake, but less frequently in recent years as ticks have reduced their numbers. Moose are most active at dawn and dusk. Although a bull moose in the rutting season (fall) can be aggressive, they also avoid contact with people. The biggest risk a moose can present is hitting one on the highway at night especially during winter and spring. Moose need salt to survive so they are often attracted to the roadsides at this time to lick up road salt used to de-ice highways. Moose eyes do not shine in headlights at night like deer eyes and their brown fur absorbs light making them almost invisible to drivers. Their tall legs and massive weight make for them being swept right into a windshield, too often killing both the moose and the driver.

White-tailed Deer – Southern Maine is largely the southern limit of their range in the state, and because there are fewer open agricultural fields, deer stick to the forests and remote meadows and are not often seen. They have been known to raid vegetable and flower gardens.

Bobcat – Bobcats are extremely secretive and almost never seen but are captured regularly on area game cameras. Bobcats may try to prey on domestic livestock such as chickens, ducks, and rabbits, and rarely on small domestic pets.

Coyote – Coyotes are common in the area and can sometimes be heard calling at night. Although they do sometimes run in a group, they are most often seen as individual animals. Like bobcats, they may try to prey on small livestock or small pets, and like bears, they are attracted to unsecured garbage. Wolves reportedly do not exist in Maine, although they are known to be just over the border in Quebec, Canada.

Fisher - A member of the weasel family also referred to as fisher-cats, they are shy and elusive, but fearless and willing to take on animals larger than themselves, and often blamed for the mysterious disappearance of domestic pets.

Small Mammals

Mink – Minks have been seen living under docks around the lake. They are ferret sized animals with a “mink coat” and bushy tail.

Beaver – Beaver and beaver dams are found upstream of the river and can be visited by canoe and kayak in early spring.

Red and Gray Fox – Both red and gray foxes are common in the area. Be wary of brave acting animals out in the daytime, especially if it looks “scraggily”. Foxes have been known to sometimes be sick with rabies that can be passed to pets and people.

Muskrat – There are numerous muskrats living around the lake. They mostly make their homes in shoreline burrows and search for food in the water. They can often be seen in late winter hauling out on drifting ice.

Otter – We are excited to see the recent return of otters to our lake. Like muskrats, they are most often seen as the ice melts, and they can get access to fish.

Opossum – A nocturnal animal usually only seen at night.

Raccoon – Same thing. Also, a garbage raider and an animal known occasionally contract rabies so if out in the daytime, acting bravely, and unkempt, be wary.

Ermine – Much smaller than a mink but of the same family. Fur turns snow white in winter.

Skunk – Also nocturnal. Have been known to root around in vegetable gardens.

Chipmunk – Present everywhere. Will nest in walls, attics, garages, campers, boats, and vehicles.

Grey Squirrel – Almost as plentiful. Will also nest in areas where unwanted but cannot squeeze into as small spaces as chipmunks. Known plunders of birdfeeders.

Red Squirrel – Same problems as above, but they are less plentiful around here.

Cottontail Rabbit – Exceedingly rare. On the endangered species list.

Porcupine – Another nocturnal wanderer. They will sometimes dig at shingles, bark, or siding for insects hiding there.

Woodchuck – Not very plentiful as they prefer open fields, but their burrows can cause damage or be an ankle-turner.

Birds

The coastline being a migratory flyway, we have the pleasure of seeing many types of birds on Bauneg Beg. We will restrict our comments to exclude the most common birds in favor of those that folks have a stronger interest in. Of recent interest is the strong return of **Bald Eagles**. Originally a few of these majestic birds would make the lake their winter home where they would perch in the pine trees near the ice fishing shacks waiting for hand-outs. Recently though, they have been a year-round presence on the lake, and a few have tested positive for bird flu. Also commonly seen is another fishing bird, **Ospreys**, distinguished by their smaller size and whiter plumage. Our most adored birds on the lake are the **Loons**. We have a nesting pair (and sometimes other individual birds) that return year after year to raise a chick. They will usually nest on Lollipop Island and remain all summer. You will hear their distinctive haunting calls. Be careful when boating to not speed near them, or chase after them. Often times if you turn your engine off and just sit quietly in the water, they will come to you to check you out. Besides other common **Hawks** and **Vultures** you will occasionally see typically nocturnal **Great Horned Owls** and **Bard Owls**. Bauneg Beg is also home to a great many **Blue Herons**, and many folks look out a window to see **Wild Turkeys** rooting around in their yards. Last year a flock of southern **Egrets** stopped in for a while to sample our local seafood. The lake is also the summer home or stopover for a number of different waterfowl. **Mallard Ducks** and **Canadian Geese** spend the summer here, and exotic ducks

like **Buffleheads, Goldeneyes, and Wood Ducks** make a brief stop here as the ice breaks up in the springtime. Duck hunters often find success at the extreme navigable end of the river by the powerlines.

Songbird lovers will find a myriad of colorful species that will visit their feeders including **Baltimore Orioles, Rose Breasted Grosbeaks, Cardinals, Blue Jays, Ruby Throated Hummingbirds,** and **gold and purple finches.** Suet feeders will attract a variety of woodpeckers including the **Downy Woodpecker,** his larger but otherwise identical cousin, the **Hairy Woodpecker,** the shy **Flicker,** and the enormous and prehistoric looking **Pileated Woodpecker.**

Reptiles and Amphibians

There are no poisonous snakes in Maine. The most common snake to see around the lake is the common **Garter Snake.** Be careful if intending to kill a snake. Of the nine known species existing in the State, 3 of them are endangered, and all three live in southern Maine.

A sign of a healthy lake is an abundance of frogs as they breathe through their skin and are therefore susceptible to pollutants. 20 years ago, there were very few frogs in the lake. Today they are making a slow comeback, but the nightly chorus of croaking is not as vibrant as it could be. Again, of the seven species of frog that live in Southern Maine, 2 of them are endangered. Residents always look forward to the first warm rainy nights in the spring when the **Peeper Frogs** come out of hibernation and fill the air with their high-pitched calls.

Bauneg Beg Lake has a large population of turtles. Mostly harmless **Painted Turtles,** but also a decent number of **Snapping Turtles** that can remove a finger if provoked. You can often see them out basking on logs if you cruise quietly up and down the river. Some residents have trained the local turtles to assemble at their dock at a certain time each day to be fed bits of hot dog. Being that there is a significant amount of sandy beach around the lake, you will often see turtles crawl up onto them in early summer, or even walk many yards inland to lay their eggs in sandy burrows. Turtles are one of the most endangered species in Maine. Of the eight known species, 6 are endangered.

Fish

Fish have tough time of it in Bauneg Beg due to the low amount of dissolved oxygen in the deeper waters. Therefore, the only fish able to survive are those warm water species that live in the upper portions of the water column. These include **Largemouth Bass, Yellow Perch, White Perch, Pickerel, Crappie, Sunfish, Bullhead (Hornpout), and White Suckers.** Bass are the preferred gamefish and have known to be caught up to seven pounds.

Fishing Regulations

(See <https://www.maine.gov/ifw/docs/20-MDIFW-30-Fishing-Lawbook-2021.pdf>)

A fishing license is required for anyone over the age of fifteen. Licenses can be obtained at the North Berwick Clerk's office, the City Clerk at Sanford City Hall, or at Walmart. Resident season licenses cost \$25 and non-residents \$64. Temporary non-resident licenses for 1, 3, or 7 days are also available. Maine offers free fishing days each year, usually around Father's Day in June, and on February 16th & 17th for ice fishing. Largemouth Bass are the primary gamefish on the lake. The open water season currently runs in two portions from April 1st to June 20th where 1 fish per day can be taken, and then again from June 21st to September 30th where 3 fish per day can be taken. There is no minimum length requirement, but only one fish can exceed 14".

Many lake residents also enjoy ice fishing in the winter and have built towable shacks for that purpose. The ice fishing season on the lake runs from first ice up to March 31st and covers all species. Always test the ice before venturing out. 6" is the minimum safe thickness. Beware of thin ice up in the river portion where the current keeps the ice extremely thin in some portions. There have been many vehicles and snowmobiles that have gone through the ice in recent years.

Plants

Plants are a subject too extensive to get into very deep, but there are a few that are worth a word or two of discussion. Although not considered rare in Maine, the **Pink Lady Slipper** is an orchid-like flower that is infrequent around here and pops up in shaded forested areas in the early spring. In the late spring/early summer keep your eyes out for **Wild Blueberries** growing close to the ground. Out on the water in the early mornings you can see the pink and white-**Water Lilies** in bloom, and the **Pickerel Weed** will send up stalks in the late summer with purple flowers. The Lake Association has started a group of Invasive Plant Patrollers (IPP) that regularly patrol the lake looking invasive aquatic plants (and always looking for new members to join them if you like to paddle.) Fortunately, no invasive plants have been spotted yet (also see boating regulations). However, we have seen an increase in a bamboo-like invasive plant called **Japanese Knotweed** which is nearly impossible to eradicate and will clog septic and water lines, and even break-up foundations and driveways.

Insects

Yes, we have **Mosquitoes**, but depending on the amount of summer rain we get they can be plentiful or few. They are mostly active only when the air is warm and humid and there is no wind. That works to our favor on most days. **Black Flies** are not the voracious swarms infamously renowned of areas farther north and are only around for a couple of weeks in May before disappearing for another year. The biggest local insect annoyance are **Ticks** that emerge in the early spring and hang around until autumn. Lyme disease carried by these insects are becoming an increasing health problem. People are well served to check themselves and their children for ticks after being outside, wearing long sleeved shirts and pants when working in the brush, and having a "tick-off" removal spoon in the medicine cabinet just in case.

Water Quality

Prior to the 1970's, the water quality in the lake was quite poor. But due to the efforts of the Bauneg Beg Lake Association and the City of Sanford has been making improvements to its stormwater and sewer systems which has slowly helped improve water quality. However, years of run-off from the city has introduced a phosphorus nutrient load into the lake sediments that lead to occasional algae blooms. (Fortunately, no toxic blue green has ever been detected). When the algae dies and decomposes it consumes much of the oxygen in the water. Tests have shown that only a few meters below the surface oxygen levels drop to zero creating a "dead zone" from there to the bottom where nothing can live. The Lake Association's Water Quality Team collects samples and takes measurements throughout the summer to keep an eye on water quality. In 2017 the Association and the Water Quality Team sponsored the installation of a novel nutrient barrier system on Country Club Brook to filter out the phosphorus coming downstream to the lake from years of fertilizing the greens and fairways on the nearby golf course. The water in Bauneg Beg Lake is naturally "ice-tea" colored by reason of the tannin that gets into the water from fall leaves. It is not dangerous. Residents can help by planting native plants and bushes at the shore to stop soil from eroding into the water, using only organic phosphorus-free fertilizers, and maintaining the septic systems in top condition. Also, erosion control mulch, which can be purchased at J.A. Simpson, Inc in Sanford or Oakwood's Lumber in North Berwick helps maintain erosion control on embankments.