

Black Lake News

Meetings

All meetings are held on the second Monday of the month at Grant Township Hall at 7:30 PM

May 10	7:30
June 14—Pot luck	6:30
July 12	7:30
August 9	7:30
September 13	7:30
October 11	7:30

Who Are the Volunteers?

- President - Virgil Smith
- Vice Pres.- Ron Dulak
- Treasurer - Cindy Trepanier
- Secretary - Karen Tucker
- Trustees - Bill Fink
Erin McLean
Dick Hopkins
- Membership Chairman
Sharon Dulak
- Technical Advisor
Rusty Gowland
- Secchi Disk Readings
Bob Williams
- Newsletter- Sharon Dulak
- Banquet Chairman -
Robert Haas

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Virgil Smith 989-733-8089

The Black Lake Association (BLA) has a rich history of accomplishments over the past 81 years as the benevolent protector of Black Lake. During the past two years, under the leadership of Ron Dulak, the BLA has taken on additional activities in order to improve the quality and preservation of the lake. These activities include:

1. Contracting with Lake Superior State University, through a partnership with the Hammond Bay Area Anglers Assoc., to scientifically analyze Black Lake towards the improvement of the walleye fishery.
2. The stocking of 20,000, 6 to 10 inch walleye fingerlings

3. Filing for a 501 C-3 organization tax status to provide additional incentive for fund raising.
4. Becoming a member of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Northern Inland Lakes Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee which reviews and provides input and direction into the fishery goals, objectives and management plans for Northern Michigan's inland waterways which include Black Lake.
5. Establishing the position of Technical Advisor .

As you can imagine, BLA activities require a lot of effort. Last year we had 501 memberships with a core group of 25 to 30 attending



VIRGIL AND THE FISH PLANTING CREW

monthly meetings . Simply put, additional volunteers are needed to help with the refinement and achievement of our mission, as well as, to support the completion of projects and activities.

I look forward to working with you during the next two years so we can continue to make positive impacts on Black Lake.

WINNERS OF THE 2009 BLACK LAKE RAFFLE



The winners of the Black Lake raffle were drawn July 18 at the banquet, which was held at the Black Lake Grill on Maxon Road in Onaway.

Lucky winners were:

- Kayak M. Beurle
- Gas Grill J. Henson
- \$100 Gift Certificate for Tom's market M. Beurle



Walleye fingerling about to be planted

Fish Fry?

Two huge muskies were speared on Black Lake in February
54" -- 40 lbs.
48" -- 31 lbs.

**Update on Our Quest
for a 501©(3)**

Ron Dulak—Vice President

The Black Lake Association, which will be celebrating its 82nd anniversary this year, was established in 1928 as a non-profit property owners association.

This past year we modified our by-laws in order to become a public association which better

reflects our mission. We then applied for recognition of exemption under section 501©(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

With this recognition all of our dues and donations will qualify as tax deductions. This will benefit the Association in its many fund raising projects and

will also help our members and donors at tax time.

Our application was delivered to the IRS on December 22 and as of this writing no approval has been received. We are still waiting for their approval.

Successful Sturgeon Season

February 2010

The Black Lake sturgeon season, which was to run from February 6 to February 10, lasted two days.

The season limit of five was reached on the second day. Four were speared on the first day and the fifth one was speared early Sunday morning.

This was the first year that a new

set of rules was followed. There was no lottery; a total of 255 anglers registered and participated, fishing from 8 A.M. until 2 P. M. There was no minimum size limit.

Sturgeon Season's Catch

Length	Weight
75.0"	104.0 lbs.
50.5"	28.0 lbs.
73.5"	100.5 lbs.
57.0"	48.0 lbs.
70.0"	102.5 lbs.

Black Lake Fishery Committee

Erin Mc Lean—Chairman

989-733-4661

The BLA Fishery Committee had a very successful second year. All of the fund raising, working with other groups and agencies is producing results.

The committee, chaired by Erin Mc Lean consists of Virgil Smith, Ron Dulak, Mike Parrot and Mike Kretz. Any questions, suggestions or donations may be directed to these individuals.

This past year the BLA purchased an additional 10,000 small walleye fingerlings, 6" to 8" in length. They were released at the Onaway State Park and the Corbat Road Access. This action brings the total walleye stocked to 20,000.

The result of these plantings has been very encouraging. The DNR conducts an annual fish survey every fall, usually in September and have found no young class walleye in Black Lake for the past three years. This year, 2009, they reported six young class walleye. Wow! We have also received reports from the ice fishermen that numerous under sized walleye are being caught and released.

Fund raising this year was very successful. Our Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament netted over \$700; The Raffle raised over \$2100 and the Banquet Auction over \$3400. The BLA provided an additional \$9,000 toward

the purchase of fingerlings.

Our fund raising efforts will continue this year with another raffle. The winners will be drawn at the annual banquet on July 17, 2010.

Our thanks go out to everyone for their help and support in this effort.



The walleye have arrived !

Partnership with Lake Superior State University

Geoffrey Steinhart, PH D.

Co-director of Aquatic Research Laboratory

The Black Lake Association (BLA) and Hammond Bay Area Anglers Association (HBAAA) have agreed to a partnership with LSSU for conducting research on Black Lake.

The mysterious decline in the Black Lake walleye fishery has left anglers frustrated. While the tip of the Mitt Watershed Council and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources has invested significant time and effort on monitoring Black Lake, the system is large and complex and resources are scarce for these organizations. Enter LSSU and Dr. Geoff Steinhart, a fisheries professor with over 15 years of experience in fisheries science.

"I am excited with the opportunity to do research on Black Lake," said Geoff. "All our students are required to conduct senior thesis projects, and they love the chance to do meaningful research that helps the resource and the users." Through partnership, the BLA and the HBAAA will provide funding for approved senior thesis research projects related to walleye reproduction, growth and survival in Black Lake. In return, LSSU students gain the opportunity to conduct

meaningful research.

The opportunity to conduct research on Black Lake has already piqued the interest of several LSSU undergraduates who plan to submit proposals to the BLA for consideration for funding in 2010. Examples of potential projects include determining the extent and locations of walleye spawning, examining walleye diets and prey availability, studying northern pike diets (a predator of walleye), and testing for potential disease or nutrient deficiencies in young walleye.

"While there are no guarantees that we will find the 'smoking gun,' we will increase our knowledge of Black Lake," Geoff continued. "And our students will have another opportunity to learn about science, management and outreach." Geoff has a similar partnership with a UP sportsmen club, where LSSU students write management plans that are frequently implanted on club waters.

In addition to providing funding for select projects, BLA and HBAAA members may be asked to assist in sampling or in providing lake or river access when appropriate. After com-

pleting a project, an LSSU student will present the research findings at a BLA meeting.



Winter on Black Lake

Volunteer

Beach Representatives

Ray Garrison
Norman Schwartz
Mike Kretz
Bev Rathbun
Colleen Campau
John Kirila
Charlene Swihart
Bette Hopkins
Norma Lind
Julie Johnson
Florence Roberts
Elda Shull
Mary Kay Siebel
Sarah Soule
Liz Gowland
Mabel Lepler
Dar Grund
Dana Brophy
Donna Lory
Kay Hoefflin
Caren Jackson
Mary Rocco
Marlene George
Lois Overton
Heide Penhale
Larry Braidwood
Linda Henry
Marilyn Fulkerson
Diane Brown

BLACK LAKE MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Sharon Dulak - 989-733-2565

Once again I want to thanks all of the Beach Representatives who have taken their valuable time to walk the beaches, collect dues, and give out membership cards and decals. I know how valuable time is and I want all of you to know how much I appreciate all that you do.

I am also looking for new Beach Reps again. A couple people have retired their jobs and a few of our beaches have become large enough to be split. At last count we had 35 beaches. So, if you think you would like to go out and meet your neighbors, or

people on the other beaches, we could use your help. You may call me at the number listed above.

The job is actually fun and healthy. Fun because of the people you meet and talk to and healthy because you get to breathe clean and fresh air while walking the beaches. Add that to the fact that you are helping to preserve and protect Black Lake and it's a win, win situation.

I also want to remind everyone that if they mail their dues in, it

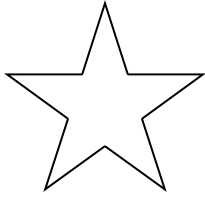
makes the Beach Reps job a little easier. Last year many more of you mailed in your dues than ever before; I thank you for that. It made a big difference.

The lake is still pretty frozen, but I know spring is just around the corner. I am looking forward to meeting all of you who are taking this job under consideration through the winter months and thinking about volunteering. I hope you will all return eager to work to help keep Black Lake beautiful.

Black Lake Banquet

Robert Haas - CHAIRMAN

269-321-9538



A date that is sure to live in infamy.....that's right, it's our Black Lake Association Banquet.

This year's dinner promises the opportunity to reacquaint with "old lake" friends as well as our newest members and take home some finely crafted items donated by lake artisans. Enjoy the "social hour" and increase your chances at the Chinese auction!

**BLACK LAKE
BANQUET**
*Mark July 17, 2010 on
your calendar*

WHO: ASSOCIATION MEMBERS AND GUESTS

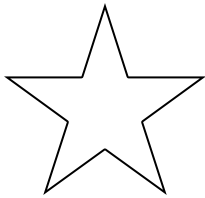
WHAT: 2010 BLACK LAKE ASSOCIATION DINNER

WHERE: BLACK LAKE GRILL AT THE BLACK LAKE GOLF CLUB

WHEN: JULY 17, 2010

COCKTAILS 5:30 PM

DINNER TO FOLLOW



For additional information please contact Robert Haas 269-321-9538

or Mary Rocco 248-762-0152

The Black Lake Grill Banquet Menu—\$26.00

Grilled 8 oz. New York Steak

Grilled Chicken Breast

Tossed Salad

Coffee or Tea

Fresh Vegetables

Cookies and brownies

Baked Potato

Please reserve _____ dinners . I have enclosed \$ _____ to cover the cost of the dinners.

Tear off and mail reservation by July 10th, 2010.

Mail to:

Black Lake Association, P.O. Box 302, Onaway, Michigan 49765

Swimmer's Itch, Anyone?

The Michigan Riparian ran a story about a Wisconsin family who has developed a "lotion" to prevent swimmer's itch. They mixed up their own "swimmer's itch block" with a 30SPF sunscreen and claim that it works. The only glitch is that mom and dad have to remember to apply the lotion to their children. They claim they had a total of 240 grandkid days at their cabin last summer and that they were in the water 90% of the time with NO swimmer's itch. They were so happy they have decided to sell their product. If you are interested in trying their lotion you can find them at, noswimmersitch.com.



A quiet, winter road on Black Lake

Happenings In and Around Black Lake

JUNE

- 5th - Rubber Duck Raffle /Chuck a Duck (kids) at Chandler Park
- 5th - Stepping Stones Perennial Plant Sale on the courthouse lawn
- 14th -Onaway Spring Tractor Pull
- 26th - Golf Scramble for Sturgeon Recovery
- 25-27th—Presque Isle County Fair Millersburg

JULY

- 3 & 4th - Arts and Crafts on the Onaway Courthouse lawn
- 4 & 5th - Dancing Hippo Craft Show
- 7th - 27th Annual Art Fair at Nub's Nob 9:30 to 4:00
- 9, 10, 11 - Antique Tractor Show, Pull and Auction
- 10th - Cheboygan Summer Street Fair
- 17th- **Black Lake Association Banquet**

AUGUST

- 6th - Nautical Festival in Rogers City
- 9-14th -Cheboygan County Fair
- 14 -21 - Cheboygan River Fest
- 21 - Black Lake Boats 'n Floats Parade/Fishing Contest (rain date - August 21)

Cookbook News

We have heard from the cookbook

"crew", Mary Rocco and the Cannon Girls, Kate Rafferty and Sue Milling. They are back on track and should have news for us soon.

Loon Alert

Black Lake is a habitat for the common loon.

If you see a nesting loon or one with babies enjoy them at "binocular range."

Disturbances can cause them to desert their nest.

The common loon is listed as a "threatened" species in Michigan and is protected by state and federal laws.

Their average life expectancy is 15 to 30 years.

Loons return to the same territory to nest year after year.

They usually lay two eggs.

Both male and female share incubating and feeding the chicks.

Summary of Black Lake Association Activities

The mission of the Black Lake Association (BLA) is to monitor Black Lake for environmental and ecological changes and perform activities to enhance water quality, fishing, boating, safe navigation, swimming and other activities enjoyed by the users of Black Lake.

The BLA performs many activities to achieve this mission. A list of the major activities are listed below:

- 1.) Issues contracts with the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council to conduct shoreline surveys for identifying and documenting adverse impacts on the lake's water quality, including nutrient pollution, erosion, greenbelt health and shoreline alterations. These surveys have been conducted every five years since 1987.
- 2.) Issues contracts with the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council to conduct aquatic plant surveys for identifying and documenting the arial extent, species composition and relative density of aquatic vegetation throughout the lake. These surveys have been conducted every five years since 1987.
- 3.) Perform weekly Secchi-disk readings (May through September) to monitor water clarity. These readings are forwarded to the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council for inclusion with their Black Lake data.
- 4.) Conduct ongoing monitoring and documentation of several environmental attributes of the Rainey River which feeds into Black Lake. These attributes include temperature, PH, oxygen level, total phosphates, nitrates, turbidity and clarity.
- 5.) Work with the MDNR to address the declining walleye population and to conduct annual fish population surveys.
- 6.) Is a member of the MDNR Northern Inland Lakes Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee to provide input for fishery goals, objectives and management plans for the lakes and tributaries of Northern Michigan's Inland Waterway and Black Lake.
- 7.) Issued a contract with Lake Superior State University Research Laboratory to develop an academic study of Black Lake to determine causes of the declining walleye population. This contract is in partnership with the Hammond Bay Area Anglers Association.
- 8.) Members maintain memberships in the HBAAA to leverage both organizations to improve the fisheries in Northern Michigan, including Black Lake.
- 9.) Perform several fund raising events, such as donations, raffles, poker tournaments, and banquets in order to support activities for the achievement of the Black Lake mission.
- 10.) Purchase walleye fingerlings for planting in Black Lake. Eight thousand fingerlings were planted during 2008 and ten thousand were planted in 2009.
- 11.) Members maintain memberships in the Sturgeon for Tomorrow organization to support augmentation of the sturgeon population in Black Lake.
- 12.) Provide support for the Upper Black River Restoration Project for repairing, reducing erosion and improving water quality.
- 13.) Maintain memberships in the Coast Guard Auxiliary which has conducted boating safety classes for BLA membership.
- 14.) Maintain, install and remove BLA owned channel marker buoys annually, to define the boating channel between Black Lake and the Lower Black River.
- 15.) Perform membership solicitation drives to gain and retain memberships.
- 16.) Publish annual newsletters highlighting news, plans and events of the year.
- 17.) Members attend seminars which are beneficial to the achievement of the BLA mission.
- 18.) Conduct monthly BLA membership meetings, May through October, directed toward the achievement of the BLA mission. Each meeting includes an educational, informational presentation relevant to the Black Lake membership.