

Black Lake News

Meetings

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

- May 9th
- June 13th—Potluck dinner 6:30 pm - Speaker Andrea Sullivan, Senior Geologist, DNRE
- July 11th - Speaker Recreational Officer Deputy Amez -Four Wheeler Safety Requirements
- August 8th
- September 12th
- October 10th

Volunteers

- President - Virgil Smith
- Vice President –Ron Dulak
- Treasurer –Cindy
- Trepanier
- Secretary—Cindy Trepanier (acting)
- Trustees –Bill Fink, Erin Mc Lean, Dick Hopkins
- Membership Chairman – Sharon Dulak
- Technical Advisor –Rusty Gowland
- Secchi Disk Readings –Bob Williams
- Newsletter –Sharon Dulak
- Banquet Chairman –Cindy Trepanier

A Message from the President Virgil Smith 989-733-8089

As stated in our By-Laws, the mission of the Black Lake Association (BLA) is to monitor Black Lake for environmental and ecological changes and to promote activities which will enhance water quality, fishing, boating, safe navigation, swimming and all activities enjoyed by the users of Black Lake. During this past year there has been significant progress toward the achievement for our mission. Among the accomplishments for 2010 were:

- Planting of 196,130 walleye spring fingerlings (approximately 2") by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNRE). Anglers are reporting improved walleye catches, which may have resulted from prior year's plantings.
- Conducting studies with Lake Superior State University (LSSU) and the University of Michigan Biological Station (UMBS) to assess environmental quality and fishery attributes of the lake. Although additional study is required, we now know that the water quality is very good, but somewhat lacking in fishery nutrients.
- Obtaining an Organizational Tax Status, a 501-C3. This enables income tax deductions for dues and donations to the BLA, fund raising with raffles and other gaming activities.
- Holding the annual BLA Banquet, which was well attended and resulted in an evening of fun and fellowship.

The BLA has developed sound relationships with several organizations which contributed towards achieving our mission. These include Hammond Bay Area Anglers Association



(HBAAA), MDNR, LSSU and UMBS. We will continue to strengthen these relationships for the benefit of both Black Lake and their organizations.

I believe we have gained significant traction and momentum towards fulfilling the BLA mission. To continue building momentum we need your participation. We need to hear from you. Your input and feedback insures that we are addressing the needs and priorities of Black Lake and the BLA. Our greatest need is for your involvement in monthly meetings, activities, committees and as board members. There are currently three open Board Officer positions which need to be filled. Please call me or Ron Dulak (989-733-2565) to discuss how you can become involved.

It has been a great year and with your help, next year will be even greater.



FIVE MILE POINT



VIEW FROM THE STATE FOREST CAMPGROUND



STATE PARK VIEWED FROM HIGHWAY 489

501-C3 Update

Ron Dulak 989-733-2565

When you think of Black Lake, what comes to mind ? Is it the crystal clear water, swimming, the biggest fish you ever caught or the beautiful sunrises or sunsets? Perhaps it is the mighty sturgeon that surfaced and rolled right next to your boat. All of these things and more, are being cared for by the Black Lake Association.

Our organization was established in 1928 as a non-profit property owners association. In 2009 we modified our by-

laws to become a public Association which better reflects our mission. We then applied for Recognition of Exemption under Section 501-C3 of the Internal Revenue Code. After two additional requests for information and clarification we were granted a 501-C3 classification on March 17, 2010.

We are now exempt from Federal Income Tax. Contributions to our organization are tax deductible. We are now qualified to receive tax

deductible bequests, devises, transfers and gifts.

So when you think of Black Lake, think of our organization and help us maintain our mission to monitor Black Lake for environmental and ecological changes and to promote activities which will enhance water quality, fishing, boating, safe navigation and all activities enjoyed by the users of Black Lake.

Black Lake Fishery Committee

**Erin McLean Chairman
989-733-4661**

The BLA Fish Committee had a great 2010 and we are looking forward to a busy 2011. With another fund raiser on tap this year we have several things to direct our funds to. Some possibilities are fish cribs, rock reefs or more fall fingerlings.

The committee members are Erin McLean, Virgil Smith, Ron Dulak, Mike Parrot and Mike Kretz. Your suggestions, questions and donations are always welcomed and can be directed to any of these individuals.

2010 was a big year for Black Lake and the future walleye population. Even though the VHS stocking ban was still in effect, the DNRE realized we really needed walleye and lifted the ban for Black Lake. Therefore 196,130 spring fingerlings were stocked. The stocking took place at

three locations; Onaway State Park, Corbat Road access and at the mouth of the Upper Black River. This was a huge boost to Black Lake and we would like to give special thanks to Dr. Kelley Smith, Chief of Fisheries, Dave Borgeson and Tim Cwalinski, Fisheries Biologists out of the Gaylord office, for their hard work and patience while dealing with the BLA Fish Committee.

Another bit of good news! The stocking ban on walleyes has been lifted statewide. A new test to determine if a walleye is VHS positive or negative is now available in a 24 hour time frame. There is also a disinfectant treatment for walleye eggs. With the ban lifted we are hopeful we will receive more walleye from the DNR in the future. Black Lake is high on the stocking list, but

because of the ban for the last several years there are a lot of other lakes in our area that also want them.

We have three members of the fish committee that are also on the Northern Inland Lakes Citizen Fishery Advisory Committee. This committee was formed to deal with issues that arise in northern lower Michigan inland waters. We have a lot of interest in Black Lake, but also Mullet, Burt and the whole chain. This committee is looking out for the good of all the lakes in the area. We are very happy to be able to meet with the heads of the DNRE and express our concerns for the area.

The Black Lake Fishery Committee would like to thank everyone for their support to better the fishery in Black Lake.

BLACK LAKE BANQUET

This year the Black Lake Association Banquet will be held July 23, 2011, at Lorenzo's, on the west side of the lake, on South Black River Road. Cindy Trepanier is the Banquet chairman. Her committee consists of Dick Hopkins and Virgil and Gail Smith. They would welcome anyone who would like to join them in this endeavor.

Cindy and her committee are also looking for people to donate gifts for door prizes and the silent auction. In previous years we have had many talented people donate their crafts and creations. We have also had whole beaches band together to make one gift, such as a movie basket, picnic-beach basket, wine party basket and unique food baskets. These gifts provide additional fun at the banquet, and of course to the people who are lucky enough to take them home.

If you are interested in volunteering to help, donating a gift and just plain having fun, call Cindy at 989-733-6451.



Black Lake Association Banquet at Lorenzo' July 23,2011



Appetizers and social hour 5:30 PM

Dinner 6:30PM

Buffet of Prime Rib, Barbequed Ribs and Perch

There is limited seating for 100 people. Mail your reservation in now!

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

Please reserve _____ dinners for the July 23, 2011 banquet. I have enclosed \$ _____ to cover the cost of the dinners.

Name _____

Address _____

Tear off and mail by July 16, 2011.

STURGEON SEASON ALIVE AND WELL



Sturgeon season in Black Lake opened and closed on Saturday, February 5, 2011. There were 330 spear fishermen who signed up to fish on opening day. The season lasted only four hours . The new quota this year of seven fish was reached quickly with an additional four fish also speared. The season had opened at 8:00 AM and it was all over at 12:05 PM. The Michigan Department of Conservation Officers were quickly on the ice to stop any additional spearing from taking place. They said that all shanties had been notified by 12:55PM.

The sturgeon speared were as follows, from the first speared to the last:

- | | | | |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|-------------|
| 1. 66 inches | 73 lb. female | 7. 61.2 inches | 49 lb. male |
| 2. 54.7 inches | 38 lb. male | 8. 52 inches | 30 lb. male |
| 3. 69.1 inches | 69 lb. female | 9. 37 inches | 8 lb. male |
| 4. 50 inches | 39 lb. male | 10. 29 inches | 5 lb. male |
| 5. 66 inches | 72 lb. female | 11. 59 inches | 40 lb. male |
| 6. 66.5 inches | 66 lb. female | | |

Only four of the eleven sturgeon speared had been previously tagged.

<i>Happenings To Look For Around Black Lake</i>	
JUNE	
4TH—Stepping Stones Garden Club Perennial Plant Sale - Onaway Courthouse Lawn	
12th—Onaway Spring Tractor Pull - rain date— June 19th	
25th—Golf Scramble for Sturgeon Recovery	
JULY	
4th—Parade 12:30, Craft Show, VFW Chicken Dinner, Fireworks at dusk (M-211)	
23rd—Black Lake Association Banquet—Lorenzo's - 5:30PM Social Hour, 6:30 PM Dinner	
AUGUST	
3rd– through 8th -Nautical Festival, Rogers City	
6th—Boats 'n Floats—Theme Red/White/Blue—rain date—20th	
6th—Black Lake Fishing Contest—Largest of the species.	
Call the Chamber of Commerce, Onaway for more Information - 989-733-2874	

LSSU Students Study Black Lake Walleye

Dr. Geoffrey Steinhart
Co-director of Aquatic Research Laboratory

With the support of the Black Lake and the Hammond Bay Area Anglers Associations, three Lake Superior State University students will be conducting research on walleye in Black Lake and its tributaries.

Starting in 2010, these associations and LSSU entered into a partnership to study the mysterious decline of walleye in Black Lake. During the first year, Luke Kaiser and Dr Geoff Steinhart initiated a study to determine where walleye were spawning and the relative abundance of walleye eggs. An early spring and supplier difficulties prohibited a complete field season, but they were successful at finding a few walleye eggs near Onaway State Park. In addition they learned how to improve their sampling methods that use furnace filter material for egg collection mats. The experience from 2010 will make the 2011 field season more successful.

In addition to studying where, when and how plentiful walleye are spawning, two other students will study the food resources and diet of young walleye. Dr. Kristin Arend will supervise Dana De Plonty on a survey of seasonal zooplankton abundance in Black Lake. Zooplankton are minute crustaceans that are the first food for most walleye. Zooplankton will be sampled throughout the spring and summer, with an emphasis on areas close to where the walleye spawning sampling is occurring. If zooplankton are plentiful, we would expect good growth conditions for young walleye.

The final project, conducted by Alex Ingersoll, with oversight from Dr. Ashley Moeke, will focus on the diet and growth of larval and juvenile walleye. Growth rates will be compared with other systems to see if the walleye

are growing well. Comparing walleye diet to the prey available (from the zooplankton study) and with known preferred prey will help identify if food may be limiting walleye growth and therefore their survival.

All three students will work together, ensuring a comprehensive study of the early life history of walleye. Be on the lookout for the students and feel free to ask them what they are finding. Please do not disturb any of their equipment. The walleye mats will be marked with orange buoys labeled, "LSSU". Egg mats will be placed near the Onaway State Park, in the Upper Black River and in the Rainey River.

new



New this year!
Blue and white
Black Lake
License Plates

\$10.00

Call 733-2565

Lake Superior Students Working with Walleye Collection Mats



Black Lake

Banquet

July 23,

2011

Lorenzo's

Natural Gas Drilling in Northern Michigan

A new gas discovery recently occurred in Northern Michigan, revealing potential natural gas reserves in the Collingwood and Utica Shale at a depth of approximately 9,500 feet. Horizontal drilling and multi-stage fracking will be used to collect this gas, which is different than hydraulic fracturing techniques historically used in Michigan. This drilling is not only deeper, it also uses substantially more fresh water, (millions of gallons rather than up to one hundred thousand gallons) and chemicals. There are many unknowns with respect to the environment and long-term impacts with this process.

The Black Lake Association has contacted Andrea Sullivan, Senior Geologist, MDNRE, regarding this subject. She has agreed to attend our June Potluck Meeting to discuss the effects this type of drilling and fracking could have on Black Lake and the surrounding area. Please bring a dish to pass and join us at this meeting. It should be very informative.

If you have any questions you may call Ron Dulak at 989-733-2565.

Did you know that 62 people in our Black Lake Association subscribe to the RIPARIAN when they pay their dues?

Beach
Reps

- Ray Garrison
- Norman Schwartz
- Mike Kretz
- Bev Rathbun
- Colleen Campau
- John Kirila
- Charlene Swihart
- Bette Hopkins
- Norma Lind
- Julie Johnson
- Florence Roberts
- Elda Shull
- Sarah Soule
- Liz Gowland
- Gail Smith
- Mary Rocco
- Marlene George
- Lois Overton
- Gary Shepherd
- Larry Braidwood
- Linda Henry
- Dana Brophy
- Donna Lory
- Kay Hoeflin
- Lynne Henzler
- Mabel Leppler
- Dar Grund
- Eugene Osantowski

The
Party's
Over



Time
to take
our shanty
and
go home.

Black Lake Membership Notes Sharon Dulak—989-733-2565

Many thanks to all of the volunteer beach representatives who are willing to help collect the Association's dues, and deliver the membership cards and decal. Presently we have 28 people who will walk the roads and beaches, meeting their neighbors and enjoying the beauty around them. They are doing what they can to help protect and maintain the beauty of the lake, while helping to make the Association stronger.

This year, if possible, please mail your dues in the envelope

provided in this newsletter. By doing so you will certainly make the beach representative's job easier as they will only have to deliver your membership card and decal. Since it is almost impossible for the beach representative to find all of you at home, they often have to return several times trying to catch you at home. This year they will only visit your home once, at which time they will leave you another envelope that you may use to mail your dues in.

If anyone is interested in

becoming a beach representative please feel free to call me and volunteer. I am always looking forward to meeting new energetic volunteers who want to help preserve the quality of the lake. Once again, thanks to all the beach representative. I really appreciate your help.

