

# BLACK LAKE NEWS

## Meetings

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

- May 14—Speaker Geoffrey Steinhart—LSSU
- June 14— 6:30PM POT LUCK. Bring a dish to pass.
- July 9
- August 13
- September 10
- October 8

## Volunteers

- **President—Ron Dulak**
- **Vice President—Virgil Smith**
- **Treasurer—Cindy Trepanier**
- **Secretary—Linda Smith**
- **Trustees—Erin Mc Lean, Roger Selvig, Dick Hopkins**
- **Membership Chairman—Sharon Dulak**
- **Technical Advisor—Rusty Gowland**
- **Secchi Disk Readings—Bob Williams**
- **Newsletter—Sharon Dulak**
- **Banquet—Linda Smith and Kaye Hoefflin**

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT RON DULAK 989-733-2565

The Black Lake Association (BLA) is beginning its 84th year as an organization striving to accomplish its mission as stated in its By-Laws. This mission 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 other activities enjoyed by those that use the lake.

During the past two years our association has taken many steps toward accomplishing that goal. These steps include:

1. Working with the DNR to stock over 344,000 walleye.
2. Working with Lake Superior State University's Aquatic Research Department, through a partnership with Hammond Bay Angler's Association, to improve our walleye fishery.
3. Acquiring our 501-C-3 tax Status.
4. Becoming an active member of the Northern Inland Lakes Citizens Advisory Committee. It reviews and provides input and

direction into the fishery goals, objectives and management plans for Northern Michigan's Inland Waterways comprised of, Pickerel, Crooked, Mullet, Burt and Black Lakes.

These are goals that we have met and now we have to look ahead to maintain Black Lake as one of the most pristine lakes in Northern Michigan.

Last fall the BLA Board of Directors and the Fishery Committee held a meeting with the DNR to discuss some potential future projects for the improvement of the lake. Some of the suggested projects are:

- Fish shelters around the lake
- Walleye spawning reefs
- Improved boat launching ramps at the state park
- Increased parking spaces for cars and trailers at the state park.
- A longer, more efficient, enhanced jetty



Ron Dulak and Erin McLean work with the Lake Superior students planting walleye fish mats.

which could serve as a fishing pier.

These potential projects will be discussed at the summer general meeting where all of you can have input. We definitely need your involvement.

With a membership of over 550 families, volunteers are always needed. This year the BLA Board of Directors will be looking to fill the positions of Secretary and one trustee. There are also many chairpersonships open. We need you to volunteer to help make this the great year it can be with your help. I am looking forward to meeting and working with all of you.

## WATER LEVELS ON BLACK LAKE VIRG SMITH 989-733-8089

Water levels on Black Lake have long been a topic of discussion and concern. During this past spring, the water reached a level of 613.8 feet above sea level, causing boats and pontoons to float off hoists, docks to separate and property damage. The highest recorded water level was 615.1 feet above sea level, occurring on April 21, 1960. The lake water level is documented with a chart recorder located at the Black River Marina. There is also a gauge at Alverno Dam for measuring water level within the dam pond.

Legal water levels for Black lake were established by

Circuit Court Order on August 28, 1964. The order set the summer level (May 15 through October 31) at 612.2 feet above sea level and the winter level (December 1 through April 15) at 610.5 feet above sea level.

During the 1960's, the US Army Corps of Engineers completed a study to determine the cause of reoccurring high water levels on Black Lake. Their study determined the cause was a section of the Black River known as Smith Rapids, approximately 1.2 miles downstream from Black Lake. The Corps' study states, "The Smith Rapids section is a channel constriction that restricts the flow of water to

the point that the Smith Rapids, not the dam, controls the outflow from Black Lake during periods of high water." This past years experience with water levels supports the findings of the Corps' study. During the time the lake level was 613.8 feet, the pond level at Alverno Dam was 610.0 feet above sea level.

Alverno Dam was completed in 1905. It is 19 feet in height and was built using earthen constructions, timber cribs, rock fill and concrete. It has the capacity to generate one million watts of electrical power. The dam is currently owned and operated by Black River Limited Partnership. The legal water level court

order is used as policy for the operation of the dam.

The aging Alverno dam has required significant maintenance throughout the years. It is now at a stage where underwater concrete must be replaced and repaired. This repair will require significant water level drawdown and prior notice to various agencies and Black Lake property owners. Although timing has not been determined, it most likely would occur during the fall, after some future Labor Day



## BLACK LAKE STURGEON SEASON

The scene was set for the opening day of sturgeon season, Saturday, February 4, 2012. The DNR law enforcement officials and personnel were waiting in the fishing areas to report a catch as soon as it occurred. The sturgeon fishing Hot Line was ready to be used, and lake wide cannons and sirens were in place to signal the end of the season when it came.

There were 197 registered anglers on the ice, set up and ready to go.

The season opened at 8:00 AM and the first sturgeon was speared at 9:30 AM by Ed Crawford of Afton. It was a 58.7 inch tagged male that weighed 45.4 pounds.

The second sturgeon was speared by Lance Williams from Cheboygan. It was also a tagged male. It measured 53.5 inches and weighed 32 pounds. The time was 10:02 AM February 4, 2012.

The Hot Line was used, the cannons boomed and the sirens screamed. The 2012 season was over. It had lasted two hours and 2 minutes.

The DNR were pleased with the outcome. They felt that all the precautions they had put in place to end the season worked well. Tim Cwalinski stated that within 20 minutes of the last sturgeon caught they had effectively closed

the season. He felt that 90 percent of the participants knew it was over within three minutes.

Most of the fishermen and women, 55 percent, were from northern Michigan, while an additional 38 percent were from southern Michigan, south of M-72. Three percent were from Ohio, another three percent were from Wisconsin, and the rest were from the Upper Peninsula and Alaska.



# 2011 BLACK LAKE WALLEYE STUDIES

## GEOFFREY STEINHART, LSSU

### Lake Superior State University Students at Work.

With the support of the Black Lake Association (BLA) and the Hammond Bay Anglers Association (HBAAA) three Lake Superior State University (LSSU) students have been conducting research on spawning and larval walleye in Black Lake and its tributaries.

The Spring 2011 walleye sampling was an overall success as far as data collection, although the results were disheartening. Luke Kaiser confirmed walleye were spawning in the Black Lake study site near Onaway State Park, but no walleye eggs were found in the Rainy River or the Upper Black River. Other eggs were found in the rivers (suckers in the Rainy and sturgeon in the Black), so the egg collection methods were effective, but it is possible that the high flows in the spring disrupted walleye spawning in the rivers.

A total of 721 walleye eggs were found in Black Lake,

limited to the week of April 23 to May 7 egg mats collected. If this catch is extrapolated to the whole area near the state park, it was estimated that about 24,000 eggs were deposited. While this is a relatively low number of eggs, sampling occurred in only a small portion of Black Lake, so it reflects only a fraction of the total spawning effort for the lake.

Larval walleye sampling was conducted by Alex Ingersoll once a week from mid-April to the end of June 2011. A total of 500 larval fishes were caught with yellow perch being the most abundant (80% of all larvae), along with a few unidentified whitefish and minnows. No larval walleye were found. All larval sampling was again near the state park, so it does not likely represent larvae that could have hatched in other areas of the lake. Given the low density of walleye eggs and the apparent lack of walleye larvae, it appears that natural repro-

duction of walleye in 2100 was very low.

Larval walleye consume small crustaceans, or zooplankton, so Dana DePlonty collected zooplankton from near the state park from April through September. She is still counting and identifying the samples, but has found Daphnia species, one of the preferred species for larval fishes. It remains to be seen if the Daphnia and overall zooplankton densities are conducive for good larval growth and survival.

The final results of these projects will be presented at the May BLA meeting, so stay tuned. All students learned a lot in the process and appreciate the support of both the BLA and HBAAA.

Contributions to this article were made by L. Kaiser, A Ingersoll and D. DePlonty



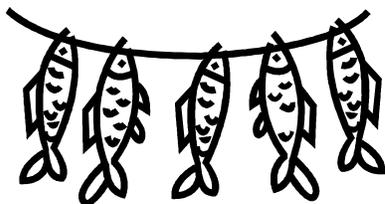
Alex, Luke and Dana collect zooplankton.



Luke and Mike check mats on Black Lake.

## WALLEYE RAFFLE WINNERS—2011

The winners of the 2011 raffle were drawn on July 23, at the Black Lake Banquet held at Lorenzo's Restaurant on Black Lake.



- The first prize, an Old Town Kayak was won by Jake Tribisoni of Millersburg.

- The second prize was a Fishing Charter by TLC, won by Skip Lemon of Black Lake.

- Third prize, a Kenmore gas grill, went to Todd Wilms of Black Lake.
- Fourth prize, a \$100.00 gift certificate at Tom's Market in Onaway, was won by Mike James of Onaway.



Dana, Alex and Luke working on the Rainy River.

# Black Lake Banquet Luau

Saturday July 21, 2012

Lorenzo's

Appetizers and Social Hour 5:30 PM

Dinner 6:30 PM

Buffet of Prime Rib, Barbequed Ribs and Perch

\$25.00 per person



## IT'S A LUAU!!!

This year the co-chairpersons for the luau banquet are Linda Smith and Kaye Hoeflin. They are looking for volunteers to help with the many various and fun jobs connected with planning a party. They are also looking for people to donate their time, talent and creative art and treasures. Whole beaches can go together and built a basket of goodies to auction off. Everything that is donated helps to make the banquet a little more fun, especially for the people who win and take home the prizes. For even more fun, you can come in Hawaiian dress and really enjoy the spirit of the LUAU.

Linda 248-515-4726

Kaye 989-733-4586

**There is limited seating for 100 people. Please mail your reservation in now!**

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

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ dinners for the July 21, 2012 banquet. I have enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_ to cover the cost of the dinners.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Tear off and mail by July 14.



## Black Lake Association Fishery Committee Report

**Erin McLean, Chairman**

**989-733-4661**

With another successful year in the past, it is time to look back on what has taken place. The BLA Fishery Committee was formed several years ago to address the decline in the walleye population and also to accomplish things that will have a positive impact on our lake. And we are seeing some success!

In June the DNR planted 119,983 spring fingerlings into Black Lake. These fish were approximately 1.8 inches in length. All these fish were dipped into a solution that dyes their spine so they can be identified under a microscope. In early fall the DNR did a shocking study on Black Lake to hopefully capture some walleye. They successfully shocked 40, age 0 walleye that were approximately six months old. It was later determined, under a microscope, that these fish were planted in June. This proved that the stocking was again a great success. They also got 17, age one walleye that were put in the year before. Keep in mind that

from 2005 to 2008, the DNR shocked each year and only recovered two, age 0 walleye in that whole four year span, before we started stocking Black Lake.

The BLA Fishery Committee, along with its partners also planted Black Lake in 2011. We planted 10,167 fall fingerlings in October. These fish were planted at the Onaway State Park and the State Forest Campground. These walleye were six to eight inches in length and were from the Saint Mary's strain in the UP. They were dyed as well. With the latest two stockings, the BLA and the DNR have planted over 344,000 walleye in Black Lake since 2008. This is really starting to have a positive impact on walleye fishing in Black Lake, with numerous reported catches of sub legal walleye coming in from all over the lake.

This year, we will again be having a raffle to raise money for projects to better Black Lake. Our donation jars

are also located at several locations throughout the area. We are considering many project options.

The Fishery Committee would like to thank everyone for their support over the past year. Without this support from the BLA, HBAA, the Northern Lakes Walleye Club, and everyone who bought raffle tickets, donated to our donation jars, none of this could be possible. A special thanks also to the DNR, especially Dave Borgeson and Tim Cwalinski, fisheries biologists out of the Gaylord office for working so closely with us to improve our walleye fishery.

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

## Black Lake Membership

**Sharon Dulak—989-733-2565**

Thanks to all the wonderful people who volunteer their time to help the Black Lake Association maintain the beauty of Black Lake. I offer special thanks to all the beach representatives who collect dues and deliver membership cards and decals. We are always looking for more volunteers to help with the various beaches around the lake. If you are looking for exercise, fresh air and meeting new people, you are a candidate for a beach representative. Please feel free to call and volunteer.

This year please try to mail your dues in the enclosed envelope. By doing that you will make the job a little easier for your beach representative.

Many thanks to the following people for their efforts as Beach Representatives:

Liz Gowland  
Sarah Soule  
Mary Bonner  
Elda Shull  
Florence Roberts  
Julie Johnson  
Norma Lind  
Bette Hopkins  
Charlene Swihart  
Gail Smith

Graham Edwards  
Linda Smith  
Mike Kretz  
Norman Schwartz  
Ray Garrison  
Dar Grund  
Eugene and Grace Osantowski  
Mabel Leppler  
Lynne Henzler

Kay Hoefflin  
Donna Lory  
Dana Brophy  
Lois Overton  
Sheila Kraycs  
Gary Shepherd  
Dianne Kade  
Marlene George  
Mary Rocco

## Black Lake Banquet Luau

- ◆ Saturday, July 21
- ◆ Appetizers and social hour 5:30 PM
- ◆ Dinner 6:30 PM
  - ◆ Buffet
  - ◆ Prime Rib
- ◆ Barbequed Ribs
  - ◆ Perch
- ◆ \$25.00 per person

Party Time!!!

### Summer Events in the Area

- |                  |        |   |
|------------------|--------|---|
| <i>June</i>      | 8-17   | <i>Lilac Festival on Mackinaw Island</i>                        |
|                  | 9-10   | <i>Free Fish Weekend</i>  |
|                  | 10- 11 | <i>Spring Arts and Craft Show - Rogers City</i>                 |
|                  | 13-14  | <i>Cheboygan Chamber of Commerce Art and Craft Show</i>         |
|                  | 14     | <i>BLA Pot luck—Bring a dish to pass and your table setting</i> |
|                  | 16     | <i>Wooden Boat Show - Presque Isle Harbor</i>                   |
|                  | 23-24  | <i>Mackinaw City Arts and Craft Show</i>                        |
|                  | 26     | <i>Cheboygan Wanigan Festival and Parade</i>                    |
|                  | 29     | <i>St. Ignace Auto Show</i>                                     |
| <i>July</i>      | 3      | <i>Indian River Fireworks</i>                                   |
|                  | 4      | <i>Onaway Fireworks, Mackinaw City Fireworks</i>                |
|                  | 7-8    | <i>Dancing Hippopotamus Art and Craft Show</i>                  |
|                  | 14-15  | <i>Port Huron to Mackinaw Island Yacht Race</i>                 |
|                  | 17-22  | <i>Annual Indian River Summerfest</i>                           |
|                  | 21     | <i>Black Lake Association Banquet at Lorenzo's</i>              |
|                  | 21-24  | <i>Chicago to Mackinaw Yacht Race</i>                           |
|                  | 26     | <i>Summer Street Fair -Rogers City</i>                          |
|                  | 31     | <i>Nautical City Festival - Rogers City</i>                     |
| <i>August</i>    | 7-9    | <i>Cheboygan Sidewalk Sales</i>                                 |
|                  | 25 -26 | <i>Mackinaw City Arts and Crafts Show</i>                       |
| <i>September</i> | 3      | <i>55th Labor Day Bridge Walk</i>                               |

# 2012 Walleye Raffle

## Black Lake Pot Luck

June 14, 2012

Grant Township Hall

6:30 PM

Bring a dish to pass, your plate and silverware.

Come and enjoy the fellowship and wonderful food.

**First Prize:** Old Town 120 Dirigo Kayak

**Second Prize :** 3 Burner Kenmore Gas Grill

**Third Prize:** \$100 Gift Certificate from Tom's Market

**Fourth Prize:** \$100 Gift Certificate from Tom's Market

**T**ickets are \$2.00 each or 6 / \$10.00.

The drawing will be held on July 21st at 8:00PM during the banquet at Lorenzo's Restaurant on Black Lake.

Sponsored by the Black Lake Association