

BLACK LAKE NEWS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

Brett Trepanier

989-370-4949

VICE PRES. - OPEN

TREASURER AND WEB SITE

Cindy Trepanier

989-733-6451

SECRETARY

Linda Smith

248-515-4726

MEMBERSHIP AND NEWS-LETTER

Sharon Dulak

989-733-2565

DIRECTORS

Mary Rocco

248-762-0152

Roger Selvig

989-329-7882

Boyd Smith

734-637-6589

Ron Dulak

989-733-2565

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

BRETT TREPANIER - 989-370-4949

Due to health reasons and stress the Board of Directors reluctantly accepted the resignation of President Virgil Smith. The position of President was then assumed by the Vice-President, Brett Trepanier. Brett is working earnestly to keep everything moving in the right direction.

The Board of Directors has been working diligently to respond to a number of issues raised by some of the membership regarding the operation of the Association. Questions were raised about the Association By-Laws, the means by which members could communicate with the Board and the Annual Meeting. To answer questions regarding the By-Laws, the Board retained Attorney Christopher Cooke of Smith, Rolfe & Skavdahl to review these issues.

Recently the Board enacted a change in the original By-Laws making the Association a "Board Driven" organization. This means that the membership votes at the Annual Meeting to elect new Board Members to replace those whose terms have expired. The Board is then charged with the duty, consistent with the Mission Statement, to handle the functioning of the Association until the next

Annual Membership meeting. Per Attorney Cooke, this is the only way an organization of our size and geographic diversity could run.

However, there is an issue in the By-Laws with the Quorum Requirements that a certain number or percentage of members be present at the Annual Meeting in order to conduct business. No Quorum requirement was ever set forth in the original By-Laws from the 1920's and none is set forth in our current set. The Board is suggesting a Quorum of 50 members to open the Annual Meeting. We intentionally set this number low to assure that we will have enough participation to have a meeting. To ensure this Quorum the Board has approved the use of Proxy Voting to open the Annual Meeting. A proxy form is enclosed in this newsletter which you can sign and enclose in the dues envelope. Your proxy will simply allow the Board to open the Annual Meeting. To participate and/or vote at the meeting you must be present.

The Board also considered a request to make attendance at the Annual Meeting easier for the membership as many do not come North until the

middle of summer. In that regard we have moved the Annual Meeting to July 11, 2016 at the Grant Township Hall. The Board further extended all 2015 memberships through July to further encourage participation by members in the 2016 Annual Meeting.

Finally, in an effort by the Board to afford as much access as possible to the general membership we are researching the logistics of allowing conference calls or other electronic means of participation. This information will be updated on our website.

Currently on the agenda for the Annual Meeting is approval of the revised By-Laws, (which will be posted on the website for your review prior to the meeting) and the election of three Board Members to fill the seats of the three members whose terms are expiring. Please stay tuned to the website for additional agenda items and REMEMBER TO SIGN AND RETURN YOUR PROXIES WITH YOUR DUES PAYMENT.

Let's all pull together and make 2016 a great year for the Black Lake Association.

BOB WILLIAM'S VOLUNTEER MONITORING EFFORTS

HELP PROTECT THE WATER QUALITY OF BLACK LAKE



The Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council has been involved with water quality monitoring since their inception in 1979, but the success of their water quality monitoring endeavors rides on the back of volunteers. They have coordinated the Tip of the Mitt Volunteer lake program since 1986, relying on hundreds of volunteers to help them keep tabs on the water quality of over 40 lakes in the Northern Lower Peninsula of Michigan.

Black Lake was among the first included in the program, with volunteers from the local community monitoring the lake since 1987. Data collected by these volunteers have revealed ecosystem-wide trends in Black Lake with implications from the tiniest algae to the largest fish. Volunteer lake monitors are devoted to protecting the lakes they monitor, going out on the water on a weekly basis every summer from early June through the end of August to collect data. They monitor water clarity, algae abundance (chlorophyll), and water temperature.

There was a gap in the volunteer data from 1998 through 2005, which was the result of insufficient data collected throughout the monitoring season or lack of volunteer help. Fortunately, outstanding lake resident Bob Williams stepped up to the plate and took over monitoring duties in 2006.

Bob has proven to be very dedicated to Black Lake, monitoring water quality up to 15 times per season every year since. Water clarity data collected by Bob show averaged Secchi depths in the range of 12-15 feet, decreasing for a few years and then, increasing again. Water clarity is measured by lowering an 8" disc of alternating black and white quarters, called a secchi disc, down through the water column and noting the depth at which the disc disappears.

Water samples are also collected by Bob at this time from the water column to determine chlorophyll-a concentrations. Chlorophyll-a is a green

pigment found in all photosynthesizing algae and therefore, provides a measure of algae abundance.

Bob measures water temperature with a handheld thermometer within a foot or two of the lakes' surface.

This data allows Watershed Council staff to characterize lakes in terms of trophic status, which is simply a biological productivity ranking. The data that Bob collects is also used to examine trends and evaluate whether changes are occurring in the lake ecosystem. If there are changes, then they try to determine the causes, whether good or bad, and decide how lake managers and residents can remedy any problems that are identified.

Thank you, Bob Williams, for all you do to help protect our beautiful Black Lake.

PLEASE NOTE

All of the above information was taken from Kevin Cronk's article,
**LONG-TERM WATER QUALITY TREND ANALYSIS ON BLACK LAKE THANKS TO
VOLUNTEER MONITORING EFFORTS.**

The Tip of the Mitt's, Kevin Cronk's complete article, with technical analysis, charts and results can be found on the Black Lake Association Website, blacklakeassociation.com

BOAT LAUNCH STATUS

In 2014, the Black Lake Association and the Hammond Bay Anglers Association worked with the DNR to improve the boat launch facility at the Onaway State Park. They made some changes, but the State Park has a lot of limitations on how it can be expanded or improved to accommodate more boater's

safe access on a 10,000 acre public lake.

As a result the DNR made a recommendation to Lansing to purchase the Black River Marina. However the funds were not available for the 2016 fiscal year. The

next opportunity to do so will be in the 2017 fiscal year. The DNR will be holding public meetings to allow all parties to voice their opinions on this project.



The Black Lake Association would like to know your thoughts and concerns. Would you please prioritize the following items and return to : Black Lake Association, P.O. Box 302, Onaway, MI 49765

1. Continue working with The Tip of the Mitt and the Department of Natural Resources to preserve and improve the water quality of Black Lake and its watershed.	1 is High...5 is Low...
2. Continue working to improve the quality of fishing in Black Lake.	1 is High...5 is Low...
3. Continue working to improve the boat launches on the lake.	1 is High...5 is Low...
4. Continue working to monitor, protect and eradicate invasive species that threaten Black Lake.	1 is High...5 is Low...
5. Encourage the development of greenbelts on all property owners beachfronts.	1 is High...5 is low....
6. Other	1 is High...5 is Low....

We are also considering starting a member's registry on the Black Lake Association Website, www.blacklakeassociation.com. If you would like to be listed on the site, please fill in the information below. The registry will be found in the **MEMBERS ONLY** section.

It would not be listed on the public site.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____



PLEASE FILL OUT AND MAIL WITH YOUR ANNUAL DUES.

PROXY VOTE

The undersigned hereby gives his/her proxy vote to the President of the Black Lake Association for the sole purpose of establishing a quorum to open the 2016 Annual Meeting.

Date _____

Date _____

Print Name _____

Print Name _____

Sign Name _____

Sign Name _____

Please note there are two votes per family membership.
One vote per business membership.



Record Keepers

Florence Roberts, a BLA member and beach rep is also a keeper of Black Lake Freezing and Thawing Records. She and her late husband Cliff, started keeping the records in 1964. She knows when the lake froze over each year and when the ice went out in the spring. She also kept track of the high water years.

The earliest years it has frozen over were:

1. DECEMBER 1, 1989
2. DECEMBER 3, 2002
3. DECEMBER 5, 1964
4. DECEMBER 8, 2005
5. DECEMBER 8, 2000

AND THIS YEAR IT FROZE OVER ON,

JANUARY 15, 2016

Florence's great record keeping also allows us to see when the ice was finally off the lake in the spring.

The earliest years were:

1. March 20, 2012
2. March 25, 2000
3. April 2, 1973
4. April 7, 1968
5. April 6, 1987

THIS YEAR, 2016 IS STILL TO BE DETERMINED.

Thank you Florence, for being so diligent and for sharing your wealth of information.

BLACK LAKE MEMBERSHIP NOTES

SHARON DULAK—989-733-2565

I have just finished watching the lake freeze over for winter and I am already thinking about Spring! It has been a pretty mild winter so far this year and the hope is for an early thaw. However, this is Michigan and one can never be sure of the weather.

With the thought of Spring comes visions of warm beaches, sand, cool breezes and, of course, membership dues and the beach representatives who collect them.

So, once again I have to thank all of the wonderful people

who take the time to walk the beaches, visit their neighbors and collect the dues. I understand how valuable everyone's time is, so I have to tell each and everyone of you how much I appreciate all that you do.

I also want to encourage everyone to use the enclosed envelope to send in their dues. When you do that you make the beach reps. job a little easier. Last year, there were more dues mailed in than ever before. I thank you for that and hope that the trend continues. We have 35

beaches around the lake, so I am always looking for new beach reps. If you think you would like to meet new people, walk the beaches, collect dues and give out membership cards, please call me. I would love to meet and talk to you. Your beach may be covered already by a beach rep, but you could do a different beach, one where you would meet totally new people. I think you would enjoy it. Think seriously of volunteering. We need your help.



BLACK LAKE BEACH REPRESENTATIVES

Taylor 1

Yvonne Hickerson

Taylor 2

Linda Van Sickle

Hongore 1

Julie Johnson

Hongore 2

Florence Roberts

Hongore Bay

Sandy Schnau

Corbat Road

Patti Archambo

Sugar Beach

Sarah Soule

Stewart Beach

Liz Gowland

Black River

Charlene Swihart

Angle Haven 1

Denise Harrison

Angle Haven 2

Graham Edwards

Crist Isle

Mike Kretz

Five Mile Point

Patti Archambo

Craig Acres1

Boyd Smith

Craig Acres 2

Norman Schwartz

Norwood

Sue Roberts

Cedar Shores

Restmore

Eugene Osantowski

Doriva Beach

Miles Road

Northshore Drive

Owens Road

Darst Grund

Bluffs1

Dana Brophy

Bluffs 2

Missy Beardsley

Bluffs 3

Kay Hoefflin

Bluffs 4

Braidwood Trail

Lynne Henzler

Bonz 1

Gail Smith

Bonz 2

Mary Rocco

Cedar Cliffs

Marlene George

Douglas Beach

Gary Shepherd

Coddes Beach

Randy Lewis

Rainey Beach

Sheila Kraycs

Canfield Beach

Sue Madden

Silver Beach

Diane Kade

Onaway -Ron Dulak

TO VOLUNTEER CALL SHARON DULAK—989-733-2565

BLACK LAKE ASSOCIATION WORKS TO PRESERVE OUR LAKE

The Black Lake Association contracted with Huron Pines to eradicate invasive phragmites located on the north shore of Black Lake. Your Association commissioned a study by the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, at a cost of \$8,420.00 to perform an aquatic plant survey of Black Lake. This survey discovered invasive phragmites in an area of approximately 3,600 sq. ft., on the shores of Black Lake. Please note these phragmites are the invasive type and not the native or natural phragmites type.

The Association, in coordination with the Tip of the Mitt, contracted with Huron Pines, a DEQ permitted organization, which applied a water-safe herbicide called Rodeo to the

invasive phragmites with a surfactant to help absorption into the plant and a dye to make it more visible, both during and after treatment. Huron Pines insured that all techniques and chemical concentrations were approved through the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) aquatic nuisance control permits.

A big thank you goes to the property owner who graciously allowed the application by Huron Pines to rid Black Lake of the very fast growing invasive weed. Huron Pines will evaluate the success of last fall's treatment by making an on site visit this spring and will evaluate if further action will be necessary at this site.

This 2015 phragmites removal program cost us, the Association, \$100.00. Other costs for this service were shared by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Forest Service.

For more information about Invasive Aquatic Plants please go to watershed.council.org, the header has a drop down of aquatic invasive species and an excellent video to help your learning experience.

Your Association will continue to engage in projects to protect and preserve this wonderful natural resource we call, Black Lake.

Submitted and Written
by Roger Selvig



shutterstock-96614176

Fish Stocking History

Fish stocking in Black Lake dates back to 1903 and includes a variety of species and sizes. From 1938 through 1943 rainbow and brown trout, large and small-mouth bass, rock bass and yellow perch were stocked in the lake.

From 1903 to 1910, nearly 12 million walleye fry were stocked. During the war years from 1937 to 1947 less than 1,000 walleye were planted. Walleye stocking did not resume again until 1989 to 1993 when the Black Lake Association and Northern Michigan Walleye Association stocked 50,000 fall fingerlings. Since 2008 the BLA has stocked 38,117 fall fry, 5-7 inches long. The DNR has planted 713,342 small fry, 1 1/2 -2 inches long.

Beyond fish stocking, early fish management consisted of removals of undesirable species and brush shelter installations. Nearly 200 brush shelters were placed in the lake from 1933 through 1953, but their effectiveness was questioned because many washed ashore.

The BLA has not stocked any fish since 2012 and is presently holding \$20,187.10, acquired thru fund raising, memorials and donations for future fall stocking. This future planting, as usual, will be coordinated with the DNR. They will be surveying the lake again to consider stocking in 2017.

MAINTAINING THE WATER QUALITY OF BLACK LAKE IS OUR NUMBER ONE PRIORITY

The following suggestions are some of the things you can do to help reduce nutrient pollution in the lake.

1. Properly maintain septic systems by pumping tanks every 3-5 years. Have the drainfield and tank inspected.
2. Apply zero- phosphorus fertilizers no closer than 20 feet to the lake. Apply sparingly.
3. Do not drain stormwater from roads, driveways and roofs directly into the lake.
4. Maintain or create a "green belt" of plants native to the area along the lake and river shores.
5. Stabilize and seed any eroded or exposed soil along the shoreline.
6. In order to help filter pollutants getting into the lake, preserve and protect wetlands on your property. They will provide the filter.



We are all connected.

**BLACK LAKE ASSOCIATION WEBSITE
WWW.BLACKLAKEASSOCIATION.COM
SIGN IN TODAY**



Black Lake Association

Meeting Schedule

Meetings are on the
2nd Monday of the
month at 7:30 pm,
May through October.
Grant Township Hall

May 9

June 13

Pot Luck 6:30
Nomination of Directors
Meeting
7:30

July 11

Annual Meeting
Election of Directors

August 8

September 12

October 10

Formation of the Black Lake Association

The non-profit corporation of the BLACK LAKE ASSOCIATION was formed in 1928. the incorporating members were as follows:

Charles H. Kendrick

Harry A. Codde

Roy J. Taylor

Henry Lipshield

Maurice Sugar

On April 20, 1928, Harry A. Codde, Roy J. Taylor and Maurice Sugar personally appeared to have the Articles of Association notarized.

1928 PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION

To advance the mutual interests of the owners of property upon and of residents at Black Lake, (in Cheboygan and Presque Isle Counties) Michigan. To provide for the beautification, improvement, care and protection of such property, and to provide for and enhance the facilities for fishing , boating, bathing and the mutual enjoyment of the lake.

2016 MISSION STATEMENT

The BLA shall be incorporated for the purpose of preserving and protecting the environment in and around Black Lake located in the Cheboygan and Presque Isle Counties of the State of Michigan.

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.



www.blacklakeassociation.com



The Black Lake Association Website has all the info you want about the organization. The Website is easy to access at, www.blacklakeassociation.com. You can leave comments or make suggestions. You can check for meeting dates, agendas and events. You can sign in as a Black Lake Association Member, with your own password in order to view the association's minutes and other information. Please join us today.

2016 Black Lake Sturgeon Season Results

1. Brian Bailey, 70.5" , 96 lbs. Female, Tagged 2003 & 2012
2. Shaun Hope, 58 1/2 " , 42lbs. Female , Tagged 2014
3. Lance Williams, 56 1/2 " , 42 lbs. Male, Tagged 2014
4. Brett Trepanier, 50" , 26 lbs. Male, Tagged 2015
5. Dan Bodinger, 46 1/2 " , 20 lbs. Male , Tagged 2013
6. Robert Kydd, 42 " . 16 lbs, Male , Tagged 20147
7. Scott Gee, 40" , 13 lbs. Female, Not Tagged

