

BLACK LAKE NEWS

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

BRETT TREPANIER—989-370-4949

2016 was my first full year as acting president of the Black Lake Association. We started the year where we left off in 2015, addressing the issues with the by-laws to better protect the board and the association as a whole. Chris Cooke of Cooke Law reviewed and helped write the new by-laws to present to the members to be ratified. Chris did an excellent job and at the Annual Membership Meeting the new by-laws, with changes, were voted on and passed by a large margin.

After the annual meeting we were able to continue with our regular business. We were issued a permit, by the Department of Natural Resources, to plant walleye in the lake. With the funds we had reserved from donations and fish stocking jars, we purchased and planted approximately 10,000. 5- 8 inch walleye in the fall of 2016. We then made the decision to have the Tip of the Mitt do a shoreline study. It will take two years to complete. The Tip of the Mitt will begin the survey in the spring of 2017 and will end in 2018, with every home owner on the lake receiv-

ing a letter of the results. As an extension of the survey, a speaker from the Tip of the Mitt will be at our August meeting to discuss how to help prevent shoreline erosion.

There was also a study conducted on the removal of the Tower and Kleber dams. The DNR and the University of Michigan conducted a feasibility study to see if it is an option to remove the dams and what the effects will be.

At our July meeting, we will have a speaker from the DNR present and discuss the results of the study.

As an association directed by nine board members, we receive many phone calls concerning the lake, and I encourage these calls. However, I want to make it clear that the BLA does not control or have control of the lake. It is a public lake, open to all users near and far, for all sorts of activities. One of the biggest concerns is water level.

The BLA does not control the water level; that is done by the owners and operators of the dams. They have a court order to

maintain it at a specific level according to the time of the year. They do the best they can while contending with "Mother Nature" and the elements.

We have a working relationship with the Black River Limited Partnership and several other entities to obtain information, to see what should be done and how to proceed. I ask that these contacts be used by the board members only so that we can speak in a unified voice. As we get information we will relay it to our members through our website, blacklakeassociation.com and at the monthly meetings. We will be involved with what is going on and coordinate studies, gain information and try to solve issues that may arise. Then, we can inform our members on the health and concerns of the lake and what we did to help keep Black Lake a prestigious lake.

June 12, 2017 will be our annual membership meeting. So far, the only voting that will take place will be the election of three officers. Please get you proxies in so we can open the meeting. Let's have another productive year!



STURGEON SPEARING SEASON

February 4, 2017

- **Scott Ash**
67 inches , 72.4 lbs. F
- **Brett Trepanier**
66.7 inches, 78.3 lbs. F
- **Mike Courterier**
65.5 inches, 79.5 lbs. F
- **Rich Taylor**
63.5 inches, 60.3 lbs., F
- **Spencer Hope**
62 inches , 57 lbs. F
- **Troy Merchant**
59.5 inches, 42 lbs. M
- **Cole Hudson**
55 inches, 33 lbs. F
- **Ben Archambo**
46 inches, 14.9 lbs. M

Five of the eight sturgeon caught were tagged between 2001 and 2015. Seven were allocated, but eight were caught. Six were female and two were male. There were 332 registered anglers.



UPCOMING SHORELINE SURVEY

MATT CLAUCHERTY—WATER RESOURCE SPECIALIST
TIP OF THE MITT WATERSHED COUNCIL

To stand aside a lake and gaze over the expanse of blue, one's mind may drift to one or more inspiring observations. Certainly the magnitude of scale of Black Lake, the seventh largest lake in Michigan, or its depths of 50 feet to the bottom, is reason for awe. Then there is the lake's edge, with our homes, cottages and community centered around this vast resource, receiving the benefits of the lake up close and personal. Similarly, there is a concept in ecology known as "edge effect". This concept explains that areas of transition, be it forest to meadow, dune to swale, or land to water, harbor a greater variety and abundance of life. These edges are abundant with life as their unique conditions promote biodiversity. I would wager that another type of edge effect is at work within us when we spend time along the shoreline, with the lake's dynamic personality present to inspire our own contemplative abundance.

Inspirational merits aside, we can all agree that shorelines are downright important. What feature better defines a lake than its shoreline? From a remote lake flanked by impenetrable cedar and spruce, to an urban lake with shoreline park space and lawns to the water's edge, the character and

quality of a lake is very much dependent on what is around it. Most interactions between the plants and animals of a lake occur in the highly productive shoreline zone, interactions that, for example, support the base of the food chain, allow wildlife to thrive, or influence survival of young fish. Healthy shorelines filter pollutants, reduce wave actions and erosion and contribute to water quality. Conversely, altered shorelines are often compromised in ecological function and more easily succumb to wave or ice action, resulting in erosion.

To generate a better understanding of Black Lake's shoreline health and promote shoreline stewardship, the Black Lake Association has contracted with the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council to perform a shoreline survey during the spring of 2017. Watershed Council staff and interns will circumnavigate Black Lake to assess all lake front properties, documenting shoreline conditions in three major categories:

1. erosion
2. vegetation
3. nutrient pollution

These categories represent the three largest threats to inland lakes in Michigan: shoreline habitat loss, siltation from sediment inputs

and algae promoting nutrient pollution from failing septic systems and heavy lawn fertilization.

Knowing where Black Lake stands, with respect to these conditions, will provide valuable baseline data and a basis for future protection and restoration efforts.

A follow-up outreach initiative will begin in the spring of 2018. It will include distribution of survey results to Black Lake riparians, along with educational resources for improving shoreline stewardship practices. Whether a shoreline owner wants to stop shoreline erosion, encourage visits from wildlife, or take a second look at their septic system, the materials and guidance will help inspire actions, both large and small towards a healthier and more resilient Black Lake. It is important to note that we do not enforce any regulations, nor do we divulge any property specific results to third parties. During the outreach initiative property owners will receive a randomized property ID, allowing them to log into the Watershed Council's website and review their individual results while remaining anonymous.

In full appreciation of the "edge effect", be it ecological or intrapersonal, Watershed Council staff look forward to working with the Black Lake Association and residents, to promote healthy shorelines.

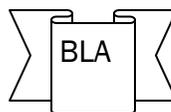
UPPER BLACK RIVER DAMS MEETING

On February 11, 2017, the Department of Natural Resources and the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, along with a team of University Michigan graduate students conducted an open forum meeting at Forest Township Hall. The purpose of the meeting was to gather information from the public and to hear their concerns related to the possible closing and removal of the Tower and Kleber Dams and begin a conversation that would help the decision making process. The meeting was attended by about 100

citizens and representatives from the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, Huron Pines, Sturgeon for Tomorrow and the Black Lake Association.

The University of Michigan students presented their background information and will now document the concerns voiced at the meeting and present their findings at a later date. The important factor gleaned from the meeting is that there are no immediate plans to remove the dams. The owners of the dam presently have an operating permit that will

expire in 2024. They are in the process of applying for renewal licenses. If and when, any new information or meetings surface, we will notify you on the Black Lake Association website, www.blacklakeassociation.com. The DNR has agreed to attend our July 10th membership meeting to give us an update. In the meantime we will keep you posted with any new information on our website.



Remember to sign and return your proxies with your dues payment. They are necessary to open our annual meeting.

2016 MEMBERSHIP SURVEY RESULTS

In our 2016 Spring Newsletter we asked your opinion on a five question survey. We sent out 830 Newsletters to riparian's around the lake, of which 504 were Black Lake Association Members. Twenty percent of our members answered the survey.

As a result of the survey, the BLA Board of Directors took the following actions.

- We hired the Tip of the Mitt to do a shoreline and water quality survey in 2017.
- The fish committee initiated a meeting with the DNR to dis-

cuss walleye development in Black Lake. We agreed to proceed with the fish stocking in the fall (2016) the electro shocking survey will also continue to gather information.

- We attended a number of meetings to discuss the DNR purchasing the Black Lake Marina. These plans are proceeding and you will be kept informed.
- We hired Huron Pines to conduct an aquatic invasive species survey. This will allow us to monitor, protect and

eradicate invasive species that threaten Black Lake.

Encouraging the development of Green Belts was the least supported topic of the survey. The Board did contact the Tip of the Mitt and they will advise us on what vegetation can be planted on the shoreline to provide the best protection from soil erosion.

The survey provided us with good information to help us meet the concerns of our members.

BLACK RIVER MARINA UPDATE

Keith Cheli, Regional Field Planner of the DNR Parks and Recreation Division informed us in December 2016 that the proposed acquisition of the Black Lake Marina has been recommended for approval. The next step will include administrative authorization of the grant project funding, followed by arranging for a State certified appraiser to perform a formal appraisal of the parcel. There is no firm time table for these steps to unfold for completion. Once the appraisal is completed and validated, the DNR will anticipate meetings and discussions with the current property owners. We will continue to update everyone as we receive information.



2017

MEETING SCHEDULE

Meetings are on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:30 pm, May through October GRANT TOWNSHIP HALL

May 8

June 12

Pot Luck* 6:30 pm Annual Meeting Election of three Board Members

July 10

Patrick Hanchin, DNR Dam Removal Update

August 14

Matt Claucherty Tip of the Mitt Shoreline Survey

September 11

October 9

* Bring a dish to pass and your own plates and silverware. We will provide coffee.



BLACK LAKE ASSOCIATION PARTNERS WITH THE BLACK RIVER HYDRO LIMITED PARTNERSHIP ROGER SELVIG

On February 2, 2017, a meeting to discuss Black Lake water levels was hosted by Alverno Dam owner, Nelson Turcotte and dam operator, Jim Tucker. The meeting was well attended by over 40 area residents. A detailed history of the Alverno Dam and Black Lake water level measurements was shared with the audience, along with numerous steps the dam operators may take to mitigate the damage to lake and riverfront property during periods of "Mother Natures" unpredictable onslaughts of ice, severe winds, heavy rainfalls and other periods of environmental factors.

A lengthy discussion about the "Smith Rapids", a natural occurring geological dam in the Black River, focused attention on a

major factor preventing a rapid drawdown of Black Lake water levels during periods of high or increasing water levels. Please refer to the

www.blacklakeassociation.com

website for further information about Smith Rapids and the Army Corps. Of Engineer's Report. Nelson Turcotte, Alverno Dam Owner, was extremely helpful in aiding audience members to understand the complexities of trying to regulate Black Lake water levels and was very accommodating to suggestions to help control and record lake levels. The owner further committed to install additional gauges at the Harbor Light Bridge and the Rainey River Bridge. The additional

lake level gauges will aid interested parties to monitor levels at two additional locations. Mr. Turcotte also promised to supply to the BLA all data to support his presentation and steps planned and taken to further minimize high water levels.

Speaking on behalf of the BLA, board member Ron Dulak thanked Mr. Turcotte and Mr. Tucker for the opportunity to partner with them on addressing this issue. He also thanked them for their aggressive actions to date. Dulak further stated that along with the BLA's weed study, water quality survey, fish plantings and working with dam owners, the Black Lake watershed will be monitored and protected.

BLACK LAKE BEACH REPRESENTATIVES

TO VOLUNTEER CALL SHARON DULAK 989-733-2565

Many thanks go out to all the wonderful people who volunteer their time and energy to walk the beaches, collect dues and give out membership cards and decals.

- Gail Smith
Marlene George
Gary Shepherd
Randy Lewis
Sheila Kraycs

- Sue Madden
Diane Kade
Ron Dulak
Dana Brophy
Missy Beardsley
Kay Hoefflin
Lynne Henzler
Sue Roberts
Eugene Osantowski
Dar Grund
Sonny Smith
Norman Schwartz

- Patti Archambo
Mike Kretz
Janice Wood
Graham Edwards
Charlene Swihart
Pam Selvig
Yvonne Hickerson
Florence Roberts
Sandy Schnau
Linda Van Sickle
Sarah Soule

PARTNERING TO PROTECT THE LAKE

JENNIFER MULADORE
HURON PINES

As many of you have heard, the Black Lake Association has contracted with Huron Pines to conduct an aquatic invasive species inventory of the lake during the summer of 2017. Invasive species like phragmites and European frog-bit are spreading throughout Michigan's inland lakes, coming from heavily infested areas in southern Michigan and other states. Once established, invasive plants and animals crowd our desirable species and make access and movement difficult or impossible. They are often expensive to control and sometimes require chemical treatment. With increasing tourism in the state focusing on northern Michigan's lakes and forests, it is essential that we work together to prevent the spread of invasive species to protect the clean, high-quality waters that draw people to the area and reduce the future costs of managing the lake.

Huron Pines is a nonprofit, 501(C)(3) organization with the mission of protecting the Great Lakes by conserving Northeast Michigan's forests, lakes and streams. Among many large-scale water and land stewardship projects, we coordinate the Northeast Michigan Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA). This partnership of agencies, interest groups and landowners is funded through a mix of

state and federal grants, foundation support and cost-share or contracts with private landowners.

The CWMA has been operating since 2009 and represents the interests of Northeast Michigan at statewide and Great Lakes planning meetings and conferences. We help bring outside funding to northeast Michigan while working closely with local groups to prioritize species issues and sites that need protection. Our staff continually strives to bring the latest in invasive species science to the area in finding and controlling invasive species and providing outreach and volunteer opportunities to landowners.

Each year, we survey inland lakes, roadsides, shorelines and forests for invasive species and contribute the data to regional databases to help track the movement of invasive species throughout the state. We also help landowners decide how to remove them from their land using techniques that work for them and the environment.

In the 2017 Black Lake survey, Huron Pines will first use aerial photography and bathymetric information to map potential invasive species introduction points based on lake depth, public area and boat launches. During the summer, our team will

start at these high-risk points to thoroughly search the near shore and shoreline areas for invasive plants and will take note of invasive mussels and crayfish. The team will then travel along the shoreline of the whole lake looking for smaller populations of these species. Data will be collected following protocols developed for statewide use and will be submitted to the statewide invasive species database. Huron Pines will provide the Association with a map of all invasive species found as well as a report detailing the findings and providing recommendations for future control or prevention projects. We welcome the participation of Black Lake residents in the survey—volunteers are welcome to spend a few hours learning basic invasive species ID and survey methods with our team (no prior knowledge is necessary). Through your daily and yearly use of the lake, you may see a population of plants that were never there before, or are spreading quickly. Take note of the location (GPS or detailed directions and a photo or two) and let the Association or Huron Pines know by e-mailing,

invasives@huronpines.org

We will evaluate the reports as part of the study and establish future monitoring recommendations for the future.

DO'S AND DON'TS FOR SEPTIC SYSTEMS

- Don't allow heavy vehicles to drive over or park on a drain field.
- Don't plant trees or shrubs on a drain field.
- Do cut the grass over the disposal field. Shorter is better for evaporation.
- Don't use commercial septic tank additives.
- Don't put coffee grounds, disposable diapers, dental floss, grease or oil down your drain or toilet.
- Do divert water from roof tops and sump pumps to lawn areas away from septic fields.
- Don't cover the drain field with a hard surface, such as concrete, wooden deck or asphalt. The area should only have a grass cover.



The Black Lake Association has no relationship to the Black Lake Preservation Society, nor does it endorse, recommend, work with or partner with it. We are a complete and separate entity.



Black Lake Rocks

Black Lake Association Presents:

Summer Night at Black Lake

July 15, 2017

5:30—6:30 Appetizers and Entertainment

6:30 Buffet Dinner

Black Lake Golf Club and Grille

2800 Maxon Road, Onaway Michigan 49765

ENJOY AN EVENING OF GOOD FOOD AND MUSIC WITH YOUR BLACK LAKE NEIGHBORS.

Entertainment by East Bay Blue with Chris Cooke

The Delicious Buffet Dinner will include:

Prime Rib, Walleye, Chicken

Topped off with Strawberry Shortcake

Cash bar

\$25.00 per person

Reservation required by July 8, 2017



If you have any questions you may call LINDA SMITH at 248-515-4726.

PLEASE RESERVE _____ DINNERS FOR JULY 15, 2017. I HAVE ENCLOSED \$25.00 PER PERSON TO COVER THE COST OF THE DINNER. \$_____.

NAME(S) _____

PLEASE RETURN PAYMENT ALONG WITH THE BOTTOM OF THIS FORM BEFORE JULY 8, 2017 TO:

The Black Lake Association
PO Box 302
Onaway, Michigan 49765