

BLACK LAKE NEWS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Brett Trepanier
989-370-4949

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989-329-7882

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989-370-7153

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248-515-4726

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989-733-2565

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734-637-6589

Ron Dulak
989-733-2565

John Roby
989-245-7204

Dave Turzewski
517-881-3995

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

BRETT TREPANIER 989-370-4949

The Black Lake Association (BLA) was involved with many projects and discussions this past year. To highlight a few:

- BLA worked with Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council to have a Shore line study done. This study took a look at septic hotspots, erosion, water quality and more along the shores of Black Lake.
- Huron Pines was contracted to do an aquatic invasive species and weed study, documenting phragmites, purple loosestrife and any other non native species on Black Lake.
- The BLA successfully put on a banquet for any and all members who wished to attend.
- The BLA has kept in the loop with the Alverno Dam operations of winter and summer water levels, and also the study that was conducted on

the possible removal and/or relicensing of Tower and Kleiber Dam.

- The BLA has also stayed informed on the DNR's interest in purchasing the marina.

We will start this year with our first meeting on May 14th, 2018 at the Grant Township Hall, John Frye from Huron Pines will attend the meeting to discuss aquatic invasive species and the proper methods of treating them. We will also be accepting nominations for three directors whose terms are up for reelection, as outlined in our by-laws. We will accept nominations of those said directors and any member of the BLA who would like to be on the Board of Directors at this meeting.

June 11, 2018 will be the annual membership meeting. In order to hold this meeting we need you to sign and turn in your proxies with your dues envelope. The potluck dinner will be held at 6:30 pm fol-

lowed by the meeting and directors election at 7:30pm.

On July 9, 2018 our guest speaker will be Dave Edwards from the Tip of the Mitt, discussing the shore line study. He will give insight to the study and we will discuss how we should proceed with the results.

In the off season our Board is still hard at work attending meetings, making phone calls, sending and receiving emails with various organizations. We will discuss this information in the meetings to come. I encourage all of you to join us this coming year and see how hard this board works to preserve and protect Black Lake. The BLA would also like to thank you in advance for your continuing membership as your dues dollars pay for important projects such as the Water Quality Study and the Weed Study on Black Lake. No other group or organization funds these efforts to keep the lake clean and beautiful.

BLACK LAKE MARINA UPDATE

THE Black Lake River Marina parcel is currently under contracted appraisal review.

While the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) does not have a specific date for completion of the appraisal, as noted in last years update, once the appraisal is completed the DNR liaison

will be able to enter into formal discussion with the property owner regarding the possible acquisition of the parcel.

When the property is acquired a plan will be developed and reviewed in public meetings.

For further information you may contact:

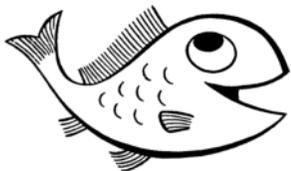


KEITH CHELI

Landscape Architect
Regional Field Planner
DNR Parks and Recreation
Division
989-370-1907 or
chelik@Michigan.gov

MEET THE BEACH REPS

Gail Smith
 Marlene George
 Gary Shepherd
 Randy Lewis
 Sheila Krayacs
 Sue Madden
 Diane Kade
 Ron Dulak
 Dana Brophy
 Missy Beardsley
 Kay Hoefflin
 Lynne Henzler
 Sue Roberts
 Eugene Osantowski
 Sonny Smith
 John Kirby
 Patti Archambo
 Mike Kretz
 Janice Wood
 Molly Catlin
 Graham Edwards
 Charlene Swihart
 Yvonne Hickerson
 Julie Johnson
 Florence Roberts
 Sandy Schnau
 Linda Van Sickle
 Sarah Soule
 Pam Selvig



BLACK LAKE MEMBERSHIP NOTES

SHARON DULAK—989-733-2565

Once again I want to thank all of the wonderful Beach Representatives who give of their valuable time to walk the beaches and trails to collect dues and give out the membership decals and cards. I know how important your time is and I want all of you to know how much I appreciate all that you do.

The job is actually a lot of fun and healthy. Fun because of all the people you meet and get to talk to and healthy because you get to breathe

fresh air while walking the beaches around the lake.

Add to that the fact that you are helping to preserve and protect Black Lake and it is a win, win situation.

This year, as usual, I am looking for some new Beach Reps to join our forces. At last count we had 35 beaches, so if you think you would like to go out and meet your neighbors, or people on other beaches, we could use your help. There are several Beach Reps who do beaches they do not live on. If you are inter-

ested, please call me at the above number.

I also want to remind everyone that if they mail in their dues it will make the Beach Reps job a little easier. Last year more people than ever mailed in their dues. It made a big difference.

The lake is still frozen. The Sturgeon Shiverree is over and Spring must be just around the corner. I am looking forward to meeting all of you who are taking this job under consideration through the winter months. Think about volunteering. We need your help.

NEW METHOD OF COMMUNICATION



The Black Lake Association has been using their website for several years to provide an information source for the members. This year we are going to add another method.

In order to disseminate information to all of our members in a timely manner we are



trying a type of mass mailing. In this way, we will be able to reach everyone quickly and let you know pertinent happenings concerning the lake. All we need is your email address. So, if you want to be part of this information bonanza make sure we have your email address. You may do this by filling out the email



line on your dues envelope. Your address will be kept private; it will not show on the outgoing email. Sign up today. Don't be left out of the loop.

Visit us today at:

BLACK LAKE WEBSITE

Www.

blacklakeassociation.com

2018 SUCCESSFUL STURGEON SEASON

The Black Lake Sturgeon season ended swiftly. It opened officially at 8:00 AM and closed by 10:30 AM the same morning. The cannon sounded and it was official, seven sturgeon had been speared. Three of the seven fish had been tagged. There were 425 registered anglers.

The largest sturgeon was

caught by Travis Merchant. It was 72 inches in length, a female and weighed 99.7 pounds.

Dennis Ganske caught the second largest, weighing in at 73 pounds, a female, measuring 69 inches.

Greg Tucker came home with a 66 pound female, 64.5 inches in length.

The other sturgeon were taken by:

John Stiles, a 45 pound female, 58 inches in length.

William Waldie, a 36 pound male, 56 inches in length.

Tim Sydow, a 16 pound female, 41 inches in length.

Dean Tebo, 31.5 pound male, 53 inches in length.

Congratulations to all!

TIP OF THE MITT WATERSHED COUNCIL'S WATERSHED ACADEMY

ELI BAKER

Students from Onaway High School are monitoring the health of Stoney Creek by participating in the tip of the Mitt Watershed Council's Watershed Academy.

The Watershed Academy is a place-based environmental education program that engages around 100 local high school biology students in watershed protection efforts by collecting water quality data vital to maintaining our precious natural resources. Since its inception four years ago, 11 Northern Michigan high schools have established teams of students that moni-

tor a nearby stream after a thorough in-school training. This past fall, students met at Stoney Creek to take their biannual stream measurements. This year they were assisted by members from the Black Lake Association. Throughout the monitoring, students assessed the water chemistry and stream characteristics by taking measurements of pH, nutrients and bacteria levels. They also checked the aquatic insect community of the stream by collecting samples and identifying the insects. The data that the students collected will be entered into the Watershed Council's stream moni-

toring data base where it will be used to develop a better understanding of the health of Black Lake and its tributaries.

Stoney Creek is an important tributary for Black Lake. It flows from its headwaters southeast of Onaway, into the South end of Black Lake. If you are interested in the data that the students collected or learning more about the Watershed Academy, contact:

Eli Baker

eli@watershedcouncil.org

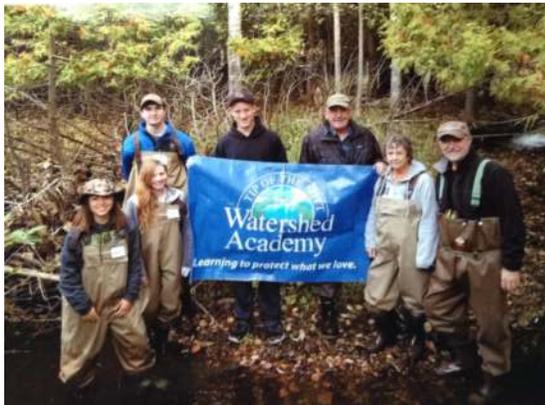


Volunteer stream monitors collect aquatic insects and other macroinvertebrates in order to assess stream ecosystem health.

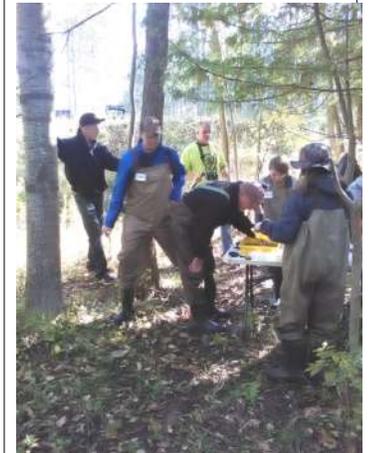
Watershed Participants

Left to right:

- Lauren Welkin
- Randi Gilbert
- Austin Chaskey
- Robert Niester
- Ron Dulak
- Sharon Dulak
- Dave Turzewski



Black Lake Association Directors working with the students of Onaway High School



BLACK LAKE FISH STOCKING HISTORY

Black Lake walleye populations were reliant on natural recruitment prior to 2000. We have hypothesized that zebra mussels have changed the nutrient dynamics in the lake over the last decade. This has been documented through water quality sample results by the Tip of the Mitt. Plankton levels may have changed and are likely in lower supply for wild walleye fry in Black Lake and other mussel infested lakes. Spawning is not interrupted in these lakes, but reproduction of wild fry to fingerling stage is

the likely bottleneck. The DNR and CORA have stocked spring fingerlings, which are beyond reliance on eating plankton in Black Lake in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2014 and 2017. (Approximately 1 million 1 to 2 inch fingerlings). Survival of these have been very acceptable, based on first year fall sampling results and angler reports. In addition, 5–6 inch fall fingerlings were stocked by the BLA in multiple years, but survival of these fish has not been evaluated. Based on angler reports, it is highly probable that

their survival has been acceptable. The 2017 fall sampling was very encouraging, showing over 40 age-0 walleye with 90% stocked fish and only 10% were natural reproduction. Anglers report that fishing in Black Lake has been good during the 2017 season and the 2018 ice fishing season. The BLA Fish Committee will continue working with the DNR and CORA to maintain Black Lake as one of the best fishing lakes in Michigan.

(info from Tim Cwalinski—DNR fishery)

ZEBRA MUSSELS CAN ATTACH TO AND SMOTHER NATIVE MUSSELS AND REDUCE AVAILABLE FOOD FOR LARVAL FISH.





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

MAY 14th

7:30 John Frye
Huron Pines
Invasive Species
Report

JUNE 11th

6:30 Potluck—bring a
dish to pass
7:30 Annual meeting
Election of three
Board Members

JULY 9th

7:30 Dave Edwards
Tip of the Mitt
Shoreline Survey
Report

AUGUST 13th

7:30 General Meeting
No Program

SEPTEMBER 10th

7:30 General Meeting
No Program

OCTOBER 9th

7:30 General Meeting
No Program



2017 SURVEY DOCUMENTS BLACK LAKE SHORELINE HEALTH

DAVE EDWARDS

MONITORING AND RESEARCH DIRECTOR

TIP OF THE MITT WATERSHED COUNCIL

SERENITY: The character or quality of being calm, peaceful, untroubled. Sometimes coupled with great fishing, serenity is a word or feeling that comes to mind when a person is asked why they choose to live on or visit a lake. Little can surpass time and memories spent beside the lakeshore as one’s mind drifts from one thought to another inspired by the harmony of observations in front of them. Perhaps the beauty of Michigan’s eighth largest lake is enough to reside or visit Black Lake, but each person has their own reasons. Each is dependent upon what is around and on the shoreline. Most interactions between plants, fish and other animals occur in the near shore areas. Natural shorelines filter pollutants, reduce erosion and contribute to increased water quality.

Conversely, altered shorelines can cumulatively degrade a lake, which could lead to water quality problems.

To help understand Black Lake’s shoreline health and promote shoreline stewardship, the Black Lake Association contracted with Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council to perform a shoreline survey during the summer of 2017. Watershed Council staff circumnavigated the entire Black Lake shore-

line to assess lakeshore properties in three major categories representative of the largest threats to inland Michigan lakes: shoreline habitat loss, sediment inputs and algae-promoting nutrient pollution. Knowing where Black Lake stands with respect to these conditions provides valuable data and a basis for improving the character and quality of Black Lake. Tip of the Mitt does not enforce any regulations, nor do we disclose property specific results to third parties. Preliminary survey results indicate conditions around Black Lake are relatively good. However, the survey highlighted some areas of concern. Increased algae growth often coincides with lack of shoreline vegetation and erosion. Slightly concentrated along the northern and western shoreline, Cladophora (algae)

growth was observed in many areas around Black Lake. Cladophora is an early indicator of elevated nutrients and commonly found on shorelines with nutrient input from lawn fertilization, septic system or drainage pipe discharge and erosion. Tributaries are also avenues of nutrient input. Overall, erosion was minor around Black Lake, but many northern and western shoreline properties did show signs of erosion. Little to no shoreline vegetation was

also observed on many properties along the northern and western shore. More detailed results will be available later on both the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council’s and the Black Lake Association websites.

Be on the lookout for a follow-up letter with general survey results and directions to anonymously review your individual property results. The letter will include info about the Michigan Shoreland Stewards Program (MiSS), an online, educational survey for shoreline property owners who are interested in protecting our inland lakes through good shoreland stewardship. Whether a shoreline property owner wants to stop erosion, encourage visits from wildlife, or look at their septic system, materials available on the MiSS website will help guide actions toward a healthier and resilient Black Lake. The Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council staff look forward to working with stakeholders to enhance the character and quality of Black Lake for future generations to come.



**HURON PINES
SUMMARY OF AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES
ON BLACK LAKE
-JOHN FRYE-**

THE FOLLOWING HURON PINES' SUMMARY REPORT WILL BE DISCUSSED AT FUTURE SCHEDULED MEETINGS.

In response to the growing threat of invasive species outbreaks across Michigan, the Black Lake Association contracted Huron Pines to complete a full lake inventory of aquatic invasive species on Black Lake. For the survey, the entire lake was inventoried at two different times over the course of several days to ensure that all species could be identified during their peak growth/blooming period.

The first inventory occurred in mid-June and consisted of a full inspection of the perimeter of the lake, both in the water and nearby shoreline. This inventory was completed by boat, wading where necessary to allow for closer inspection. The second inventory occurred in late August and utilized a transect pattern, with emphasis on the more shallow waters where submerged aquatic plants could grow. The second inventory was also completed by boat, wading where necessary to allow for closer inspection.

Invasive species of concern for Black Lake and the surrounding area include: Phragmites australis, Eurasian watermilfoil, European frog-bit, purple

loosestrife, zebra mussels and rusty crayfish. Invasive species identified in Black Lake during the survey include: Phragmites australis, purple loosestrife, Morrow's honeysuckle, mute swan, zebra mussels and reed canary grass.

The species identified, all pose a serious risk to the natural balance of habitat on lands that are used heavily by both humans and wildlife. Phragmites in particular can create dense stands of 15-foot-tall grass in the water and along the shore that negatively impact recreation use and property value, as well as reducing the amount of available plant diversity needed for native animals to survive. Purple loosestrife poses a similar problem, but its impact is less noticeable because it tends to grow in ditches or swamps where humans don't usually spend as much time. The goal of both Huron Pines and the Black Lake Association is to ensure that this relatively problem free lake remains that way.

**MANAGEMENT PLANS
BASED ON SPECIES.**

PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE -

This wetland loving plant was found growing all around the lake and adjacent lands, so Huron Pines is in the process of developing a lake-wide volunteer event to begin management. It will consist of mechanically removing the

plant by hand during peak blooming season, prior to seed set. General landowner permission is needed.

PHRAGMITES AUSTRALIS-

This water loving plant was found growing in a couple of dense stands along the north shore of the lake and along Black River Road just off the west shoreline of the lake. Huron Pines has already done chemical treatment for this plant in 2015, and its area of disturbance has shrunk, however there is need to do treatment again. Securing landowners permission for chemical treatment is already in process and it will be done through a DEQ permit by licensed applicators in late summer.

MUTE SWAN-

This non-native animal is very aggressive and displaces other native species. Huron Pines recommends that a local association or municipality contact the USDA Wildlife Services for removal assistance.

All the other identified invasive species are essentially naturalized and warrant treatment on a case-by-case basis. Huron Pines recommends continued monitoring and removal only if they are having a negative impact on human recreation or are posing the threat of erosion or impacting other restoration efforts.

**Winners of the
2017 Black Lake
Raffle**

**First prize
Hand Made Wooden
Boat**



Art Archambo

**Second prize
Rifle
Larry Patrias**



**Third prize
Tom's Market
\$100.00 gift
Certificate
Val Wilton**



**Fourth prize
Tom's Market
\$100.00 gift
Certificate
Claire Brophy**



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SWIMMERS' ITCH

Cindy Trepanier

The Black Lake Association is monitoring the work of the MISIP, Michigan Swimmers' Itch Partnership formed in 2015. It is an informal federation of lake associations from Northern Michigan, mid-Michigan and the Upper Peninsula with the sole purpose of applying a science and data-based approach to control swimmers' itch through research, prevention and public education. There are presently five lakes involved in a pilot program which has been in progress for three years. They are Higgins Lake, Crystal Lake, Glen Lake, Lime Lake and Lake Leelanau. We will keep you updated on their progress.



SEAWALLS

When thinking about shoreline protection, check with the DEQ to get a permit and to make sure you are placing it at the high water mark. The following link will take you to the YouTube videos about seawalls and the Ordinary High Water Mark.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/MichiganDEq/playlist>

Black Lake Association Banquet



PURE MICHIGAN AT

LORENZO'S

1164 South Black River Road

Thursday, July 19, 2018

5:30 - 6:30 PM

HORS D'OEUVRES with PEEL & EAT SHRIMP

6:30 PM DINNER

PRIME RIB, PERCH, CHICKEN

FRUIT, SALAD BAR

\$30.00 per person

Please reserve _____ dinners for July 19, 2018. I have enclosed \$_____

NAMES _____

Please return payment along with this form before July 14, 2018

Mail to The Black Lake Association, PO Box 302, Onaway, MI 49765



Questions? Please call Linda Smith at 248-515-4726

DEQ

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Because shore protection structures can have negative effects on natural resources and other shoreline properties, shore protection structures should only be installed when they are needed to address erosion problems and the type of shore protection used should be carefully considered. Near shore shallow

waters provide habitat for a greater variety of organisms than all other aquatic zones and are essential in the life cycles of many of Michigan's fish and wildlife. Northern pike, bluegill, bass and other fish spawn in shallow shoreline areas. Loons, ducks, geese, water birds, songbirds and wildlife such as amphibians,

reptiles and insects live near shore areas.

If you are considering any type of shore stabilization structure such as a seawall, bulkhead, revetment, bioengineering at or below the ordinary high water mark of the lake or stream a permit is required. This is available from the Department of Environmental Quality.