

BLACK LAKE NEWS

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

BRETT TREPANIER 989-370-4949

In my letter this year, I would like to focus on the Alverno Dam which has become a hot issue over the past year. The dam is owned and operated by Black River Limited Partnership, (BRLP) to produce hydro power pursuant to a regulatory license from the Federal Energy Resource Commission (FERC). A court order issued many years ago requires that the dam also be used to maintain certain summer and winter lake levels of 612.2 feet above sea level, (+/- .25 feet) in the summer and 610.2 feet above sea level, (+/- .25 feet) in the winter. In our opinion BRLP has done their best to maintain those levels within their abilities and limitations of the 100 year old dam.

However, some lake residents have experienced property damage from high water levels in the spring. On their behalf, the Black Lake Preservation Society (BLPS) has challenged the BRLP to change the lake level protocol as mandated in the court order in an attempt to reduce high spring lake levels. The issue is very complex as Black

Lake drains an area many times the size of the lake and it is very difficult to predict precipitation, ice, snowmelt and wind direction. In addition, there are several issues surrounding the court order mandating the lake levels. Many other organizations are now involved including the Black Lake Association, FERC, Cheboygan and Presque Isle Counties, the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Environmental Quality. Your association has participated in several meetings, numerous conference calls and hundreds of emails regarding this issue.

BRLP and BLPS have agreed to enter into dispute resolution mediated by the FERC. The goal is to try to reach a mutually acceptable protocol to manage lake levels in order to try and avoid high water levels in the spring without creating unusually low water levels in the summer. We are paying close attention to these discussions and providing input along the way.

The existing protocol has been in effect for many years.

Careful consideration must be given to potential effects on the Upper and Lower Black Rivers, Mullet Lake, Kleiber and Tower Dams, and the Cheboygan Dam that would arise from a change in protocol.

Mother Nature is unpredictable. We have no way of knowing, in advance, what will happen from year to year with respect to snowfall, rain, winds, ice and associated runoff from our huge watershed. Keep in mind that if the lake were further lowered during the winter, in anticipation of spring thaws and then we have a dry spring and summer, it would be very difficult to reach the summer levels and our boat ramps and hoists would be too shallow to launch our boats. We have already experienced this during dry summer weather.

The Black Lake Association will continue to monitor these proceedings. It is our goal to ensure that we continue to have a responsible, concerned and reliable operator at the Alverno Dam and a reasonable water level protocol that is best for all property owners on Black Lake.

STURGEON SEASON 2019

Stephanie Miller

Male- 52.3" - 27.7 pounds

Doug Baughner

Female-61.5" - 54.9 pounds

Scott Kramer

Male- 52.8" - 25.4 pounds

Robert Dodder

Female-72" - 80.9 pounds

Tim Raymond

Male-60.5" - 47.8 pounds

Three of the sturgeon were tagged three times, one once.

Sturgeon Season lasted all of one hour and eighteen minutes. There were 403 registered fishermen of all ages. Six fish were harvested.

Steve Bodinger

Male- 56.2" -33.9 pounds

WATERSHED ACADEMY

Black Lake Association members working with the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Academy students.



Onaway Students collecting data from Stoney Creek to ascertain the quality of the water.



Many of the collected aquatic insects and macro invertebrates are sent to Lake Superior University to be further analyzed.



SEAWALLS ALONG THE SHORELINE

DAVID EDWARDS

MONITORING AND RESEARCH DIRECTOR
TIP OF THE MITT WATERSHED COUNCIL

A seawall is defined as a hard surface, vertical structure installed along the shoreline that blocks waves from washing ashore. Seawalls could be made of wood, concrete, steel or simply be many large boulders lined along the shoreline. Seawalls are often used and viewed as a way to stabilize the shoreline and control erosion issues. The idea being that if you prevent water and waves from crashing on shore you can prevent erosion and property damage. While the thought is good and positive for the property owner, seawalls can be costly and still cause property damage when they fail. Seawalls are also not very positive for the LAKE.

Waves contain a lot of energy

as they roll and flow into the shoreline. Natural shorelines with a variation of woody vegetation accept and gradually reduce the energy brought in by waves. A hard-vertical surface at the shoreline does not allow for absorption of this energy. However, the energy does not go away. Energy is instead directed sideways and downward into the Lake bottom. Downward directed energy 'scoops and scours' out the bottom. This is often why seawalls eventually fail. The bottom of the Lake near the wall is scoured, reducing support for the wall. Without the support, a seawall begins to lean over and crumble into the water. Bottom scouring

also changes and reduces habitat for Lake organisms (insects) that fish eat. Energy that is not directed down by the seawall is directed sideways. This is known as 'wave flanking'. Wave energy is directed to neighboring shorelines. This can increase or cause erosion and property damage along neighboring shorelines. Lastly, seawall are barriers for wildlife such as turtles and other amphibians which seek land to lay eggs.

Replacing old and failing seawalls with woody vegetation, using rip-rap, planting into the rip-rap and maintaining a greenbelt buffer are great alternatives and lake friendly solutions for managing shorelines.

Aquatic plants are part of a healthy lake. They produce oxygen, provide food and habitat for fish, and help to stabilize shoreline and bottom sediments.

Insects and other invertebrates live on or near aquatic plants, and become food for fish, birds, amphibians and other wildlife.

Plants and algae are the base of the food chain. Lakes with a healthy fishery have a moderate density of aquatic plants.

Aquatic plants provide habitat for fish and other aquatic life.

Aquatic plants help to hold sediments in place and improve water clarity.



Trees and shrubs prevent erosion and provide habitat.

Roots and stones absorb wave energy and reduce scouring of the lake bottom.

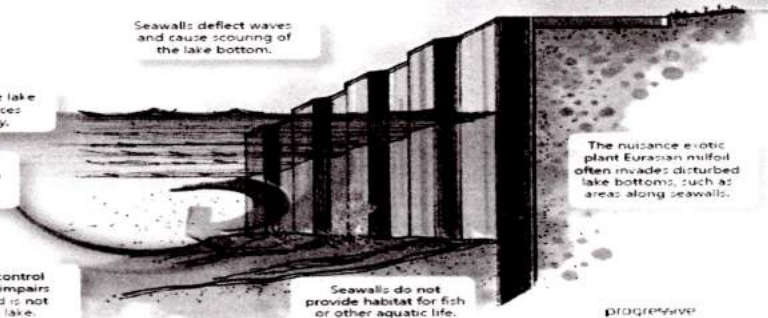
Predator-fish such as pike hide among plants, rocks, and tree roots to sneak up on their prey. Prey-fish such as minnows and small sunfish use aquatic plants to hide from predators.

Seawalls deflect waves and cause scouring of the lake bottom.

Scouring of the lake bottom reduces water clarity.

Sediments that are churned up from the lake bottom often contain phosphorus that can cause nuisance algae growth.

Excessive plant control reduces habitat, impairs water quality and is not healthy for the lake.



The nuisance exotic plant Eurasian milfoil often invades disturbed lake bottoms, such as areas along seawalls.

Seawalls do not provide habitat for fish or other aquatic life.

PROGRESSIVE

MICHIGAN SHORELAND STEWARTS PROGRAM

ELIJAH BAKER

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH COORDINATOR

TIP OF THE MITT WATERSHED COUNCIL



For more information on the Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership, visit,

www.mishorelinepartnership.org.

To take the Michigan Shoreland Stewardship Program survey visit,

www.mishorelandstewards.org

FISH STOCKING

In late June 2018 the DNR planted 241,399 spring walleye fingerlings that averaged 1.9" long. These fish were from a rearing pond in the Eastern UP. All these fish were dipped in a solution so that they can be identified later under a microscope.

Several years in a row the DNR has shocked Black Lake looking for natural and stocked 0 aged



walleye. On September 13, 2018 when shocking took place a respectable number of 0 aged walleye were caught. Twenty-five of them were sacrificed to determine if they were natural or stocked. Of those 25 fish, 24 were found to be stocked fish. That is great survival rate, once again, for the stocking efforts, but poor for natural recruitment. We are optimistic that Mother Nature will step in and give us a few big year classes of naturally produced walleye, but until then we will continue to work with the DNR and do our part to keep our fishery strong. We would like to thank all of the BLA members who donate generously to the fish fund and the DNR biologists, Dave Borgeson and Tim Cwalinski.

Michigan is world renowned for its incredible water resources. For generations people have flocked to Michigan's lakes, rivers and shorelines to experience world class fishing, boating and sailing. But each year, as more and more lakefront properties are developed on our inland lakes, valuable shoreline habitat is lost, and water quality declines. According to results from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) National Lakes Assessment, we are changing Michigan's lakes, and not necessarily for the better.

In 2007 and 2012, the EPA and its state, tribal, federal and other partners implemented a series of surveys of the quality of the nation's water bodies, (including the Great Lakes). The results of the Michigan's surveys highlighted some concerning trends. Lake habitat complexity, riparian vegetation cover and mercury in lake-bottom sediment were the most widespread stressors. Around 50% of Michigan's inland lakes were found to have poor nearshore vegetation and habitat. As more lakefront properties are developed on our inland lakes, valuable shoreline habitat is lost to manicured lawns and

impervious surfaces. As vegetation decreases on the land and in the water, fish, turtles, birds and many other animals lose habitat. Turf grass also leaves the shoreline wide open to stormwater runoff from our roads, driveways and houses that can carry harmful pollutants such as pesticides and fertilizers. All of these changes combine to decrease the water quality of the lake for the people and animals who call it home. More information on the National Lakes Assessment can be found online at www.michigan.gov/waterquality.

Luckily for our inland lakes, lakefront property owners can protect their lake by implementing lake-friendly landscaping and erosion control methods. The Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership (MNSP) has developed the Michigan Shoreland Stewards Program to provide recognition to shoreline property owners for using best management practices to protect their lake.

The Michigan Shoreland Stewards program is a voluntary web-based survey that asks property owners about their management practices on their entire property. The

property is broken down into four main areas: the upland, the buffer, the shoreline and the lake.

Upon completion of the survey, respondents are awarded a Gold, Silver, Bronze or, if a property does not yet meet the standards for one of these levels, a starter level will be indicated. Registered participants are able to print out a free certificate of recognition. Some properties will qualify right away, while others may need improvements before they qualify. Those who do not immediately qualify are provided with suggestions for improvement. They are encouraged to take the survey again once they have implemented changes to their practices. For lakefront property owners who want to let their neighbors and passerby know they are proud Shoreland Stewards, there is an option to purchase a weatherproof sign that indicates the stewardship level and program logo.

If you are interested in being recognized for your good management practices or you want to learn more about lake friendly management practices, the Michigan Shoreland Stewards Program is here for you.

BLACK LAKE ASSOCIATION FISHERY REPORT

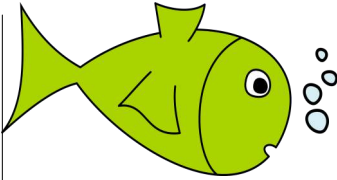
ERIN MCLEAN, DIRECTOR BLAFC

The Black Lake Fish Committee, (BLAFC) was formed in 2007 in order to address fishing issues that had arisen on Black Lake. The committee addresses all fishing issues, but lately it has mainly been about the walleye fishery and its lack of natural reproduction. We have been working with the DNR suc-

cessfully to improve the walleye fishing.

Many of us on the committee received calls last Spring about the walleye related issues occurring in the mouth of the Rainey River. Most of the calls were regarding over harvesting and multiple limits per day per

angler. If you see or know of any illegal activities we would direct you to call the DNR RAP Hot Line at 1-800-292-7800. I would like to remind everyone of how tough walleye fishing was in the early mid 2000 before we started stocking. We have worked hard to get our lake back to a respectable walleye fishery.



BLACK LAKE ASSOCIATION INFORMATION SOURCES

You may reach the **Black Lake Association** through their website:

WWW.blacklakeassociation.com

Starting this year the Association will also be posting on the

FACEBOOK PAGE:

Black Lake Cheboygan Michigan

In addition, we will be using the mass emailing to send important messages in a timely manner. Be sure we have your correct email address so we can reach you. You may do that easily by filling out the email line in the dues envelope.

This year the Association will be selling mugs as a fund raiser for our ongoing projects. They were introduced at the banquet last year as a table favor. Many people wanted to purchase more so we will be selling them for \$10.00 each. For more information contact Cindy Trepanier at:

989-370-7153.



2019 INVASIVE SPECIES INVENTORY AGREEMENT BETWEEN HURON PINES AND THE BLACK LAKE ASSOCIATION

Invasive species have been plaguing the waters of the Great Lakes for many years and their infestations can cause detrimental effects to the natural environment. Not only do invasive species infestations cause harm to native plants and wildlife, but they can also cause recreational and monetary damage. Some invasive species are even known to cause harm to human health. Invasive plant species are of particular concern because of their ability to spread very quickly and be unknowingly transported. The early detection of invasive plants is important in keeping them from overtaking a body of water and its shoreline.

Black Lake is currently host to a small variety of invasive plants, none of which are at a stage where they are uncontrollable. Due to this, it is very

important to monitor the current extent of invasive species on Black Lake, namely Purple loosestrife and invasive phragmites, so that they do not create the uncontrollable monocultures seen in other parts of the state. Monitoring the lake is also important so that any new introductions of an invasive species can be caught early enough to take action before it can become established. Additionally, the completion of an inventory of the lake will provide landowner information for the future treatment and control of invasive species on Black Lake.

The goal of this project is to monitor all known locations of invasive species and to map all new occurrences of invasive species. The mapping of all these invasive species will then be used to make man-

agement decisions for controlling these species.

To accomplish this goal, Huron Pines proposes to complete a full shoreline inventory, via watercraft, of Black Lake. This will be done in the month of September and all previous marked locations will be monitored for changes. Any new species discovered will be recorded and mapped. This will include not only aquatic plants, but any terrestrial species that can be seen above the shoreline as well.

Huron Pines will then provide reports and recommendations to the Black Lake Association for control or treatment of the invasive species. All species locations will also be reported to the Midwest Invasive Species Network no later than the end of the calendar year.

INVASIVE SPECIES DETECTION CAN HELP PROTECT THE PLACES YOU LOVE SUBMITTED BY SHELBY BAUER

For the past two years, Huron Pines has conducted invasive species inventories recording the area, density and GPS coordinates of invasive plants along the shoreline of Black Lake. Where does all that information go? The answer might be more surprising than you think!

All inventory data that Huron Pines collects gets entered into a public online database called MISIN. MISIN, the Midwest Invasive Species Information Network is a compilation of region-wide invasive species data. The data comes from many sources including conservation districts, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, the Michi-

gan Department of Natural Resources, citizen scientists and other organizations across the Midwest.

You can access invasive species data for the entire region at www.misin.msu.edu. There's no login required and there's a lot of information to explore. Click "browse data" under the "explore" tab to begin exploring the map. You can search by date, species, geography or project. For example, you can do a geographic search to explore invasive species across Cheboygan County. If you want to see Huron Pines' specific data you search by project and find Northeast Michigan CWMA in the dropdown list. If you would like more detailed information on a point,

try clicking on "Print Record" or the PDF link in the reporting table. If you are looking at a map and you notice there is a purple loosestrife patch that is not marked, but you know it's on the shore of Black Lake, you can make reports, too. Once you create a login you can click on "report" and select the species name from the dropdown menu. This will prompt a reporting page where you submit your data. Huron Pines invasive species team will then be alerted that a new species has been reported. We can use this information to help us create a comprehensive invasive species management plan for Black Lake.

HURON PINES

MICHIGAN SWIMMERS'ITCH PARTNERSHIP
CINDY TREPANIER
BLACK LAKE ASSOCIATION DIRECTOR

The Michigan Swimmer's Itch Partnership (MISIP) is a partnership of Lake Associations that formed in 2014. MISIP's mission is to bring together lake associations and provide leadership in Michigan to address swimmer's itch through effective, comprehensive, science based control programs, targeted research, education and the development and testing of preventative measures.

The Black Lake Association formed a committee in 2016, consisting of Clara Breese, Gail Smith, Sharon Dulak and myself. The committee, after attending two separate, day long conferences have asked Ron Reimink of Freshwater Solutions, a swimmers' itch expert, to do a presentation at our June 10, 2019 Potluck and general meeting.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Ron Reimink, owner of Freshwater Solutions, LLC began working on parasites responsible for causing swimmer's

itch in 1977 during his undergrad work at Hope College. He also earned his Master degree in biology at the University of Michigan. In 1983 he began three decades of summer fieldwork focused on education, research and control of swimmers' itch in lakes in Wisconsin, Maine and Michigan.

There are five lakes on the west side of Michigan that are working with MISIP to relocate the mergansers that carry the parasite in those lakes. This is done by permitting from the DNR fish and wildlife division. There have been some success stories.

We generally do not have a merganser problem on Black Lake, but they are looking at different flight birds and their effect because the swimmer's itch parasites are carried by different snails, which in turn are carried by different hosts. Geese may carry one type, mallard ducks another type, even beavers could be involved.

Swimmer's itch has become widespread on our lake the last few years, thought to be because of the cleaner water. It has also been found that wind plays a factor. There is so much more to learn. Please plan on attending the June meeting where you can ask Ron Reimink for answers.

We are also attaching a form you can fill out so we can ascertain which areas on the lake have swimmer's itch.



IMPORTANT: if you recently experienced swimmers' itch you can help by filling out an online survey at:

Swimmersitch.ca

The School of Public Health at the University of Alberta and Freshwater Solutions are conducting research on swimmers' itch in North America and they are interested in knowing where and when swimmers' itch is occurring.

Meetings



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

May 13th

7:30
General Meeting

June 10th

6:30
Potluck—bring a dish to pass
7:30
Annual Meeting
Ron Reimink—Swimmers' Itch

July 8th

7:30
General Meeting

August 12th

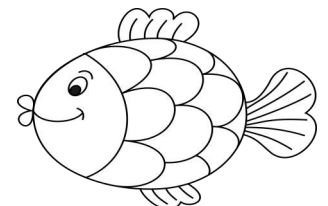
7:30
General Meeting

September 9th

7:30
General Meeting

October 14th

7:30
General Meeting



SWIMMERS' ITCH SURVEY

We experienced swimmers' itch last summer.

NAME _____

BEACH ADDRESS _____

MONTH _____

TIME OF DAY _____

DEPTH OF WATER-_____

Please mail to : BLACK LAKE ASSOCIATION

P O BOX 302

ONAWAY, MICHIGAN 49765



Thank you
BLACK LAKE
BEACH REPS.

Gail Smith
Marlene George
Gary Shepherd
Randy Lewis
Arlene Harman
Rick Peters
Sheila Kraycs
Sue Madden
Connie Nadjarian
Ron Dulak
Dana Brophy
Missy Beardsley
Kay Hoefflin
Lynn Henzler
Sue Roberts
Eugene Osantowski
Jill Lewis
Sonny Smith
John Kirby
Patti Archambo
Mike Kretz
Molly Catlin
Charlene Swihart
Ingrid Sendelback
Deborah Redder
Julie Johnson
Florence Roberts
Sandy Schnau
Cassie Cobb
Sarah Soule
Pam Selvig
Linda VanSickle

BLACK LAKE ASSOCIATION BANQUET

PRESENTS



AN EVENING ON THE LAKE



BLACK LAKE GOLF CLUB
2800 Maxon Rd.
Onaway, MI 49765



Saturday, July 13, 2019

5:30–6:30 PM - Appetizers

6:30 PM Dinner

Music by :
MATT WINANS

Music by:
MATT WINANS

Prime Rib, Encrusted Walleye, Chicken Chardonnay

Red Skin Potatoes, Broccoli, Salad, Rolls

Strawberry Shortcake

\$30.00 per person

Please reserve _____ dinners for July 13, 2019. I have enclosed \$ _____.

Names _____

Please return payment along with this form before July 9, 2019. Mail to :

The Black Lake Association, PO Box 302 , Onaway, Michigan 49765

Questions? Please call Connie Nadjarian at 248-561-7174

BLACK LAKE MARINA UPDATE KEITH CHELI, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT REGIONAL FIELD PLANNER DNR PARKS AND RECREATION

The following is our most recent stakeholder update on the Black Lake Marina.

The Department of Natural Resources Parks and Recreation Division, with assistance from environmental assessment consultant Sagasser and Associates located in Gaylord, MI, have completed a Phase 2 environmental review and submitted a baseline environmental assessment to the Department of Environmental Quality for the subject parcel. DNR Real Estate Services are now in a position to schedule the final administrative steps to proceed with executing the purchase

agreement on the property and consummate the land transaction. These procedures are anticipated to be completed in late February or March. Once the property is within DNR ownership, the Parks and Recreation Division will begin the process of funding and completing the environmental remediation required on site.

It is anticipated that the demolition and removal of the existing buildings on site would occur in the near future as well. A capital outlay funding request will be submitted in late July of 2019 that will include hiring of a professional planning and design consultant to assist in preparing con-

tact documents for proposed improvements for a public boating access site as outlined to local stakeholders. Notification on whether the capital outlay funding request will be approved as part of the 2020 State fiscal budget will be released in October of this year, 2019. The DNR Parks and Recreation Division intends to continue the inclusive and transparent process for work surrounding the Black River Marina initiative and intends to host a public open house forum to share future plans and schedules as the formal design and planning process unfold.