

BLACK LAKE NEWS



The **BLACK LAKE ASSOCIATION** was founded in 1928 by a group of volunteers focused on maintaining the quality of the lake and surrounding watershed, providing recreational opportunities and communicating information of interest to its members. That mission remains unchanged.

The purpose of the **BLACK LAKE ASSOCIATION** is still to monitor Black Lake for environmental and ecological changes and to promote activities that will enhance water quality, fishing, boating, safe navigation, swimming and other recreational activities. Membership in the **BLACK LAKE ASSOCIATION** is open not only to property owners, but also to others who want to support the quality, natural beauty and recreational opportunities of our northern Michigan gem. Everyone is welcome.



Black Lake, located in Cheboygan and Presque Isle counties in northern Michigan has a surface area of 10,130 acres. There are four townships bordering the lake, Grant, Waverly, North Allis and Bearinger. It is the seventh largest inland lake in Michigan and the largest body of water in the Black River watershed. It drains through the Lower Black and Cheboygan Rivers into Lake Huron. At the deepest point it is approximately 55 feet deep.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

BRETT TREPANIER 989-370-4949

Powered by our volunteers, the Black Lake Association (BLA) is continually working to preserve and protect Black Lake and its watershed and enhance the outdoor experience for all who share it. Our activities include efforts to monitor and improve the water quality, prevent invasives from entering our lake, and to improve the quality of our fishery.

The BLA is run by a board of nine Directors who are elected for a term of three years. We meet once a month, May through October. Each year three of the positions are up for election. To run for a board position, BLA members must be nominated at the May meeting, and then three board members will be elected at the June 13 meeting.

If you are interested in becoming an active board member, contact a member of the board prior to the May meeting for additional information. If you are not interested in running for the board, but would like to help us by volunteering for other projects, please let us know that as well. Volunteers are the ingredients that keep an Association healthy.

The last couple of years have been complicated by the Covid-19 Pandemic. People were requested to limit their exposure to others in order to stay healthy. Now, as things are starting to get back to normal, we look forward to an active season where people will be able to return to the lake, their cottages and normal summer life.

This newsletter summarizes the many areas that we, as an association are involved in, such as invasive species, water level management with the Alverno Dam, water quality, shoreline protection, swimmer's itch and our fishery. We are always on the lookout for projects and things that need to be done around the lake. If there is an area of interest, or issue that you are concerned about, we invite you to attend our meetings, contact a Board Member, or visit our website:

www.blacklakeassociation.com

Come join us and help guarantee that our Black Lake will always remain a beautiful lake. Get involved with us in actively preserving and protecting the lake of beautiful sunsets.

BLACK LAKE ASSOCIATION BANQUET JULY 9, 2022

A great get together for an Evening on the Lake! Bring your friends and family for the fun.

Based on the positive feedback from last year, this year's banquet will again be held in the **UAW BLACK LAKE CONFERENCE CENTER's** dining room which overlooks their beautiful grounds. You won't want to miss it.

Hors d'oeuvres and music

begin at 5:00 pm and will be followed by dinner at 6:00pm. There will be a 50/50 raffle to raise funds for stocking fish in Black Lake.

Shuttle service will be provided from the parking lot to the Conference Center dining room.

The cost is \$35.00 per person. A cash bar will be available.

If you have any questions or

need additional information, you may contact:

Liz Gallagher Nolde at 989-954-3074, or by email at, nightwitch57@gmail.com.

You may send your checks to **BLACK LAKE ASSOCIATION 2022 BANQUET P.O. BOX 302 ONAWAY, MICHIGAN 49765**



The Black Lake Association, founded in 1928, is committed to the protection and preservation of Black Lake and its surrounding watershed. Our thanks go to the following people who chose to remember family and friends through a donation to the BLA.

IN MEMORY OF :

ELIZA JANE PETERMAN

Betty Jane Kemme
Janet and Carl Anderson

ROBERT J. SCHOENHALS

Linda and Ron Van Sickle

Elda Shull

Linda and Ron Van Sickle



IN HONOR OF:

GERDA AND BILL FINK

Alexis Fink



IN MEMORY ROBERT J. SCHOENHALS APRIL 29, 1933 – NOVEMBER 29, 2020

Bob was born in Petoskey, Michigan in 1933 when his parents lived in Onaway, Michigan, where his mother taught school and his father was superintendent. After the family moved downstate in 1937, they returned annually to Black Lake, where they camped and rented until they built a cedar log cabin on Hongore Bay in 1948. Bob and his siblings grew up spending summers next door to their cousins, fishing, swimming, sailing, canoeing, building beach fires and doing all the things that Black Lake families still enjoy.

Bob earned three engineering degrees from the

University of Michigan: BSE, MSE and PhD. Bob, his wife Betty and their two children, Glen and Karen, came to the lake every summer during the 45 years that Bob taught at Purdue and conducted research in Mechanical Engineering. Bob also worked for NASA, Arizona State University and the National Science Foundation during those years. Some of his efforts focused on designing a proposed landing gear for the first lunar lander, and he was called to consult on heat transfer during the 1979 Three Mile Island crisis. When Bob retired, he and Betty extended their time at the lake.

Bob is survived by his brother Don and his wife Kathy; his sister Helen Schoenhals Hart and her husband John; his daughter Karen and two grandchildren, Glen and Emma. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews, all of whom have lasting memories of Bob and the Schoenhals at Black Lake.

Bob considered Black Lake a "magical place" and displayed an abiding love and appreciation for its beauty, its history and the lake community. The Black Lake Association is grateful for Bob's generous bequest in support of the Association's work.

OBSERVATIONS OF HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS ON BLACK LAKE IN 2020 AND 2021

Dr. Roger Bergstedt

In 2020, samples were taken from HAB blooms (harmful algal blooms) occurring from mid-August to late September. Measured Microcystin toxin concentrations in those samples ranged from non-detection to 210 micro-grams per liter.

In 2021, HAB blooms were reported on two dates. On September 30, 2021 a bloom was reported off Bluffs Highway, just south of Ash Highway (one collected sample measured 49.2 micro-grams per liter). On October 5, 2021, there were two reports of HAB's. Two samples were taken that day from a bloom just

west of County Line Road on the south side of the lake and they measured 10.9 and 60.4 micro-grams per liter. On the same day, a sample taken from a bloom just on the north side of Five Mile Point measured a very high 2,913 micro-grams per liter.

Representatives of the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy, (EGLE) noted that statistics collected over the last number of decades suggest that both temperatures and frequency of high precipitation events are increasing and could lead to more

frequent HAB's. We need to remain vigilant for these blooms and report them to the Environmental Assistance Center at **1-800-662-9278** or by sending an e-mail to: **AlgaeBloom@Michigan.gov**.

More information can be found at **Michigan.gov/habs**.

The recommendation is, if you see a suspicious bloom report it immediately, take photos if you can, don't try to take a sample and avoid having any contact with the water.



THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING



As summer approaches, The Black Lake Association Board would like to send a special thank you to all of our volunteers who have served the Black Lake community by donating their time and talents. We are so thankful to have a devoted group of volunteers who contribute hundreds of hours each year to help preserve and protect our beautiful lake. Our volunteers are an important resource. If you are interested in volunteering please visit our website, www.blacklakeassociation.com.

We are especially grateful for the work the Beach Representatives do each and every year. They step up and support the work the BLA does by giving of their time and energy. They are our front line. Our thanks go to the following people.

DEBORAH REDDER
SANDY SCHNAU
INGRID/NEIL SENDLEBACK
GAIL SMITH
HEIDE PENHALE
CONNIE NADJARIAN
KAY HOEFFLIN
EUGENE OSANTOWSKI
ROBERT WALTER
JANICE WOOD
SUSAN/BRIAN NADEAU

JULIE JOHNSON
CASSIE COBB
PAM SELVIG
MARLENE GEORGE
ARLENE HARMAN
DANA BROPHY
LYNNE HENZLER
LYNDA O'NEIL
PATTI ARCHAMBO
CHARLENE SWIHART
SARA LUCIER

LINDA VAN SICKLE
JOCELYN BERGSTEDT
RON DULAK
GARY SHEPHERD
SUE MADDEN
MISSY BEARDSLEY
SUE ROBERTS
JILL LEWIS
MIKE KRETZ
JEFF/CANDICE NIEUWKOOP
SHARON DULAK

Being a volunteer can also be a demanding task. You just have to ask RON VAN SICKLE and ROGER BERGSTEDT as they go out into the lake, rain or shine, throughout the summer, taking water samples and secchi disk readings. These are then given to the Tip of the Mitt who will test and check the samples to see what the water quality is in Black Lake. The BLA has been doing this for years to make sure our lake stays as healthy as possible.

This past summer the BLA assisted Eli Baker, from the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council with the Mobile Boat Washing Station at the Onaway State Park. Those on hand helped to educate boat owners and users of the importance of clean boating and prevention of the spread of invasive species. We owe the success of these events to the following volunteers.

BILL AND GERDA FINK
DANIEL NUNEZ/FAMILY

LYNNE HENZLER
RON/SHARON DULAK

DICK HOPKINS
CRAIG/DEBORAH REDDER

Another important job which the BLA has done for years is the placement of buoys at the mouth of the Upper Black River. This job was done for years by BOB WILLIAMS, who retired last year, and is now being performed by JIM COLEMAN. THE BLA has also, at Jim's suggestion, purchased four more channel marker buoys. Thanks Jim.

We also have to thank DAVE TURZEWSKI and ROGER BERGSTEDT for being our local Black Lake Representatives who are working with the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council (TIP), USGS, EGLE, DNR and other local groups looking into the harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) seen on Black Lake the last two years. The TIP is seeking funding to form a Black Lake Watershed Advisory Committee which will create a plan to identify problems and solutions. The USGS visited Black Lake and were given a tour by both Dave and Roger. Thank guys.

ERIN MC LEAN also has to be mentioned as he heads our Fish Committee. He works closely with TIM CWALINSKI, DNR to keep an eye on our fishery. This past summer we were able to introduce a half million walleye fry into the Upper Black River. Erin also joined the DNR Fishery Division in electroshocking last fall. This is done to verify the effectiveness of our stocking endeavors in the spring.

Connie Nadjarian also deserves special thanks for stepping up to the task of pulling together the BLA Banquet during the Covid-19 season. It was not only well received, well organized but also successful and fun. Thank you Connie.

And, last but not least, many thanks to LYNNE HENZLER, DICK HOPKINS, RON and SHARON DULAK for decorating the Christmas tree sponsored by the BLA at the Onaway Chamber of Commerce Chandler Park Tree Lighting. I might add it felt like the coldest day of the winter, but was a fitting way to end the year. Our thanks go out to all of these tireless volunteers.



VOLUNTEERS ARE VITAL TO NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Linda Van Sickle is an important part of our organization. She is always ready to help when help is needed. This past year she was instrumental in developing our recently published booklet,

LIVING ON BLACK LAKE; SOME FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS May 2021

She worked long and hard researching, collecting information, developing the material to make it meaningful to all who read it. She was also very much involved in getting it published.

Thank you, Linda!

The booklet, in total has been placed on our website at

www.blacklakeassociation.com

Updates will be made
Periodically.

Volunteers are always welcome to our organization. It is an act of giving of your time and abilities without expecting a monetary reward. If you are interested you may call any board member, or visit our website:

www.blacklakeassociation.com
or fill in the volunteer space on the dues envelope. We look forward to meeting you.

SWIMMERS'S ITCH REVISITED

Ronald Remink—FRESHWATER SOLUTIONS, LLC

It is apparent to us that we will need to change the paradigm on swimmer's itch from lakewide control to individual prevention. Because that doesn't fit well with the business plan of others, there continues to be pushback (although with a glaring absence of scientific publications). This paradigm shift has some major benefits for lake associations and individuals. There is no need for costly waterfowl removal. There is no danger of disrupting the aquatic ecosystem by removing an entire population of top tier predators. Individuals have the power to control whether they get swimmer's itch and don't have to wonder if some days are worse than others. Limited association funds can be spent on more important water quality issues

(there are many)! Only those who get swimmer's itch (less than 50%) need to put energy and resources into prevention. Those are just a few talking points. We learned back in the 1980's and 1990's that the program of trap and relocate didn't work on lakes in NW Michigan. Yes, our publication back then showed we reduced one species of parasite, but we didn't mention we had to kill all the birds (young and old) and have spring and fall harassment methods in place to even get that one species of parasite down. My advice for all of you is to get a money back guarantee from anyone claiming they will get rid of your swimmer's itch by trapping and relocating mergansers.....our data suggests that will not work.

As for prevention, we have not

received any funding to continue our scientific verification of some novel prevention methods. Our latest data (in our January publication) suggests that onshore winds accumulate itch-causing cercariae right along shore (within a few feet) so that would not be a good place for little kids to play! We know tight-fitting rash guards work. To our knowledge, no cream has yet been proven effective scientifically. Our goal in the coming years is to show the effectiveness of various inexpensive prevention methods, so everyone can swim itch free, without worry (including my granddaughters!)



BIGGER IS NOT ALWAYS BETTER

JEN BUCHANAN, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, Associate Director

As lakefront property owners who have witnessed the incredible power of ice can attest, there is no stone big enough that ice can't move it. Ice cover on our inland lakes is certainly something to be reckoned with. Ice can exert 10 to 12 tons per square feet of pressure on our shorelines. The challenge is to learn to live with ice and minimize its shoreline damage potential. One of the proven methods of mitigating ice damage, as well as wave energy, is by constructing a sloping, protective shoreline structure known as a revetment, which is designed to buffer wave energy and direct ice movement. Not to be confused with a seawall or bulkhead, which are typically solid, vertical structures constructed of metal, wood, or concrete,

these revetments incorporate the principles of bioengineering and are composed of relatively small fieldstones—not oversized boulders the size of a Volkswagen! Technically speaking, any and all rock used to protect shorelines is considered riprap. Because riprap tends to be associated with larger, oversized rock, the Watershed Council generally does not use the term when discussing bioengineering practices. The best approach to limit damage from ice push is to allow ice to move inland rather than try to prevent it from coming ashore. The following are some of the important factors to consider when designing and installing a protective shoreline revetment.

SLOPE: A properly designed and installed fieldstone revetment will have a gentle slope of 3H(horizontal):1V(vertical) or flatter. A steeper slope is more vulnerable to ice shove and may also be less stable. Think of it as a wedge that assists ice up and over the shoreline rather than pushing directly into it. The top surface of the revetment, usually a layer of smaller fieldstones top-dressed over the larger fieldstones core, acts like ball bearings, allowing the ice to move freely up the slope without major disruption.

FIELDSTONE SHAPE: Field stones should be mostly round in shape. Avoid using flat, plate-like rocks, which are more easily moved by the waves. In addition, rounded fieldstones, when gathered

Continued on page 8.



FOOSP

The new pavilion is pictured above and below. To see more of our work you may go to our Facebook page or our Website. We have participated in the July 4th parade, hosted events at the Onaway State Park, sold t-shirts and sweatshirts and have a promise of funds from the DNR to improve the historic, lower bathroom and put new beams and roofing on the Overlook structure. There's much more to come.



Cody Stevens was asked about the foresting around Black Lake. He said that for the 2024 planning cycle they were developing plans in two compartments, 156 and 171 which are fairly close to Black Lake.

When asked about the replanting of trees he said they typically only plant Red Pine. Most of the other species regenerate very well on their own and don't need us to plant anything to have fully stocked stands in the future. Each site is different though and they develop plans for each harvest area and monitor them to ensure they meet those goals.

FRIENDS OF THE ONAWAY STATE PARK - FOOSP

Sue Madden

The Friends of Onaway State Park was established in June of 2017. We are a non-profit, voluntary association established to assist Onaway State Park in obtaining its goals, primarily in the areas of park promotion, interpretation and resource preservation, including, but not limited to recreational, natural, cultural and educational activities. Our board consists of six voting members:

President—Vanessa Dean

V. President—Pam Beck

Secretary—Sue Madden

Treasurer—Gail Radke

Trustees—Carol Latsch and Brenden Maenie

We work closely with Kim Beck-Williams the DNR Unit Supervisor and Anderia and

Ted Hand, the campground hosts.

Since our inception, our main goal has been to get the funding necessary to replace the park pavilion which burned down in 2012. To that end, we were able to procure enough money from the State of Michigan with the help of Sue Allor, to build a beautiful, new building in the day use area of the park. Voices to build it in the old pavilion location were heard, but due to historical and archeological concerns, that was impossible.

At this time, we are planning an open house for the pavilion on Memorial Day weekend. There is however, much yet to be done. In addition to the money from the State, we

were able to raise almost \$16,000 through various activities and donations to add needed items to complete the pavilion. Our goal is to be able to rent the pavilion for family gatherings, weddings, reunions, etc. right after Memorial weekend. We are in the process now of purchasing needed items. Time is of the essence to raise the needed funds due to the shipping delays and pandemic problems. If you would like to help or make a donation please call **Vanessa Dean at 989-307-9041**, or **Sue Madden at 586-770-5906**. We have a list of immediate needs we would like to share with you.

FOREST MANAGEMENT AROUND BLACK LAKE

CODY STEVENS— DNR FOREST RESOURCE DIVISION FIELD SUPERVISOR
ATLANTA

They're your forests! Share ideas on state forest planning. Every year the DNR manages the forests to keep them healthy and help prevent wildfires. This includes cutting and thinning trees, prescribed burning and planting new trees. These actions are planned two years in advance.

Now is your chance to provide input for actions that will be taken in 2024. Instead of hosting face-to-face houses this year, the DNR's Forest Resources Division is asking for public input online or by appointment. This decision is part of the statewide effort to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Go to the interactive online map and click on your area of interest to find out what forest management prescriptions are planned.

Your input will be used to make final decisions on forest management actions. Those decisions will be made at meeting known as compartment reviews. You may also attend those meetings, but the open house is the best place to offer input. If you have a disability that requires accommodations to access this information, please contact:

Cody Stevens
stevensc@michigan.gov or
989-785-4251.

Those unable to attend meetings are encouraged to submit comments via email to **Cody Stevens at**
stevensc@michigan.gov or
989-785-4251.

If you would like to speak to a DNR staffer regarding your comments or concerns, you may use the above email address to request and appointment. Learn more about open houses and compartment reviews at

Michigan.gov/Forestinput.



Cody stated that it is very hard to generalize forest management when each site has very specific plans and goals, so if folks have questions about an area, he can get them more details.



FEBRUARY 5, 2022
BLACK LAKE STURGEON
SEASON LAST 36 MINUTES

SEASON OPENED AT 8:00am

1st fish 8:10am

Scott Ash

Female—59.5 in., 48 lbs.

2nd fish 8:11am

Matt Barber

Male—62 in., 67lbs.

3rd fish 8:14am

Jerry Perrin

Male—47in., 25lbs.

4th fish 8:27am

Doug Blaskowski

Male—57in., 45lbs.

5th fish 8:33am

Scott Williams

Male—46in., 23lbs.

6th fish 8:35am

Andrew Maltby

Male—56in., 31lbs.

8:36 THE SEASON IS CLOSED!

At 8:36 am all 565 fisherman on Black Lake received a text telling them the season was over.

Everyone of the fish harvested had been captured and tagged previously by the DNR and Michigan State University during their spawning season in the Black River.



WHERE ARE THE WALLEYES?

TIM CWALINSKI - DNR FISHERIES

As many of you may feel, the good old days of walleye catches in Black Lake might seem long gone. We certainly have seen some changes in fish population in our northern Michigan lakes in recent decades, especially following the onset of certain invasive species. These include zebra mussels, quagga mussels, and round goby, to name a few. Black Lake is certainly on the list of impacted lakes, and in particular, from zebra mussels. These small invasive clams from Eurasia are prolific plankton filter feeders. They have the effect of chipping away at the base of the food chain which is vital for all young fishes. If you don't think they impact the lake, ask yourself why water clarity has increased tremendously since their invasion. That is what they do by filter feeding our nutrients in the water column. Poor juvenile survival of fish can occur when critical plankton is not available in the early life stages.

Fisheries managers and researchers from across the northern tier of North America are also struggling to deal with changes in walleye populations. I was part of a two day work group this past summer, listening to other agencies talk about some of their regional walleye issues. This included a number of provinces and states reaching from

North Dakota to New York. So, if you think it is only happening to Black Lake, think again. What was interesting from the different perspectives was the different theories. Invasives were definitely acknowledged as a core problem, but so was climate change. For example, many decades of walleye research and temperature data for Lake Oneida in New York have documented good numbers of fall age-0 walleye, but poor survival through the winter. It is known in the fish world (and wildlife) that there is often high first winter mortality in fish. Researchers in New York are documenting higher over-winter mortality of juvenile walleyes in recent years and correlating it with higher winter temperatures. Their belief is that reduced ice cover and warmer water temperatures often drive higher metabolic rates, which is energy demanding. This is just one example of theories out there regarding reduced walleye survival throughout North American containment.

Walleye mortality can happen at many stages. Of course, if you have few adults, you get less production. However, it does not take a large number of walleye adults to produce a quality year class because they have high egg fecundity. This is well documented in the perch and walleye literature. You do however need good

spring warming rates (does that occur here anymore?), ample amounts of plankton and decent growth to get through to their first winter. Lots of factors here that chip away at juvenile numbers through the year.

The point of this article is to point out that there are many hurdles out there for juvenile fish, (including walleye) to leap over. Some are natural, (spring warming, plankton availability, etc.), but some are not, they are here to stay, (climate change, invasives). Will we ever have the answer to a fix? Probably not, but that is what science is about, adapting.

Despite all this, DNR did manage to stock a large number of spring fingerling walleye in Black Lake in 2021. The number stocked was at the expense of some other statewide lakes not getting fish multiple years in a row. In a typical year, our statewide stocking needs of fingerling walleye are greater than what we raise. We also stocked in 2017 and 2018, but do not plan on stocking in 2022 unless there is a large statewide surplus. We did catch a fair number of 4-6 inch walleye (likely stocked) during our 2021 fall electrofishing index station (Five Mile Point south, then east to Rainy River mouth). Will they make it through the winter? Only time will tell!

BLACK LAKE ASSOCIATION MEETING SCHEDULE

All meetings are held in the Grant Township Hall on the second Monday of the month at 7:00 pm.

May 9th—Lauren Dey, Tip of the Mitt—BLA & TOM Building Partnerships

June 13—Potluck—Bring a dish to pass & table setting. Caroline Keson— TOM, Algal Blooms on Black Lake

July 9th— BLA Banquet – UAW Black Lake Conference Center



July 11th—no speaker

August 8th— Erin McLean, Black Lake fishery

September 12th— Dennis Waind—Zero Gravity Aerial proposal

ALVERNO DAM/BLACK LAKE WATER LEVEL UPDATE

DAVE TURZEWSKI

After five years of extensive work and consultation, Black River Hydro LP(BRLP) has submitted its license amendment application for the Alverno Dam to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on December 7, 2021.

The purpose of the application is to revise the language in two License Articles and put forth a long-term operations protocol to ensure headpond level compliance at the dam. Historically and due to the current license language, the dam owner has dealt with water level management issues related to Black Lake. The new protocol provides an efficient, science-based approach to operations that alleviates the difficulties faced with the current license.

After numerous meetings with stakeholders (including

FERC, Michigan EGLE and DNR, Cheboygan and Presque Isle Counties, FEMA, Black Lake Preservation Society, Reflections Homeowners Association (Lower Black River residents) and the Black Lake Association, detailed analysis performed by LMNO Engineering, an environmental study performed by Dr. Ronald Bruch and extensive review of data and prior studies and reports dating to 1947, the proposed provides for an amended license that ensures consistent compliance with managing headpond water levels, while providing for accountability, respect for plants and wildlife, and the needs of Black Lake users during periods of high and low water conditions.

As of the date of this article, the proposal is awaiting approval by FERC. There is no stated timeline for the FERC review process. The license

amendment application request and supporting documents can be found at the following public Google Drive link, set up by BRLP: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/17jFBVRE1MmmW-U6-3KD1k4ksk1flva4A?usp=sharing>.

These documents fully outline the existing license, requested changes, and all supporting studies, data, and background information. In the meantime, BRLP has filed an Interim Operations Protocol with FERC on February 28, 2022. This interim Protocol would provide operating rules for water level management at the dam while the license amendment is under review.

Additional information can be found on the Black Lake Association website—

www.blacklakeassociation.com

com



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BLACK RIVER BOATING ACCESS SITE KEITH CHELI

PM Environmental completed the Phase one hazardous material clean up on site which included removal of the abandoned fuel tank, fuel dispenser, fuel distribution line and contaminated soils to a depth of two feet below the ground surface. Remaining subsurface contamination is low, currently stable and not at risk for leaching from the site and will be removed during the larger redevelopment of the site in the near future.

Funding was approved by the MDNR Parks and Recreation Division for contracting a professional consultant to assist in preparation of planning, design, permitting and contract documents for the redevelopment of the site into an

improved, modern, boating access site. With funding in place, a request for proposal process for consultant selection was completed and Wade Trim (Gaylord Office) was selected to provide our project professional services. Wade Trim was able to collect all field data prior to the onset of winter conditions, is processing this information and is beginning the early stages of site evaluation and preliminary design based on our agency direction. As you are aware, our intent is to provide an opportunity for a public open house in order to share the site evaluation and conceptual design plans for the improvements, receive input and answer questions. We are optimistic that there will

be an opportunity to organize this event in early summer of this year. When the design, public output, permitting and contract documents are complete our next step will be to request agency funding for site construction and construction administration. There may be an opportunity to make the request this spring if the design process and cost estimating allow for it, but it is more likely that the funding request will take place in spring of 2023, which if approved, would position the project for possible construction during the 2024 season at the earliest.



**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
BEACH REPS WHOSE BEACHES
WERE:**

100%

Gail Smith- Bonz Beach
Marlene George- Cedar Cliffs
Missy Beardsley- Bluffs 2
Sue Roberts- Norwood
Mike Kretz- Crist Isle
Bob Walter- Craig Acres2

95%

Arlene Harman-Coddes Beach 1
Lynne Henzler-Bluffs 4
Sandy Schnau-Hongore Bay
Jocelyn Bergstedt-Sugar Beach

If you are interested in becoming
a beach rep please call:

Sharon Dulak 989-733-2565



Black Mountain Nordic Ski Club
groomed trail.

Grooming equipment



BIGGER IS NOT ALWAYS BETTER—continued from page 4

together, leave small spaces between them that provide refuge unique to that location. When determining what size of stone should be used, several site factors, including nearshore water depth, and wave height must be considered. The fieldstones should vary in size. On most high-energy lakes in Northern Michigan, a nine to 12 inch diameter fieldstone is typically the maximum size necessary to anchor the revetment in place and a four inch diameter fieldstone, the minimum size. This does not factor in smaller drainstones and pea

gravel used for the filter layer underneath the revetment.

COMPOSITION: The various sizes should be evenly distributed throughout the revetment. Hand placement of the fieldstone is encouraged. Careful installation can help insure the revetment is stable and voids between individual stones are minimized, which prevents wave energy from passing through the revetment and eroding the shoreline.

PLANTS: We would be remiss if we didn't mention the most important part of any shoreline: the plants. Deep-rooting

native plants help knit together the soils behind the revetment, further stabilizing the shoreline. In addition, they provide food, shelter, and structure for countless birds, insects and other shoreline dependent species. Lastly remember that any shoreline work below the ordinary high water mark will require a permit from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy. (EGLE)

For more information about shoreline erosion, please refer to TOM Watershed Council's publications at www.watershedcouncil.org.

**BLACK MOUNTAIN NORDIC SKI CLUB
TRAIL GROOMING**

JOHN GAVLIN

Do you ever wonder who does all the grooming of trails on Black Mountain? Well we have an answer for you.

Budget cuts in 2004/2005 at the DNR resulted in the elimination of grooming of the ski trails at the Black Mountain State Forest Area. A group of very interested skiers sprang into action so that those magnificent trails could continue to be used in the winter. That group of interested skiers formed the Black Mountain Nordic Ski Club (BMNSC). The group then struck a deal with the DNR to take over the grooming responsibilities at Black Mountain.

With no grooming machine, the group set about to fund raise. With the generosity of many local citizens, a snow machine and groomer were purchased and the BMNSC was in business. At first, the club only groomed seven miles of the massive 25 mile trail system, but today nearly all 25 miles of trails are groomed for cross-country skiing for both classic technique in the tracks and the

skating technique on the ten foot wide section of the trails. Black Lake and Onaway resident, Jim Meyer, has been the lead groomer since the BMNSC was formed. He has stored, built and repaired the grooming equipment for all of the clubs for nearly 20 years! He has also trained a few of us new groomers.

The idea to host a Black Mountain Nordic ski race was the brain child of local veterinarian, Denny Paull. It has been run successfully for 17 years and been expanded into a two-race weekend and serves as the Clubs main fund raising event of the year. The races are part of the Michigan Cup Ski Racing Series that attracts skiers from across the Midwest and the nation. This year the skate race was won by a skier from Laramie, Wyoming. What a great way to showcase the beauty of our little piece of heaven here in Northeast Lower Michigan.

Since the days of a single snow machine and one piece of grooming equipment, the club has expanded its grooming arsenal to include

two Track Trucks that haul 2,000 lbs. groomers up and down the hilly trails at Black Mountain.

The BMNSC has been adopted by the Top of Michigan Trails Council and they serve as the 501c3 organization for the club. Donations made to the club are therefore completely tax deductible. Those wishing to donate should go to trailsCouncil.org and look for the Black mountain tab.

A special shout out for their support should be given to The Bluff's Restaurant for allowing the Club to park their groomers at their location during the long winter months.

Along with grooming and running a ski race weekend, the BMNSC also does an annual trail cleaning ahead of the snow season and offers a skiing program (Nordic Rocks) to the 3rd graders at the Cheboygan Schools.

The Club is always interested in new volunteers. Interested persons should email John Gravlin at the following address:

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