

Black Oak Lake Riparian Owners' Association Newsletter

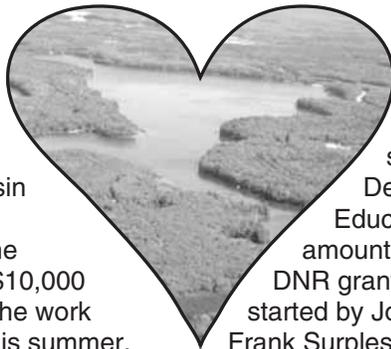
Land O' Lakes, WI 54540

June 2008

DEAR BLACK OAK LAKE FAMILIES,

It is that time of year we are eager to return to Black Oak Lake, the place that "I'll call you my own." The beauty of the environment, the memories, and the anticipation of the summer fun on the lake with our friends, family, and neighbors keeps us going until we load up and head north. I hope that everyone has a wonderful summer and continues to enjoy Black Oak Lake.

This winter members were improve our quality Barbara Hook, with Sara Beedie, was obtaining a Wisconsin Resources AIS Planning Grant in the Beedie obtained a \$10,000 survey to continue the work will be completed this summer. help, has written a 216 page book This was an enormous job including interviewing every family during the summer months. Their valued efforts and dedication are appreciated.



many BOLROA busy working to of life on BOL. the assistance of successful in Department of Natural Education, Prevention and amount of \$21,000. Bob DNR grant for a lake shore started by John Annin. This work Frank Surpless, with Margaret's about the life on Black Oak Lake.

Please take the time this summer to volunteer as a watercraft inspector at the landing, educate your house guests about AIS, and be an AIS vigilante on the water. Look at the list of volunteer opportunities established in the grant and support our efforts to prevent AIS from invading Black Oak Lake. As our plans are finalized for the summer and we pack for the lake,

we are returning to a place cherished for generations.

NEW LAND O' LAKES BIKE TRAIL

by Jim Thomas

Wilderness Lakes Trails, LLC, a non-profit organization, has been formed to expand the existing Land O' Lakes bike rail into a world-class 40+ mile bike and hike trail. The Land O' Lakes trail will continue from the Forest Lake Country Store, proceed west to Thousand Island Lake Road, go around Sylvania to the Ottawa Visitor Center and return to the Land O' Lakes Chamber of Commerce site. Watch for news on the progress of this exciting development for the town of Land O' Lakes!

Warmest regards,

Kathy Gelb, President, BOLROA

BOLROA WEBSITE

by Walt Bates

The www.blackoaklake.com website continues to grow. New additions are the schematic-only version for dial-up users, AIS expert opinions on the threat of shallow water boating, and the calendar for boat landing inspections so all can see where we need helpers and we do indeed need helpers! Also, under Announcements, read the latest from our legislature on lake issues.

2008 EVENTS

BOLROA Boat Parade

July 4, 2008
Boat Landing
4:00 p.m.

BOLROA Annual Meeting

July 5, 2008
Town Hall
10:00 a.m.

BOLROA Annual Picnic

July 12, 2008
Conserve School Campus
5:00 p.m.

BOLROA Survivors Dinner

September 16, 2008
Bent's Camp
5:30 p.m.

In Memoriam

Ruth Berg
1918-2008

Marvin Peterson
1921-2007

BOL VIGILANTES 2008

by Joe Beers

This year BOL will have 13 Lake Monitors (Vigilantes) inspecting the lake twice a month. They will be looking for any sign of invasive species that threaten the health of our lake and property values. This year all property owners will receive a packet of information on invasive species and an inspection form to use when inspecting your own shore and shallow waters. With everyone's help we increase the odds of finding any invasive species in the earliest stages and protecting the native plants of beautiful Black Oak Lake.

BOLROA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2007-2008

Kathy Gelb, President
Elizabeth Eaton, Vice President
Parry Hesselman, Treasurer
Barbara Hook, Secretary
Tom Allman
Joe Beers
Kay MacDonald
Dirk Meyer
Bob Pierce
Jim Thomas
Sara Beedie, Past President

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Mary Thomas, Chairman
Bill Hall
Mark Basten

The Nominating Committee proposes the following nominees for the Black Oak Lake Riparian Owners Association Board of Directors: Walt Bates and Wayne Woltman. The Nominating Committee proposes the following nominees for a second term on the Black Oak Lake Riparian Owners Association Board of Directors: Tom Allman, Elizabeth Eaton and Barb Hook. Each nominee's term of office will be from the 2008 Annual Meeting until the Annual Meeting in 2009. The election of these nominees will take place during the BOLROA Annual Meeting on July 5, 2008.



MEET AND GREET AT THE BOAT LANDING

by Barbara Hook

Thanks to everyone who took a turn at boat landing inspection last year. This year we plan that each person who visits Black Oak will take a turn at Beach Inspection. As you have read, the BOLROA Board was successful in obtaining a grant which will pay for a Boat Landing Inspector each weekend and all holidays from the beginning of fishing season through October. We are counting on everyone else to fill in the weekdays. We need almost 200 people to make sure both shifts each day are covered.

Nancy Frawley, an inspector for the last two years, says she "is pleasantly surprised at how knowledgeable and cooperative everyone has been". Comments from boaters are: "glad to see you here — you have a beautiful lake — no wonder you want to protect it". In fact, Nancy has only come across one person who was the least bit cranky and she is sure it was because he hadn't caught any fish. You will see Nancy at the boat landing on Monday afternoons.

You will see Walt Bates at the landing on Monday mornings and Jim Surpluss on Tuesday mornings. Both Walt and Jim echo Nancy's feelings about the folks who launch their boats. Jim says he "can think of very few places that could replace being down at the lake". And Walt says he loves to tell the story of the fellow who pulled in with his fishing boat, let his wife out and then looked a bit puzzled when Walt asked if he could inspect the boat and trailer and anchor. After a

satisfactory inspection, Walt congratulated the gentleman and asked him what he was fishing for on this beautiful day. "Nothing", says the man. "My wife just wanted to use the bathroom."

Watch for Bill Hall, who started the boat landing inspection program in 2006, every other Thursday morning with his beautiful lab. Bill says, "I haven't run into a single person at the landing that isn't really cooperative. I enjoy myself because I like to meet and talk to people." Bill thinks most Black Oakers like to meet and talk to folks so boat landing duty should be a natural.

Be sure to stop by the beach on Saturdays and Sundays to say hello to the folks who are paid by the grant to keep our lake clean. You can gain a few pointers from them as well as tell them thank you.

To get your name on the boat landing schedule. Call Dirk Meyer at



On the opening day of the 2008 fishing season, with the temperature just above freezing, Walt Bates and Joe Beers greet fisherfolk with information about AIS. These two are the first Clean Boats /Clean Waters Boat Landing Inspectors at Black Oak Lake.

547-3036 or Tom Allman at 547-3416. You can also ask Walt Bates to put you on the schedule on the website. Thanks to everyone who has already sent the card telling us what tasks they will undertake.

NEW PIER REGULATIONS ESTABLISHED

by Sara Beedie

The Wisconsin Legislature recently established new pier regulations related to width, length and number of boat slips permitted. Many of the piers on Black Oak Lake appear to be exempt under the new guidelines, and others will probably be grandfathered with a one time registration process. Generally, the sizes for an exempt pier are as follows: Width -

maximum 6 foot width with a maximum 8 x 8 loading platform at the end of the pier. Length — the length needed to moor your boat or 3 feet water depth, whichever is greater. Number of Boats — 2 for the first 50 feet of frontage and 1 for every additional 50 feet. Check out the new guidelines at the DNR website under the topic of piers — dnr.wi.gov.

50 YEAR PIN

by Jim Surples

Time seems to fly by very rapidly nowadays. Another year has passed so there might very well be other lake members that are now eligible for their 50 year pin. We now have 67 "50 year pin members". I imagine that there very likely are others that now qualify for their pin. Please contact me when you believe that you should have your new pin.

FOURTH OF JULY BOAT PARADE



by Walt Bates

There are plenty of themes out there, get those creative juices flowing and let's make this years parade the best ever! Due to the low water levels, the parade will turn around at the island and not enter West Bay. Wet Bay residents - join

your friends on their docks or watch the parade from your boat in the large part of the lake – either way, you don't want to miss this fun annual event. The Annual Meeting will be after the Boat Parade, therefore parade winners will be

announced and plaques awarded at the Annual Meeting. Be at the boat landing ready to go at 4 pm on the 4th. You can read the rules on the website (Lake Information>July 4th Parade),

ANNUAL PICNIC AT CONSERVE SCHOOL

Saturday, July 12th at 5:00 p.m.

Come and enjoy a summer evening in the
Great Northwoods with your family and friends from Black Oak Lake!

Kayaks and canoes will be available for breathtaking
Treks around Big Donahue starting at 2:00 p.m.
Swimming is also available at 2:00 p.m.

Guided tours of the campus will be available at 4:00 p.m.
Silent auction begins at 5:00 p.m.

Lakeside dinner and dessert will be catered by
Conserve School from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
(Please pack a beverage cooler!)

Adults \$ 12.00 each
Kids (12 and under) \$ 5.50 each
Kids 5 and under are FREE

For reservations or information please call
Sharon Basten at 715-547-3012 or
D. Caruso at 715-547-3657

Please make checks payable to BOLROA
Tickets will be available at the July 5th meeting.
Reservation Deadline is Thursday, July 10th.
Ticket prices increase by \$ 5 after July 10th
Refunds with 48 hour notice.

ADAPTIVE LAKE MANAGEMENT PLANNING GRANT, PHASE III

BOLROA was recently awarded its 3rd \$10,000 Lake Management Planning Grant from the Wisconsin DNR. The project of this grant will focus on establishing a baseline of the littoral zone (along the shore) and riparian area conditions in order to monitor lake and riparian ecosystem quality and stability in the future for Black Oak Lake.

Project activities include:

- **Document the littoral zone and riparian area using digital photography — Do you like taking photographs or are you interested in helping? — Contact Bob Beedie 715-547-6323**

- **Qualitatively document the littoral zone and riparian areas Are you good at making observations? We need volunteers for this task, too! — Contact Bob Beedie.**

- **Quantitatively document the littoral zone and riparian area using USEPA Lake Assessment Procedures — White Water Consulting has been hired for this task.**

The findings of these activities will be incorporated by White Water Consulting into the Black Oak Lake Adaptive Management Plan.

by Bob Beedie



BOLROA TREASURER'S REPORT

APRIL 30, 2008

BOLROA ACCOUNT BALANCES:

General Checking ...\$3950.25
(Includes Ski Fund)
Ski Fund\$593.15
(Sub-account included in General Checking)
General Savings\$3677.29
Paid Dues Members:

2007 = 168
2006 = 157
2005 = 158
2004 = 125
2003 = 153
2002 = 132

BLACK OAK LAKE PRESERVATION FOUNDATION, Inc.

Checking:\$6633.02
Savings:\$3302.14
Certificate of Deposit
@ 4.75% Due December 10, 2008
.....\$8000.00

GRAND TOTAL ALL ACCOUNTS: \$25562.70

Respectively Submitted,

Parry L. Hesselman, Treasurer

BOLROA WINS \$21,000 AIS GRANT

by Barb Hook

A two-year Education, Prevention and Planning Project grant from the DNR gives BOLROA the unique opportunity to mount a full - scale program to keep Black Oak Lake free from the introduction of exotic species.

The goals of the grant project are:

- **To enhance the Black Oak Lake Watershed Protection Plan: Adaptive Management Plan**
- **To aggressively embrace and train inspectors to execute the Clean Boats, Clean Waters Watercraft Inspection Program**
- **To expand the self-monitoring Vigilante program and involve every Black Oak Lake family in some phase of this new and more energetic protection program**

- **To make the importance of a healthy lake real for those who do not dwell on the lake**

A two-year all-out effort gives the opportunity for BOLROA to assure that the health of Black Oak Lake is of paramount importance to the homeowners, the town, and the businesses and gives the opportunity for a model that can be replicated at other lakes. It is our plan that the activities initiated with this project will be continued long after the project is complete.

Black Oak volunteers will create a two-year profile for the Clean Waters, Clean Boats Watercraft Inspection program and the Vigilante Inspection program. There will be a complete compilation of all data, Clean Boats Clean Waters inspections, Vigilante inspections and educational materials available on the BOLROA website, a complete report at the Land O' Lakes Library and a summary report filed with WDNR.

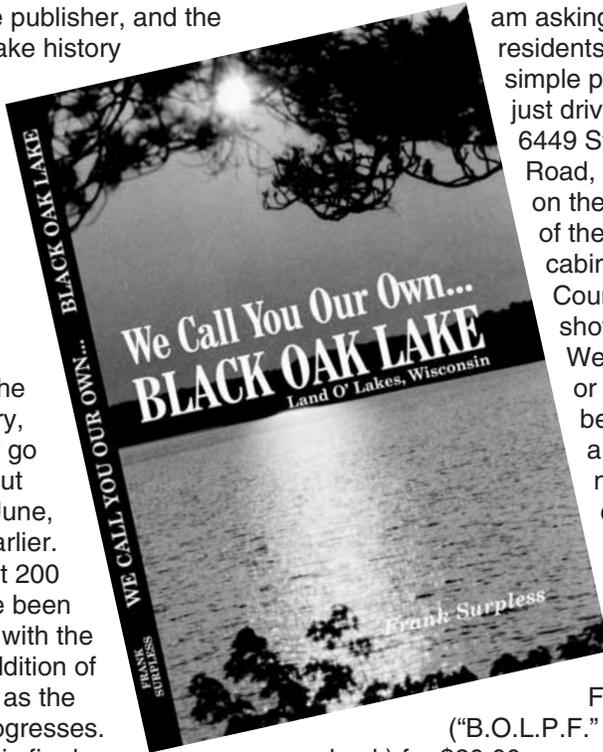
BE READY to welcome your Black Oak Lake neighbor who will visit with a packet of AIS information.

WATCH for newspaper and newsletter articles concerning the progress of the project.

WE CAN'T DO THE JOB WITHOUT YOU. CALL 547-6176 or 547-6323 TO VOLUNTEER TODAY

LAKE HISTORY ON SALE!!

After two years of the combined efforts of lake residents, local citizens, the publisher, and the writer, the lake history will soon be available for sale. WE CALL YOU OUR OWN...BLACK OAK LAKE, a collective memoir of the lake's history, will formally go on sale about the end of June, hopefully earlier. So far about 200 copies have been spoken for, with the probable addition of many more as the summer progresses. The history is firmly bound and features over 225 pages of lake lore complete with many photographs, and will in all probability not be regarded as a typical coffee table book!



To make the sale of the book as simple as possible, I am asking lake residents to follow a simple procedure: just drive over to 6449 St. Clair Road, our address on the east side of the lake (fourth cabin down from County B), and show up either Wednesdays or Saturdays between 10 a.m. and noon, with checks made out to the Black Oak Lake Preservation Foundation ("B.O.L.P.F." on your check) for \$20.00 per copy. You will immediately get your very own history of the lake and will rush right home to read it or whatever. The exact date of the availability of the book will be announced later via

by Frank Surples

email. We hope to distribute a fairly significant number of copies before the July 5 annual meeting so that word about the history will have been disseminated and people will look forward to purchasing their personal copies at the meeting.

For those who will not be coming to Black Oak this summer: upon receipt of your check for \$25.00 (to cover mailing costs), I will rush to the post office and send off your book.

I am setting August 1 as the deadline for lake residents to be assured of their copies of the history. After that date non-lake residents will be invited to buy their copies. If you are coming to the lake after August 1 and want me to set aside your copy for purchase after that date, let me know.

My mailing address: P.O. Box 539, Land O'Lakes, WI 54540
email address: surps4550@aol.com

Margaret and I are looking forward to seeing you when the book becomes available!

EXTENSIVE BLACK OAK FISH SURVEY

by Walt Bates

Every summer the DNR initiates a comprehensive fish survey of 1 or 2 Wisconsin lakes — 2008 is Black Oak Lake's year! One component of the study involved the setting of 6 fyke nets in the lake during the week following ice-out (Type "fyke" into the search box of the DNR homepage) to count, measure and weigh fish caught. The results will be made public later this year and the Fish Biologist heading this program has tentatively agreed to present the findings at next year's BOLROA annual meeting. One fact gleaned so far is that our walleye average a much smaller size than in their last survey in 1999.

LOW WATER ALERT

Your BOLROA Board has listened to the concerns of many property owners regarding the potential impact of disturbing the natural growth of our native plants in the shallow waters of the West Bay. The Board has subsequently sought out the facts on this issue and has communicated with experts from the private and public sectors including Vilas County, Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources, Wisconsin Assn. Of Lakes, White Water Associates, Aquatic Biologists, Inc. and University of Wisconsin Extension.

The overwhelming responses from these experts are: The native plants growing in Black Oak Lake must be protected. A healthy

by Joe Beers

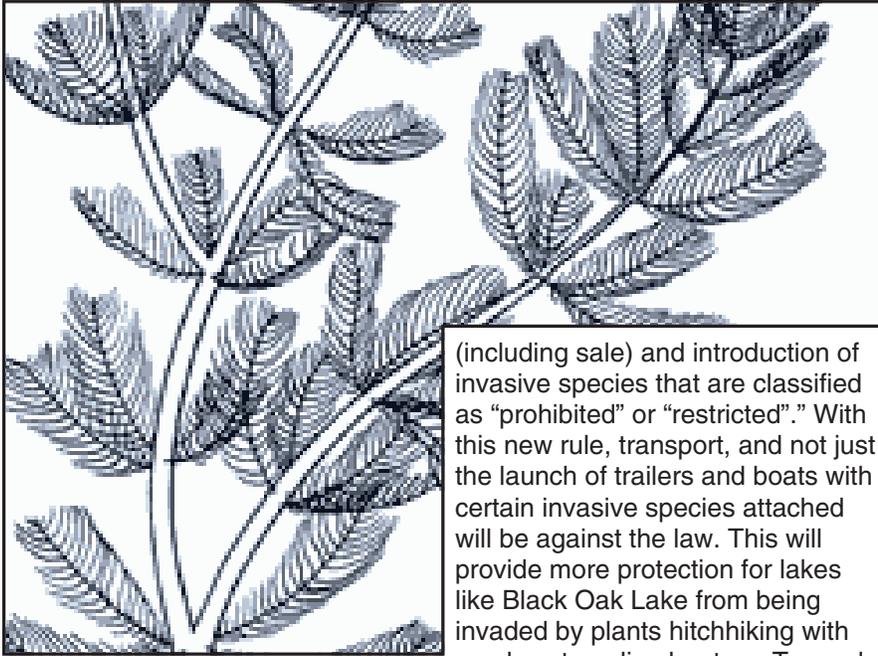
population of native plants helps keep invasive species from taking root. Native plants growing in shallow waters are susceptible to being damaged/uprooted by high speed boat traffic. Boat traffic should be restricted to no-wake in West Bay. (The complete responses are available on the BOLROA web-site.)

Based on the opinions of these experts the BOLROA Board is asking that you observe a "NO WAKE" zone beginning at Loon Island and continuing throughout the West Bay. Your cooperation on this issue is critical for the health of the entire lake in 2008 and during our continued drought.

Thank You.

DEALING WITH INVASIVE AQUATIC PLANTS: AN UPDATE

by Susan Knight, Ph. D., University of Wisconsin



Hopefully, Black Oak Lake will never have to learn how to deal with aquatic invasive plants, such as Eurasian water-milfoil or curly-leaf pondweed. However, there have been some shifts in how the DNR deals with, and allows the public to deal with aquatic invasive plants. Here is a short overview of a few changes that are going on.

One thing that hasn't changed is that the best strategy is still prevention. As is going on in Black Oak Lake, vigilant riparians and the Clean Boats Clean Waters programs are still the best deterrents to invasion. Unfortunately, once invasive species are in a lake, people living there are not nearly as motivated to prevent them from leaving as you are to keeping them out. Given that a couple of nearby Vilas county lakes have Eurasian water-milfoil it is critical to keep up the watch.

What is new is a proposed rule change to control invasive species from leaving lakes. If approved, NR 40 will "...prohibit or restrict the transportation (including importation), possession, transfer

(including sale) and introduction of invasive species that are classified as "prohibited" or "restricted." With this new rule, transport, and not just the launch of trailers and boats with certain invasive species attached will be against the law. This will provide more protection for lakes like Black Oak Lake from being invaded by plants hitchhiking with careless traveling boaters. To read more about this proposed rule, link to <http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/classification/>.

Other changes in aquatic plant management reflect a changing attitude by the DNR and their lake partners toward lake plants. Now, creating or sustaining a healthy native plant community is the paramount goal in any lake plan. For many years, individual riparians could apply for a permit and chemically treat plants in front of their own property. In most cases now, an entire lake group must cooperate to create a plan for a lake, that plan must be approved by the DNR, and only if the approved plan proposes chemical treatment will a permit be granted. If a new invasive species is discovered in a



lake, there is now a standard protocol for a quick response to this pioneer population. However, the lake group must quickly follow up on this rapid response and create a comprehensive aquatic plant management plan for the lake.

For years, not only were individual permits for chemical application granted, but there was minimal record keeping or evaluation of chemical treatments. Possibly, some lakes treated with chemicals experienced minimal benefit. For sure, we missed countless opportunities to learn what makes an effective treatment. Now there is a protocol to evaluate the success of any treatment (especially chemical). Within a few years of assessing the outcome of different manipulations, we hope to have a better understanding of when, where and why treatments are effective.

Altogether, the DNR and its partners in lake protection are trying to create a comprehensive system of preventing invasive species from finding their way into a lake. But, if an invasive does sneak in, there is a systematic strategy to deal with the invasive and learn as much as possible for the future.

THANK YOU

A sincere thank you to all of you have donated to the Black Oak Lake Preservation Foundation from its inception through 2007! Your generosity has helped ensure that Black Oak Lake will be enjoyed for generations to come. Thank you.

Dan and Stacey Adams

Andy and Elisa Allan

Tom and Mimi Allman

Marilyn Annin

Marge Baack and Mike McAdams

Scott and Debby Barnum

Sharon Basten

Jim Bates

Walt and Sandi Bates

Eric and Donna Becker

Bob and Sara Beedie

Alena Binder and Chris Lee

Rich and Tonya Bruoilliard

Joe and Mimi Burke

John and Bonnie Clarke

Conserve School

Bill and Carolyn Duff

Elizabeth Eaton

Jerry Flemma

Bern and Jean Fleming

Jim and Kay Fleming

Bill and Diane Foreman

Nancy Frawley

Kathy Gelb

John and Sally Hattenhauer

Ramona Hill

Dot Hinze

Chris and Cindy Hook

Ed and Barb Hook

Max and Martha Hostetler

Ron and Diane Kuhlman

Joan Kurkamp

John LaChance

Rob and Kathy Lauer

John and Laurie Lindstrom

Jill Lippert

Sally Lippert

Dick and Cherry Lommen

Rich and Virginia Maciulis

Fred and Judy Madigan

Mark and Arlene Mayeau

Susan W. Messner

Dan and Cathy Meyer

Dirk and Carolyn Meyer

Roberta Morris

Marilyn Nagel

Nancy O'Brien

Susan Olk

Barbie Parry

Ward and Kay Peterson

Bob and Helen Jo Pierce

Bruce and Debbie Porsche

Mike and Debbie Ritzwoller

Karen Sauer

Bill and Ann Shely

Frank and Lynne Smith

Jean Sommers

Jerry and Joanne Spinner

Mike and Judy Steiner

Harold Sundberg

Jim and Jane Surpless

Kathy Surpless

Jim Thomas

Harold Tracy

Nancy Travis

Susanne Wattson

Bob and Christine Welsh

Maurice and Grace White

Wayne and Sue Woltman

HONORARIUMS

Walt and Sandi Bates in memory of Phyllis Gilbert

Walt and Sandi Bates in memory of Jeanne Sundberg

Bruce and Martha Beltramo in memory of Tom Eaton

Marilyn Duggan in memory of Tom Eaton

Nancy Frawley in memory of Tom Eaton

Nancy Frawley in memory of Phyllis Gilbert

Nancy Frawley in memory of Joan Kurkamp

Nancy Frawley in honor of Jim Surpless' 75th Birthday

Nancy Frawley in honor of Bill Berg's 90th Birthday

Nancy Frawley in honor of Gib Clarke's and Jean Sommers' weddings

Mary Anne Gross in memory of Tom Eaton

Ed and Barb Hook in memory of Tom Eaton

The Hunt Family in memory of Matt Hunt

John and Karyl Huth in memory of Tom Eaton

Louise Kennedy in memory of Tom Eaton

Alexandra O'Connor in memory of Tom Eaton

Jim and Victoria Roesing in memory of Tom Eaton

Bill and Linda Ross in memory of Tom Eaton

Hugh and Mary Wurmle in memory of Tom Eaton

PO Box 151
Land O' Lakes, WI
54540

BLACK OAK LAKE PRESERVATION FOUNDATION, INC.

by Jim Surples

Long name isn't it? We even have a few numbers and letters (501©3) to go with it. But what does it mean to you? I know what it means for many of us and we hope that you are included. It means that we are interested and concerned about our lake. The Foundation was established to give us a means to ensure that Black Oak Lake will remain the gem of a lake that we all enjoy. We have had many of the families living on the lake make donations to the Foundation during the past years. Donations have been

made as cash contributions, memorials in memory of lake friends who have passed away and donations of items for the auction. Additionally, a portion of the proceeds from the sale of Black Oak Lake clothing, maps and directories and even a jewelry sale have been earmarked for the Foundation. As you can see, we are all concerned about our lake and our friends are working to see that Black Oak Lake remains as we would envision. The Foundation has a balance of nearly \$18,000.00. That is a

wonderful beginning and we should all be very grateful to all those who have contributed their time and resources. The names of the people that have been kind enough to participate are listed elsewhere in this newsletter. This year you will have the opportunity to participate in many of the activities that were available last year. The Foundation is alive and well and is deserving of our support. Don't forget that all donations are tax deductible. What better way to support what we all love and cherish.