



Black Oak Lake Riparian Owners' Association Newsletter

Land O' Lakes, WI 54540

Spring 2009

TO BOLROA MEMBERS & FAMILIES

What a great time of the year for all BOLROA members to once again get together with old friends and renew acquaintances. This May, Sherry and I will celebrate our 5th year on BOL and there are so many things we love about living here. At the top of the list is the sincere caring and generosity of our neighbors on the lake that made us feel welcome from day one. We will always remember that.

In 5 years things have certainly changed on Black Oak Lake. The threat of invasive species has increased and the water level is down over 2 ft. which threatens our native plants and some activities on the lake. Regrettably, our efforts to place "no wake" buoys in our threatened, shallow areas did not receive Town approval. (Please observe a voluntary "no wake" in these threatened shallow areas.) That decision adds additional pressure on our members for more volunteer hours. In 2008 our members accumulated more volunteer hours than any lake in Vilas County, a remarkable feat. The challenge in 2009 is to increase that effort and that task falls on each of our members. Throughout this newsletter you will see articles about the various activities on BOL and every area needs your help, especially boat inspections (CBCW) and lake monitors (Vigilantes). If you can spare a couple hours a week or a couple hours a summer, your help is needed. Please contact the author of the specific article or any Board member to volunteer.

Sherry
and I wish you and
your families a
wonderful summer and look
forward to seeing all of you soon.



President Joe Beers

BLACK OAK LAKE MONITORS (VIGILANTES)

In 2008 two full lake inspections were completed with Dr. Susan Knight from the UW Extension and so far so good. No evidence of any invasive species was found. Dr. Knight was concerned as we all are about the critical low water levels in the West and North Bays and the loss of native plants due to high speed boat traffic. Decreased numbers of native plants increases the chances of invasive species in BOL. That's where the work of our Lake Monitors (Vigilantes) becomes so critical. We hope and pray

we never find any invasive species but if we do, early detection is absolutely critical in controlling the spread and growth of the invasive species. More lake monitors are needed now. If you can volunteer 1 to 2 hours a month in the summer to be a lake monitor, or if you would first like to know more about the task, please call me at 547-3997 or Email me at blkoak2@yahoo.com

by Joe Beers



2009 EVENTS

Annual Meeting
Friday July 3, 2009
10 am at the Town Hall
Land O' Lakes

Boat Parade
Saturday July 4, 2009
4 pm at the boat landing

BOL Sailboat Regatta
Sat. July 18, 2009
10:00 at the beach
for the Captains' meeting

Annual Picnic
Saturday August 1, 2009
5 pm at the
Conserve School
Activities begin at 2pm.

Survivors Dinner
Date and time to be
announced.

*We welcome new
homeowners Ray and D'Arcy
Arpke from Longboat Key,
Florida. They will be residing at
5676 Keefe Rd.*

In Memoriam

*Robert L. Messner,
husband of
Susan Messner Whipp
passed away
on Saturday
November 29, 2008.*

*Edward B. Torres
1916-2009*

*Jean Knecht Stewart
1930-2009*

THANK YOU! WE DID IT - THE PROJECT

*The Black Oak Lake Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)
Control Education, Prevention And Planning Project*

by Barb Hook

The Black Oak Lake Riparian Owners Association (BOLROA) has undertaken a two year comprehensive and aggressive Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CB/CW) Watercraft Inspection program, complemented by a continuing and expanded self-monitoring lake inspection program and a more intense education program for lake owners, town leaders, businesses and off-lake owners. The group also concentrated efforts on AIS education with a strong public relations program.

The goal of the Black Oak Lake Riparian Owners Association is to guard the pristine nature of Black Oak Lake. Currently Black Oak has no Eurasian Watermilfoil and, except for Rusty Crayfish which have not caused a problem at this point, no other exotics. The challenge is to keep Black Oak Lake this way for both the homeowners and the community, to address the importance of sustaining recreational opportunities so that everyone can enjoy our lakes and protect Black Oak for future generations.

2008 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Fully integrated with the Watershed Protection Program: Adaptive Lake Management Plan
- Each BOLROA member family contacted to involve them in this project
- Over 50 percent of BOLROA families volunteered to help
- CB/CW system seems to have been 100 percent successful this year

- Hired Clean Boats, Clean Waters Inspectors for seven hours each Saturday and Sunday
- Volunteers staffed CB/CW project 512 hours during the week from May through October
- Training provided with a Clean Boats, Clean Waters training workshop
- BOLROA volunteers wore an identifying vest and used DNR reporting and monitoring forms.
- Car wash tokens for the Land O' Lakes Car Wash given free to boat owners
- Educational opportunities, meetings, training and materials available for homeowners
- Volunteers accompanied Dr. Susan Knight on two meander searches in 2008 for hands-on training
- AIS information and opportunities to be involved delivered by hand and mailed to each homeowner
- Each homeowner encouraged to explore and report on their own shorelines
- 17 Milfoil Vigilantes monitored 13 assigned sections covering the entire lake every other week
- Vigilantes monitored in accordance with established Citizen Lake Monitoring Network protocol
- The Border Bulletin, the BOLROA Newsletter and website reported progress and successes all season
- Designed new educational sign at boat landing describing AIS dangers with space for town signs
- Printed AIS informational placemats used at seven (7) local bistros to educate off-lake citizens

Evidence of the success of this season- long vigilance came the end of September when eleven(11) hours of a meander search was conducted by Dr. Susan Knight who declared the lake free of AIS at this time.

PLANS FOR 2009

BOLROA hopes to

- Meet with Homeowners Associations to expand the car wash token system for use at other boat landings



- Present CB/CW Inspection program with DNR locally through the Land O' Lakes Chamber of Commerce
- Talk with local fishing guides about ways we can help one another keep our lake clean
- Initiate recognition for outstanding CB/CW inspectors and Vigilantes
- Initiate recognition system for owners who preserve or rehabilitate natural shoreline on their property
- Promote collaborative activities among tourists, townsfolk, students, businesses and the Town Board
- Teach responsible stewardship and importance of protection of Black Oak Lake as a community treasure
- Offer school presentations about AIS and importance of keeping lakes free from exotics
- Survey lake users on desired future conditions of Black Oak using a DNR approved survey
- Collaborate with Conserve School to assess and file an updated written report on the distribution and population of Rusty Crayfish, using acceptable, approved DNR protocol

A last ambitious project for 2009 will be to work with a professional to assess the economic link between healthy lakes, the town of Land O' Lakes and home values for local residents using an approved DNR survey.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE

Project funding supports this first year report as part of a two-year profile for the Clean Waters, Clean Boats Watercraft Inspection program and the Vigilante Inspection program. All data collected is uploaded to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources database and is available to everyone on line.

There is a complete compilation of all data, Clean Boats Clean Waters inspections, Vigilante inspections and educational materials available on the BOLROA website, electronic copy from





behook@aol.com and hard copy at the Land O' Lakes Library or the Townhall..

Other Lake Associations are welcome to request grant information, project strategies, an elementary school AIS program, copies of news articles, numbers of volunteers, the annual plant survey report, signage, print materials, placemats, reports and car wash token successes. Email behook@aol.com.

A baseline report of shoreline development and the number of piers complemented by a natural shoreline recognition program and surveys for lake users and a survey to assess economic links between healthy lakes and healthy economies may be available in 2009

OUR PARTNERS

The Black Oak Lake Riparian Owners Association has developed excellent partnerships with the Town Board, Whitewater Associates who manage the current Black Oak Lake Watershed Protection Program, Forest Lake Country Store, PineconeCafe, Black Oak Inn, T.J.Grizzlies, Inc, Redman Supper Club, Vintage Inn Supper Club, Big Rob's Loose Moose Pub and Grill, Dr. Susan Knight, the Land O' Lakes Car Wash, Trees for

Tomorrow, and the Conserve School. The Town Board manages the Town Park and Black Oak Lake boat landing although Vilas County owns the actual land. BOLROA and the Town Board collaborated on the placement of a motion sensor light for evening fishermen at the Black Oak Lake boat landing. The Conserve School, an environmentally focused high school, collaborates with BOLROA for water testing and welcomes project-oriented environmental learning opportunities for students.

WHAT IT MEANS TO LAND O' LAKES

The Education, Prevention and Planning Project has given BOLROA the unique opportunity to mount a full scale program to keep Black Oak Lake free from the introduction of exotic species. This project with its four pronged approach offers such an opportunity.

1. *To enhance the Black Oak Lake Watershed Protection Plan: Adaptive Lake Management plan*
2. *To aggressively embrace and train inspectors to execute the Clean Boats, Clean Waters Watercraft Inspection Program*
3. *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*
4. *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 and as long as necessary to protect Black Oak Lake.

WDNR LAKE PLANNING GRANT

In the spring of 2008 BOLROA was awarded its third \$10,000 WDNR Lake Planning Grant. This Phase III of Black Oak Lake's Watershed Protection Program focused on the documentation of the current conditions of the littoral zone (near shore lake area) and near shore riparian area. We selected sample sites and collected data on the bottom substrate, aquatic plants, fish cover, shoreline substrate, riparian zone human influence and of course any invasive plant species. (No invasive plant species were observed.) A major component of Phase III was the collection of 230 photos that captured the state of the shoreline in the summer of 2008. The digital photos were captured onto an electronic archive that can be accessed for future reference. Phase III will stand as a baseline against which future changes can be measured. Anyone interested in the complete report of Phases I, II and III can request a copy from Bob Beedie (rbeedie@cox.net). The cost is \$25/copy to cover the cost of printing.

by Bob Beedie



BLACK OAK IS UNIQUE

We've always said we have a real jewel here and now we can prove it. The Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN) is a statewide DNR program where trained volunteers take clarity and water chemistry data that the DNR then maintains in their files. The goal is to have a long term data base for your lake against which to compare newer data to catch trends early. We started participating in 2002 and John Annin was our most recent data taker through the 2008 season. Jennifer Filbert of the WDNR in Madison is the organizer of this program which now has over 1,000 volunteers monitoring over 1,500 lakes. She just wrote us to say that the 2008 data shows Black Oak Lake to be the clearest lake in Wisconsin!! We truly have something worth protecting here. FYI, Blue Lake in Minocqua is #2, Forest Lake is #27 and Big Portage is #192. For the entire spreadsheet of all lakes and all measured parameters go to <http://www.blackoaklake.com/lakeinformation/waterquality/clmnavgs2008.xls>

by Walt Bates

WHO PULLED THE PLUG? DECLINING WATER LEVELS ON BLACK OAK LAKE

by Susan Knight

UW Center for Limnology Trout Lake Station, and WI DNR

Black Oak Lake residents have no doubt noticed the lake level has fallen over the last few years -26 inches in three years! Is it happening all over the northwoods? What is causing this draw down and will it continue? Drought and perhaps some early signs of global warming are combining to change the water levels we have come to expect, especially on certain lakes such as Black Oak Lake.

Limnologists divide lakes into three groups with respect to their water source: drainage, headwater and seepage lakes. All lakes get some water from precipitation and from ground water, but these are the only sources of water for seepage lakes. Seepage lakes, including Black Oak Lake, suffer the most dramatic lake level drops when droughts occur because their watersheds (or "groundwater-sheds") are small and more vulnerable to changes in precipitation. Drainage lakes generally have much larger watersheds and one or more streams draining into the lake, making them much less likely to experience water level changes. Headwater lakes are fed by springs, and are intermediate to seepage and drainage lakes in being susceptible to low water levels.

Climate change models suggest that the Midwest will generally become wetter and warmer. However, drought maps of the U.S. show that north central Wisconsin and most of Michigan's Upper Peninsula are experiencing severe drought. Our area is the opposite of an oasis – it is an island of parched land surrounded by normal or above normal precipitation through the rest of Wisconsin and the Midwest. Some maps show a 50 year trend of lower precipitation in this area in summer. Possibly precipitation over the rest of the year will be enough to fill up our lakes again. But if the climate is warming, we will need more rain and snow to counteract the effects of

increased evaporation from increased temperatures. For now, we are definitely seeing low water levels. What does this mean for our lakes?

The changes will mostly take place in the littoral zone – that fringe of the lake where it is shallow enough for the sun to reach the bottom and support plant growth. The clearer the water, the deeper the littoral zone, ranging from just a few feet in turbid, green or stained lakes to 20 feet or more in clear water lakes. Along with the plants, there is a rich community of periphyton – algae that like to sit on something such as plants or the bottom sediments – that photosynthesizes and makes up much of the base of the food chain in the littoral zone. The littoral zone is especially deep in Black Oak Lake because the water is so clear. However, even with award-winning clarity, the littoral zone is relatively narrow in the deep central basin of Black Oak Lake where the steep drop off means it quickly becomes too dark to support bottom dwelling plants and periphyton. Instead, this part of the lake's food chain relies on phytoplankton, or floating algae at the base of the food chain. In this deep basin, even a drawdown of several feet will not have much effect on the lake, unless preferred gravelly shores for fish spawning are eliminated as the water levels fall. However, the shallower portions of Black Oak Lake are another story.

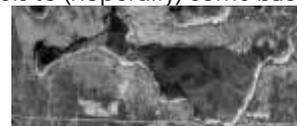
Everyone can see that the shallower basins on the east and west end of Black Oak Lake will be affected by low water levels. The west bay lake level has dropped from approximately 6 feet to 4 feet and last summer the shallowest plants were stranded on mud flats. The sand bar demarking the west bay is so shallow it seems to be encroaching on the south shore. Generally, when lake levels fall, the littoral zone will extend deeper into the lake as long as water clarity does not change, and plant cover will slowly

expand into the newly-lit bottom areas. However, this entire bay is too shallow for an expansion of the littoral zone and a further drop in lake level will expose more mud flats without adding any deeper littoral zone.

In any lake, declining water levels will affect plants and animals in the littoral zone. Emergent plants (not so prevalent around Black Oak Lake) growing in standing water will probably be eliminated as the water retreats. These shore edge plants are critical to certain invertebrates and their elimination from the shore may also cause a decline in frogs and other aquatic vertebrates. Eventually these plants will probably reestablish if the water stays low or comes back up. The plant and animal communities still submersed will survive in the shallow bays but will be harmed if boat traffic disturbs them or they become shaded from increased turbidity.

Fallen logs in the lake provide a critical habitat for periphyton and many littoral zone animals. Several studies have found that fish grow faster when there is woody habitat in the lake and, without it, some fish species may be eliminated. As water levels go down, these fallen logs may become high and dry but it is important they be left where they are. When the lake levels come back up, they will once again provide critical habitat. In general, the newly exposed lake bottom should be left alone to minimize erosion and to be as intact as possible when lake levels return.

In the past, lake levels have gone up and down and maybe the new "normal" level will be different from what we remember. For now, everyone, including boaters, should treat these shallow basins and exposed shorelines gently while we wait for the lake levels to (hopefully) come back up.



MAINTAINING OUR CLEAR WATER

Please read:

<http://www.blackoaklake.com/lakeinformation/waterquality/Keeping%20Your%20Lake%20Clear.pdf>. It's short and calls out specifics you can do to help keep Black Oak as clear for our children as we have enjoyed.

Phosphorous is the enemy. Free in the water mass of the lake it fuels algae blooms (those little green dots you see in the water as it warms). Though it can percolate through the soil into the water, surface runoff during rain brings over 20 times more. That's why the DNR recommends a 35' natural growth buffer at the shoreline and limits the amount of "impervious surface" on a property to lessen the channeling effect of runoff.

"Natural" buffer means just that – no grass (grass clippings carry phosphorous), no non-native plants, no clearing of natural growth, etc. This buffer absorbs phosphorous-laden runoff and soaks it into the ground before it reaches the



lake. Another source of phosphorous is the bottom sediments of the lake. This soft mucky soil, especially in the lake's shallow areas, contains phosphorous from decayed plant matter but it is pretty well trapped in that soil and can stay there for years. We need to

leave that bottom soil as undisturbed as possible for that reason. That is why high powered boating in shallow water is a very bad thing for our water clarity. If the water is less than four feet deep – PLEASE, NO WAKE!!

by Walt Bates

NEW DIRECTORY

The 2009 lake directory is now being printed. There are 244 entries and over 250 e-mail addresses. Each entry contains more info than before and a copy belongs near each of your telephones! Twenty two photos were submitted for the cover contest, many of them of stunning quality. The Board voted and we extend congratulations to Sally Lippert for her winning shot. Thanks to all those who sent in submissions! The new books will be available by late June - \$3 or \$4 if mailed.

by Walt Bates

WATER LEVEL

The 2009 ice-out level of 10" was the lowest in many decades. Only the 1930s "dust bowl" years recorded lower levels. Harold Sundberg's 70 year old well went dry for the first time ever. On our website see LAKE INFORMATION / WATER LEVEL HISTORY. While we were unsuccessful in getting shallow areas of the lake marked NO-WAKE we ask that you keep that throttle back when in less than four feet of water. It will help maintain our water clarity and protect our natural defenses against AIS establishment.

by Walt Bates

WILDERNESS LAKES TRAILS – GREAT PROGRESS!

Our goal of expanding the existing 8 mile bike trail that begins in Land O' Lakes is moving forward. The proposed trail expansion will ultimately become a 40-mile loop. Traversing the Wisconsin-Michigan border twice through Watersmeet Township, the trail will travel around the Sylvania Wilderness area. Another 21 miles, designated as a shared-use bike route, will link to the Vilas County trail network and a portion of the Western Upper Peninsula trail system. Visit our web site at www.wildlakes.org to see a detailed map and additional information.

This year we accomplished:

- \$545,000 in grants has been secured for the Wisconsin end of the Wilderness Lakes Trail. Engineering should start soon after the contracts are signed in April, and the construction of this trail is scheduled for completion in 2010.

- All of the required approvals for the signage on the shared-use route using existing roads from Highway B to Eagle River have been obtained. Our plan is to have the signs in place this summer.
- The entire 10 mile section of the Agonikak Trail on the Michigan side has been brushed and signed and is now a very usable hiking and mountain biking trail. The trail will be gradually improved as funding becomes available.
- A grant application has been submitted to the Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources for a portion of the Agonikak. We have also secured a grant in the amount of \$10,000 from the Dalmac Fund for use on the Michigan side of the trail.
- WLT has reached an agreement with Gogebic County and the Town of Watersmeet to place shared-use signs on Old US 2 and Thousand Island Lake Road from Watersmeet to the Michigan-Wisconsin border.

The signs have been purchased and are scheduled to be installed by the County road crew this spring. This means we will have 60-plus miles of biking routes in place in 2009, circumventing the Sylvania Wilderness and connecting Watersmeet with Land O' Lakes and Eagle River.

We sincerely appreciate all the many hours of volunteer work and the monetary donations that we have received, but there is much more work to be done. We continue to need your help! And remember, all monetary donations are tax deductible under our 501(c)(3) status. Please consider joining us in making the Wilderness Lakes Trail system a reality in our beautiful north woods for all to enjoy now and for generations to come.

Jim Thomas

WILDERNESS LAKES TRAILS LLC



BOLROA TREASURER'S REPORT

April 30, 2009

BOLROA ACCOUNT BALANCES:

General Checking = \$443.69
(Includes Ski Fund)
General Savings = \$3,686.45
CD's = \$10,000.00
@ 2.75% at Headwaters Bank Due
6/09/2009
TOTAL: \$14,130.14

(please note in this total is \$593.15 that
has been designated for the water ski
fund by specific donors)

PAID DUES MEMBERS:

2009 = 35
2008 = 150
2007 = 168
2006 = 157
2005 = 158
2004 = 125
2003 = 153
2002 = 132

BLACK OAK LAKE PRESERVATION FOUNDATION, Inc.

Checking = \$9,166.70
Savings = \$3,310.38
CD's = \$10,000.00
@ 2.75% at Headwaters Bank Due
6/09/2009

TOTAL: \$22,477.08

GRAND TOTAL ALL
ACCOUNTS = \$36,607.22

GRANTS:

\$7,500 DNR PHASE III LAKE
PLANNING GRANT received July
2008.

(\$10,000 has been spent; the DNR owes
us \$2,500 which will be deposited in
the BOLROA account).

\$5,255.25 DNR AIS EDUCATION &
PREVENTION GRANT received July
2008.

(\$9,287.71 has been spent; the DNR
owes us the difference plus additional
monies to be spent this year).

WEBSITE IMPROVEMENTS

[HTTP://WWW.BLACKOAKLAKE.COM](http://www.blackoaklake.com)

The PROPERTY DIRECTORY section sports the entire printed directory in both Excel and Word formats. And it contains up to the minute revisions that you send me at waterbirds@aol.com. Also, have a look at that upper section where you can post family histories and trees, photos...even an audio of your alma mater's fight song! Also, new for lake nostalgia buffs is a new page in the BOLROA section called ALL MEETING MINUTES AND NEWSLETTERS. This shows a chronological list of all meeting minutes, picnic invitations, and biannual newsletters all the way back to day one. For BOLROA that would be in August, 1975, when a few folks organized a fledgling homeowners' association. Read some of that old stuff – there are names there that you'll recall fondly. Also check the NIGHT SKY page in LAKE INFORMATION for precise moon and sun rise and set times, star charts, and even Northern Lights information.

by Walt Bates

PROTECT YOUR INVESTMENT

Your Black Oak Lake property is an investment of love, hope, memories, and yes, finances. If you are like me, you want to protect your investment. Last year all members were asked to inspect their own shoreline and shallow waters and many of you did that. This year your help is needed again and it's pretty simple. Just walk your shore or float the shallow water in your canoe, kayak or boat and look for any changes in the aquatic plants or for any plant that is unfamiliar. I have the information needed to identify invasives and the simple form you will need to fill out when doing an inspection. Please call me. This is an easy way to volunteer with your neighbors and do your part to preserve and protect your property and Black Oak Lake.

by Joe Beers

I have been on the BOLROA Board for the past 4 years and your Treasurer for the same length of time. My term expires at the Annual Meeting July 3, 2009. I have tried to do the best job possible and have been audited by Cindy Hook, CPA, with recommendations and good results. We are now using Quicken software for accounting purposes, which has been an enormous improvement over the paper records from the past. I would like to thank you all for supporting me and the BOLROA organization.

Respectively Submitted,
Parry L. Hesselman, Treasurer

PARTY TIME ON BLACK OAK LAKE

Gather your friends, add your favorite drinks and appetizers and head out to Barbers Bay for this seasons Pontoon Boat Parties!! Let's gather at 5 pm, tie our vessels together and float the early evening away. Mark your calendars with the following dates: Saturday June 13, Thursday, July 2, Saturday, July 18, Saturday, August 8 and Saturday, September 5. See you on the lake.

BOLROA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2008-2009

*Joe Beers - President
Walt Bates - Vice President
Kay MacDonald - Secretary
Parry Hesselman - Treasurer
Tom Allman, Bob Pierce,
Dirk Meyer, Wayne Woltman,
Barb Hook, Kay Fleming,
Kathy Gelb*

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

*Bill Hall, Chairman
Mark Basten, Marilyn Annin*

- *The Nominating Committee proposes the following nominees for the BOLROA Board of Directors: Kathy Gelb, Luke Hattenhauer, Julie Tryczak*
- *The Committee proposes Dirk Meyer and Bob Pierce for a second term.*
- *Sally Lippert is being proposed for the Nominating Committee.*

PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

Jim Surpluss

Black Oak Lake Riparian Owners' Association Newsletter

PO Box 151
Land O' Lakes, WI
54540

THE BLACK OAK LAKE PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

The Black Oak Lake Preservation Fund had a good year during 2008. Our finances improved in all respects. We have \$9166.70 in our checking account, \$3310.38 in our savings account, and \$10,000.00 in CD's in the bank. That gives us a total of \$22,477.08.

As a recap, \$1690.13 was netted from clothing sales, \$2627.00 from our picnic auction and \$5268.00 from gift donations. In addition, as mentioned last fall, we hope to realize a net profit from the sales of the first printing of our Black Oak Lake Book authored by Frank Surpless.

Once again kudos to Elizabeth Eaton and Kathy Gelb for all of their efforts related to our clothing sales. Hopefully, we will be able to put together another large order for the fine articles available. Our many thanks are extended to all the thoughtful donors of special items that were put

up for auction so capably managed by Sara Beedie. Our thank you goes to The Conserve School which was kind enough to once again host our annual picnic. I believe that by any measurement, the picnic was a great success. Also, we would like to thank all of those who have made such thoughtful donations to The Black Oak Lake Preservation Fund.

I believe that you are probably putting together a rather clear picture that The Black Oak Lake Preservation Fund is not only about preserving our lake but it is also about the time, effort, and resources put forth by many people. It is a wonderful cause supported, thankfully, by a great many of our lake neighbors. Let's see if we can't make 2009 a good year too.

by Jim Surpless



JUST A FEW LAKE HISTORIES LEFT

Sales of the Black Oak Lake history have gone extremely well. There is a very limited number of copies still available. If you want a copy, let Frank Surpless know. He'll be happy to mail out copies to those not planning on heading north this year. At the same time, he'll be at his cabin after June 5 or so. Just email him and ask that copies be held for you. First come, first served!



Phone number (up to May 25)
520-399-9149
After June 5: 715-547-6664
Email: surps4550@aol.com

Cost: \$20.00 per copy. Add \$5.00 for shipping costs if mailed. Make checks payable to BOLROA.

by Frank Surpless