



# Black Oak Lake Riparian Owners' Association Newsletter

Land O' Lakes, WI 54540

www.blackoaklake.com

Fall 2009

Summer is slowly moving toward fall, and soon we will be seeing the festival of fall colors across the woods. It has been a summer of mixed reviews: mostly the weather, summer was so slow getting started, then all the cool days and cold nights, the low water in the lake. But mixed in there were plenty of nice days also: Plenty of days for the boating, swimming, skiing, fishing, kayaking and all the other activities we all enjoy.

Regardless of the weather, the low water, and even the struggling economy, it's always better to be at Black Oak Lake.

We have been enjoying these wonderful activities for generations, quite often taking them for granted. But, what if many went away, and getting them back was difficult, costly, or even impossible? You and I, and BOLROA can't do much about the water level, but we can do

something about the aquatic invasive species, which if left unchecked could take, or reduce greatly our enjoyment of many of those activities we cherish so much.

The programs to fight the aquatic invasive species are already in place, and working, but we need your help to keep them successful. We are also looking for ideas for new programs, and improvements to our current programs. It is no longer just automatic: come to the lake have fun, go home and plan the next trip back. Times have changed. The aquatic invasive species are in other nearby lakes and threatening Black Oak. While you are planning your next trip here, we hope you will give some thought to some things you can do to contribute to the cause. We need volunteers at the beach, in the "clean boats clean waters" program, and we need volunteers to monitor areas of the lake in our "vigilantes" program. We need everyone to be aware of the aquatic invasive species during your normal activities on the lake, keeping your own boats trailers and fishing gear clean. We need help financially. The DNR Grant will be ending this year, and another may not be forthcoming any time soon. We need to continue the so far successful fight, with ever greater enthusiasm and wisdom, all the while being ever watchful for new and different threats to the lake. Black Oak is ours to protect. No one else is going to do it, and she is very much worth our best efforts to keep her the great place she is. So come here and have a great time, and put aside just a small amount of that time to contribute to the cause.

Enjoy the rest of the year and Mimi & I look forward to seeing you at the lake next season.

*Tom Allman. President*



## SB 12 AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR OUR SLALOM COURSE

On July 10, 2009, Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle signed into law the statewide no-wake zone within 100' of natural shoreline to be effective Feb 24, 2010. More on what this will mean to general boating on Black Oak Lake will appear in the Spring, 2010 Newsletter and on our website. It means that our slalom course will be unusable as most of it lies within 100' of shore. Countless people have asked why we can't just move it out deeper. Our course is comprised of 22 individual buoys whose anchors were drilled through the ice 30 years ago resulting in very accurate positioning of the buoys. "Moving" the course is not possible though placing an entirely new one could be done. If anyone wants to take this on I would be a willing advisor! There is nearly \$600 remaining in the ski fund that is available to you. Read more about this situation on the website under LAKE INFORMATION > SLALOM COURSE.

*by Walt Bates*

## IN MEMORIAM

Max Hostetler  
2009

## THE REGATTA

The Black Oak Lake Regatta was held on Tues., July 21<sup>st</sup>. It was an



excellent day for sailing, with near perfect wind conditions and enthusiastic racers. The Regatta was re-scheduled from

Saturday to Tuesday, for the first time, due to poor conditions on Saturday. The wait was well worth it! This celebration of sailing on Black Oak Lake brings out some great competition, but even better camaraderie with our local sailors. The Regatta had nine sailboats this year, a near record and everyone had a wonderful time.

Two races were held and the final results are as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Bob Barnum
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Rich and Breck Hesselman
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Dirk Meyer
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Chris O'Brien
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Rick Woodrow
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Walt Bates
- 7<sup>th</sup> – Colin Woodrow
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Rhindy, Liz & Trent Hesselman
- 9<sup>th</sup> – Steve and Lisa Bates

A Special Thanks to the Women of the Committee Boat: Kathy Gelb, Shirley Barnum, and Elizabeth Eaton! This year, as in years past, our Master Griller Team of Fred and Judy Madigan outdid themselves feeding the starving racers at the end of the competition. Thank You to everyone who took part. We're anticipating an even better Regatta next year!

*by Rick Woodrow*

## THE BLACK OAK LAKE SURVEY

Black Oakers do it again. While ten percent is considered a good return on surveys, Black Oakers returned 32 percent of the surveys delivered or emailed to every person listed in the Black Oak Directory – homeowner, member or friend of the lake. It was a terrific response, one which underlines the high interest Black Oak friends have in protecting *their* lake.

Approximately a third of the surveys were returned from the youngest and the oldest – the youngest under thirty and the oldest nearing 100. The remaining two thirds were split between the 46 to 60 group and the 61 to 75 group. It is important to note that all groups felt that the top three concerns for Black Oak Lake are aquatic invasive species in our water, water quality and the water level. In addition, all age groups agreed that the issues the Board must work on are invasives in our lake, the communication of information and water clarity. The 46 to 60 group put shared decision making in their top three Board responsibilities while the 31 to 45 year old group put marking water hazards and monitoring

the beach in their top three Board priorities.

A little over 80% of respondents pledged to contribute to an account to support paying a person to monitor the beach. This may be because 63 % are not here full time, and over half are here less than two months each year. Currently 29% monitor the beach and 32% monitor an assigned portion of the lake. The Black Oak Lake Preservation Foundation is important or very important to 100% of respondents and 22% will consider adding the Foundation to their will.

The Black Oak Lake Riparian Owners Association is managed by volunteers and almost half the respondents volunteer. More than 80% pay dues.

One comment about the future of Black Oak summed up the feelings of many respondents.

"I would like to see Black Oak frozen in time – just 18 inches higher."

Complete results are available.

## FALL AIS SEARCH

As BOLROA has done for many years now we will again be commissioning a professional whole lake search for any sign of invasive species this fall – probably late September. Dr Susan Knight, UWIS / WDNR Aquatic Biologist, will lead the search. Dr. Knight is a valuable asset in that she is very familiar with the lake and its vulnerabilities to AIS establishment. Her credentials are impeccable as well as having been awarded the teacher of the year award by the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership in 2007. We are fortunate to have her so close by and so willing to work for us.

*by Walt Bates*

This survey, paid for by the second year funding from DNR Education, Prevention and Planning grant, will give direction for Black Oak Lake leaders and volunteers.

*by Barb Hook*

## BLACK OAK LAKE SURVEY COMMENTS

### ONE SPECIFIC TASK YOU WANT BOLROA TO COMPLETE

18-30

- Collect lake data
- Continue to monitor for invasive species

31-45

- Keep on doing your usual great job
- Fix the boat landing

46-60

- Find a way to involve the next generation to be able to take responsibility for the lake also
- Allow for more member input, not just at the annual meeting
- Offer more opportunity for communication
- Do not make any more regulations
- Build a gas dock for BOLROA members
- Make sure BOL waters are clear
- Take care of the lake level
- Maintain the flexibility to attack important issues as they arise
- Increase funding for Preservation Foundation
- Educate folks about importance of shoreline buffer strip
- Encourage better Board representation through technology
- Deal with the muck on the shoreline
- Do not create an environment of intolerance
- Assure that all Board members have three year term limits

61-75

- Rebuild concrete pads at landing
- Be open to membership. Increase membership
- Restock walleye
- Protect against milfoil
- Keep slalom course
- Give out events calendar in May
- Ask for more help from members
- Form lakes commission with town
- Hand out instructions for the operation of jet skis
- Enforce speed in shallow waters
- Communicate with everyone

- Educate
- Have an agenda that protects the lake as well as the interests of the property owners

76 and over

- Provide information only
- Fight instant gratification
- Keep on doing the creative, wonderful work you are doing
- Keep friends on both ends of the lake
- Provide information
- Help town and county board members to understand implications of low water
- Promote protection from milfoil
- Fix the boat ramp

YOUR WISH FOR BLACK OAK LAKE

18-30

- Stay healthy and beautiful

32-45

- Improve boat landing
- Keep BOL milfoil free
- Eliminate the use of two cycle engines
- Buy the public beach
- Make it less accessible to tourists

46-60

- Improve lake level
- Assure that all are ecologically literate

- Improve the boat landing
- Work together to benefit everyone
- Remain milfoil free
- Put more brown trout in lake
- Take out all the jet skis
- Make the boat landing available only to BOLROA
- Stay on top of current issues
- Continue our outstanding work

61-75

- Work together to protect the quality of the lake
- Increase the water level increases
- Buy the public beach

- Retains value as premium lake
- Stay the jewel of the North

76 and over

- Maintain water quality of lake
- Replace shore stations with wet boat houses. Assure all shore station covers are brown, tan or green only
- Eliminate dead vegetation in west end. Clean shoreline
- Keep BOL a habitat for all wildlife, especially birds
- Provide better fishing waters
- Fire fireworks on July 4 only. Maintain quiet woods
- Assure there is no conflict
- Have no wake zones on west end
- Prevent over population

BOARD TASKS

- Improve communication
- Prevent AIS
- Assure safety of boaters
- Protect against development of large land parcels
- Find more people to volunteer
- Ask people to volunteer or pay equivalent dollar amount
- Educate members about the importance of water clarity

WISHES

- Assure there is no milfoil ever
- Assure BOL stays beautiful ,clean and clear

*by Barb Hook*



## BOLROA TREASURER'S REPORT

8 -13 - 2009

### BOL Preservation Foundation

#### Major Income Items

Donations in '09.....	\$ 3,330
Picnic Auction in '09.....	\$ 4,710
Clothing Sales '07,'08,'09.....	\$ 3,681

#### Balances 8-13-09

Checking.....	\$ 27,300
Savings .....	\$ 3,330

### BOL Riparian Owners Assoc

#### Major Income/Expense Items

Dues in '09 .....	\$ 3,525 *
Lake History Book since '07.....	\$ 1,588
Planning Grant '08,'09.....	(\$10,000)
\$7,500 paid by DNR	
\$2,500 due from DNR	
AIS Grant '08,'09 * .....	(\$10,608) **
\$7,608 paid by DNR	
\$3,000 to be claimed from DNR	
Boat Ramp Repair in '09 .....	(\$1,075)
Shallow Water Buoys in '09.....	(\$1,032)
Directories in '09.....	(\$ 888)
Newsletter 1 of 2 issues in '09.....	(\$ 331)

#### Balances 8-13-09

Checking.....	\$11,203
Savings .....	\$ 3,708

\* 141 Paid Members YTD

\*\* Aquatic Invasive Species Grant ends in 2009.

After that, AIS expenses (paid boat ramp monitor, literature, supplies, etc.) will be paid from Preservation Fund.

*Dirk Meyer, Treasurer*

## Black Oak Lake

### BOAT RAMP REPAIR

On August 3, BOLROA hired a contractor to excavate the sand mound blocking the water approach to the boat ramp. There is now an approximately 3 ft deep by 15 ft wide channel leading to open water. **CAUTION: The water is very shallow on either side of the channel.**

The sand mound was caused by the low water level in the lake and by propeller wash from boats being driven unto their trailers. To avoid rebuilding the mound, PLEASE: **Winch your boats unto their trailers, do not power load your boats.**

Thanks to Bob Beedie for getting the required DNR permit and town approval and for locating the excavation contractor.

*by Dirk Meyers*

## PRESERVATION FUND

A very worthwhile Foundation is getting better all the time. As of this writing, we have a total of well over \$25,000.00 in the Black Oak Lake Preservation Foundation. We have had a nice increase in contributions during the year with more promised before year end. Once again, our kudos should be given to Elizabeth Eaton and Sara Beedie for their efforts in spearheading the clothing sales; a good job well done. Thank you to Sharon Basten and her Mother, Dee Caruso for the planning and delivering a wonderful BOLROA picnic. Certainly a big thank you to Stefan Anderson and The Conserve School for hosting the picnic which turned into a very successful affair. Our thanks go to Sara Beedie, Kathy Gelb, and Elizabeth Eaton for the wonderful and profitable auction which was held at the picnic (\$4710 profit). Also, our thank you to Walt Bates for his usual kindness and effort expended while selling our directories and maps. And certainly a Big Thank You to all of you that have made donations to the Black Oak Lakes Preservation Fund either directly or in honor of other members. The Preservation Fund exists for you, our members, in helping to maintain or improve Black Oak Lake.

**It's a worthwhile organization and we thank each and every one of you for your participation.**

*by Jim Surpluss*

## PARTY ON THE WATER

This year's summer weather, or lack thereof, forced the cancellation or postponement of several pontoon parties, but for those souls who braved the weather, we had a wonderful time! Cocktail hour on the water with Black Oak friends, new and old, is truly a wonderful way to pass the evening. Make sure to check the spring newsletter for the 2010 dates and get them on your calendar, you don't want to miss them!

*by Sara Beedie*



## 50 YEAR PIN



We're still finding members of BOLROA that qualify for our 50 year pin. As mentioned during the annual meeting, one of our families qualified for five pins. We have now found another family that qualifies for four pins. 84 members of BOLROA have received their fifty year pins. Who would have thought that a lake organization would have the membership with longevity that we have. We have more pins. Please call me when you believe that you qualify for our "50 Year Club".

*by Jim Surpluss*

## WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF LAKES

Of all the "lakes" organizations, WAL (<http://www.wisconsinlakes.org/>) is the most far-reaching and communicative. They are also very proactive legislatively and have some muscle in Madison. While they are a statewide organization they break the state up into districts that take care of more local issues. For example, up north we are more concerned with keeping AIS out of our lakes while down south they are more concerned with controlling existing infestations. WAL emails a free monthly newsletter that anyone can subscribe to at <https://www.thedatabank.com/dpg/307/personal2.asp?formid=signup>. To see their August, 2009, issue go to [http://www.wisconsinlakes.org/publications/archive\\_e-lakeletter/09august.html](http://www.wisconsinlakes.org/publications/archive_e-lakeletter/09august.html).

*by Walt Bates*

## IT TAKES A VILLAGE

The Black Oak Lake AIS Control Grant, Education, Prevention and Planning Project for 2009 is progressing on schedule. Trees for Tomorrow continues as a partner and acts as the employer for our beach monitor, Clayton Mueller.

From the beginning of the fishing season Clayton and the volunteer monitors have inspected 118 boats as they enter and leave Black Oak, have worked 138 hours and talked with 238 people about the dangers of Invasive Species for our lakes.

Gift certificates from our partner restaurants, Big Rob's Loose Moose Pub and Grill, Forest Lake Country Store, PineCone Café, Black Oak Inn, T.J. Grizzlies, Inc and the Redman Supper Club were presented to hard working

monitors Jim Surpress, Walt Bates, Jack and Mary Lou Trochlell, Frank Surpress, Nancy Frawley, Kay MacDonald and Bill Hall.

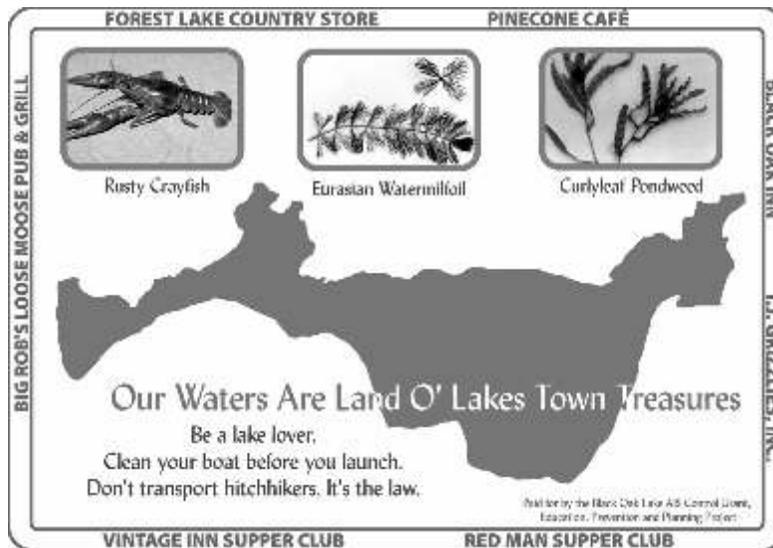
our visitors about the dangers of Aquatic Invasive Species.

Black Oak continues to be free of aquatic invasive species. To make sure it stays this way, the Black Oak volunteers continue their watch. Walt Bates, Jim Surpress, Frank Surpress, Nancy Frawley, Bob Barnum and Sara Beedie are at their posts at the landing each week talking with boaters about the dangers of invasives. When you see these folks be sure to give them a **HIGH FIVE**.

Many homeowners patrol their own lakefront and others travel in

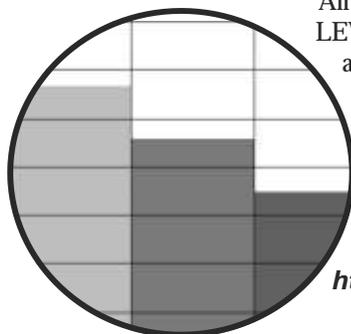
kayaks and canoes over still waters in assigned sections of the lake keeping a sharp eye out for anything suspicious. Indeed it does take all of us to keep Black Oak clean and clear for the next generation.

*by Barb Hook*



Debbie Hill, mastermind for the educational placemats, Joe Beers, section chief for the Milfoil Vigilantes and Kathy Gelb, honcho for our beach volunteers deserve a big shout of **CONGRATULATIONS** for all their work keeping Eurasian Watermilfoil at bay in Black Oak Lake and educating

## WATER LEVEL



Already the lowest in 75 years, it keeps going down. See LAKE INFORMATION > WATER LEVEL HISTORY on our website. At this spring's ice-out (April 28, 2009) the lake level was at 10.25" and as of August 15 the level is 6.1." Other area lakes are down as much or more.

Lac du Lune is more than four feet down. The Cisco Chain is stream fed and dam controlled so never varies much. To warn boaters, BOLROA placed five shallow water caution buoys in the lake in July. These advisory buoys seem to be deterring high powered boating in these fragile areas thereby protecting our bottom plants. This was the goal of the failed no-wake ordinance last winter. The new statewide no-wake law effective next year will also help. Read more about this at

[http://www.wisconsinlakes.org/policy\\_shorelands.htm](http://www.wisconsinlakes.org/policy_shorelands.htm).

*by Walt Bates*

# Survivor's Celebration Dinner

Tuesday September 15, 2009 At Bent's Camp

5:30 Cocktails (cash Bar) And 6:30 Dinner

## Celebrate Another Great Summer On Black

Smoked Salmon, Meatballs, Scuffed Eggs And Cheese/Vegetable As Appetizers

Choose Your Entrée From Bent's Camp Favorites

Prime Rib

Stuffed Pork Chops

Walleye Broiled, Pan Fried, or Potato Crusted

Your dinner will include...

House Salad, Mashed or Baked Potatoes, Vegetable, Dessert, & Coffee

\$25.00 Including Tax and Tip

Make Your Reservations by September 12th

**Make Your Reservations Today!**



PLEASE WRITE YOUR CHECK TO BOLROA, INCLUDE THIS FORM AND SEND TO

KATHY GELB 6441 ST CLAIR ROAD LOL OR BARB HOOK PO BOX 803 LOL 54540

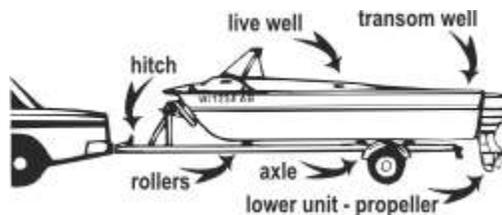
NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Entrée \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Entrée \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Entrée \_\_\_\_\_

### LAKE MONITORS

Lake monitors began inspecting the shore and shallow waters of Black Oak Lake at "ice out" and will continue until late fall. We hope we never find what we are looking for and that is aquatic invasive plants. We have been most fortunate that no invasive species have been found in BOL. Other lakes have been less fortunate. The work done by boat inspectors is a large part of our success. However, as you all know, we cannot monitor the beach 24 hours a day. That means many boats are being launched and are not inspected. That is where the lake monitors come in. If an invasive plant should ever get into BOL



and take hold, it is the job of the lake monitors to find them and begin the process to control the problem. Thanks to all monitors and property owners that inspect their own shore and shallow waters. We all have a stake in protecting BOL and more volunteers are needed in the years to come. Please consider being a lake monitor in 2010. It does make a difference.

*by Joe Beers*

### THE AUCTION WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!

The last few moments of this year's auction were fast and furious as serious bidders worked to keep their bid at the top. Thanks to their efforts and those of our generous donors, we raised \$4,710!!! Incredible!!

We can't thank everyone enough, those who participated and our donors and purchasers. Our Black Oak Lake Preservation Foundation received a significant financial boost from this event which will help us for years to come. Thank you.

*by Sara Beedle*

## WATER CLARITY

Water clarity is normally very poor right after ice-out because the whole lake is thermally mixed. It then improves markedly as the lake stratifies (peak clarity is in late June) and then drops off as the warming water encourages algae particles to form. This is why we need to protect the shallow water areas. Nutrients such as phosphorous and chlorophyll are locked up in that soil and are released when the soil is disturbed. In 2008 the visibilities were 17' at ice-out, 43' in late June, and 28' from August 1 through October. These numbers made Black Oak Lake the clearest lake in the state in 2008. Our 2009 Secchi readings (including a 48' measurement on June 25<sup>th</sup>) have been running slightly better than last year, likely due to the much colder water inhibiting algae growth. The DNR will publish all the 2009 statewide data in early 2010 and you will be advised. If you missed that 2008 data spreadsheet it is at <http://www.blackoaklake.com/lakeinformation/waterquality/clmnavgs2008.xls>.

*by Walt Bates*

## BYLAW REVIEW

If you see John Annin, Walt Bates, Mark Bastian, Sara Beedie, Barb Hook, Rob Lauer or Bill Shely be sure to say thanks for taking on the job of reviewing the BOLROA bylaws. The bylaws, written and adopted in 1998, amended in 2003 and again this June, are in need of updating and clarification. Watch for the first draft of the newly written bylaws on your email or in the post. Take time to look over the changes, give us your input and make your suggestions. The existing bylaws are on the website. You will be asked to vote on the bylaws and your vote will make a difference.

*by Barb Hook*

## KAYAKS, CANOES AND RAVE REVIEWS!

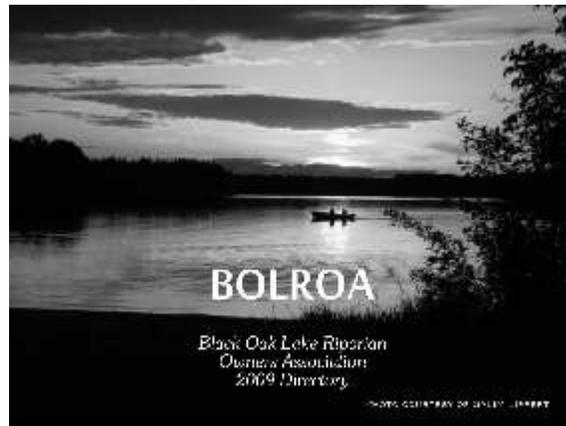
Impeccable food and happy moods! Many dibs on great tasting ribs! A beautiful setting with no fretting!

On behalf of BOLROA and guests I would like to express our thanks to Stefan Anderson and Conserve School for hosting the BOLROA picnic on Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009. The food was delicious and the staff was polite and professional. In total there were 141 adults, 18 children and 5 under the age of 5, in addition to 9 members of the Conserve School community.

A big thanks to Stefan and Jennifer Anderson for their hard work. The picnic was a huge success and the event went off without a hitch.

*Sincerely, Sharon Basten*

## NEW DIRECTORIES



If you didn't get your new BOLROA lake directory you can either pick one up at my home or I will send it to you. Email me at [Waterbirds@aol.com](mailto:Waterbirds@aol.com). Cost (each) is \$3 or \$4 if mailed. You can also see it on the lake website under PROPERTY DIRECTORY in both Excel and Word formats.

*by Walt Bates*

## INDEPENDENCE DAY BOAT PARADE

Winners in the pontoon division were:

- First: Zane Family
- Second: Morris Family
- Third: Hooks.

In the small boat division they were:

- First: Jack & Elisabeth Barnum's Engagement
- Second: Hill's Boston Wailers
- Third: Jim Bates. Congrats to all!!

*by Walt Bates*



## BOLROA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2008-2009

Tom Allman - President  
Wayne Woltman - Vice President  
Kay Fleming - Secretary  
Dirk Meyers - Treasurer  
Past President - Joe Beers  
Walt Bates  
Bob Pierce  
Barb Hook  
Luke Hattenhauer  
Julie Tryczak  
Kathy Gelb

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Mark Basten - Chairperson  
Sally Lippert  
Marilyn Annin

## PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

Jim Surplless

## CLEAN BOATS CLEAN WATERS

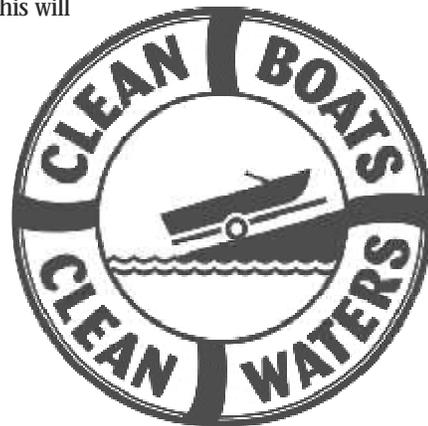
Black Oak Lake Boat Landing is our first defense in protecting our lake against aquatic invasive species, better known as Eurasian Water Milfoil. We have some very dedicated landing inspectors: Walt Bates, Jim Surpless, Sara Beedie, Frank Surpless, and Nancy Frawley. They all are at the landing each week inspecting boats entering the lake. We currently have Clayton Mueller on the weekends. He is paid with DNR grant monies. All this will change next summer. The DNR grant monies will not be available.

What can you do for your lake?

- Call Kathy Gelb (547-3087) for a time that is available.  
There are many hours available.
- Go to the boat landing and volunteer to inspect boats.
- The lock combination is 5454.
- Read the detailed information and follow the directions.
- Put on the inspector vest or t-shirt.
- Inspect the boats entering the lake.
- Fill out the form and log in your hours.

This is a great activity for you and your children. They will learn about AIS and its threats to our beautiful lake. They will also feel a pride in volunteering. Teenagers can get volunteer hours for their high school and college applications.

Black Oak Lake is a way of life for our families and keeping it free from invasive water plants must be everyone's priority. You can call Kathy Gelb for specific hours that are not covered by the regular volunteers.



*by Kathy Gelb*