



Black Oak Lake Riparian Owners' Association Newsletter

Land O' Lakes, WI 54540

www.blackoaklake.com

Fall 2010

A LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT:

Mid-August at Black Oak Lake shows distinct signs of fall: cooler nights, a few maples turning color, and the end to wild berry season. Our precious summer is almost over!

I am a "seasoned" Black-Oaker, but being new on the board makes me aware of how much I need to know and learn! BOLROA is no longer a "plan the picnic and boat parade" group. It is diligently working to keep Black Oak Lake the beautiful pristine lake it has always been.

With the threat of AIS everywhere, our goal is to avoid getting it! That is a major challenge which must be constantly addressed.

Tom Allman and Bob Pierce are submitting grant proposals for Phase 4, preventing AIS through protection and restoration of riparian shorelines and the Clean Boats, Clean Waters Program and Phase 5, a long-term water quality and stage monitoring as well as Clean Boats, Clean Waters

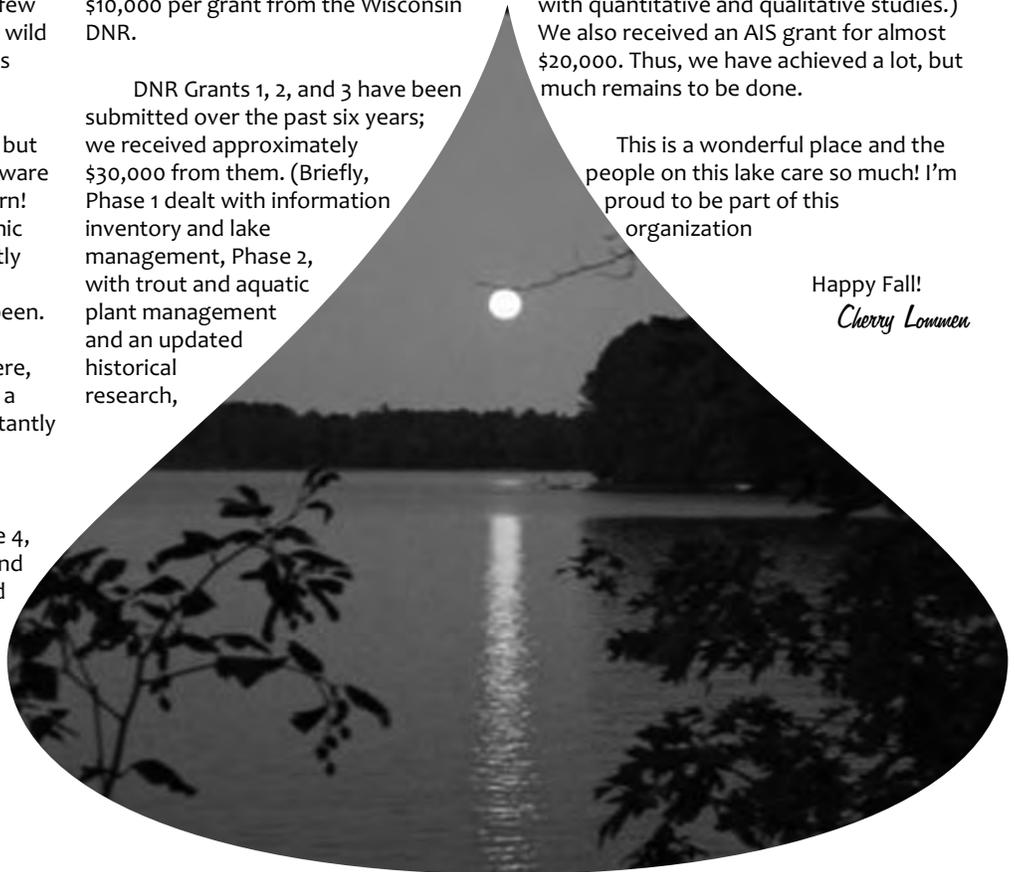
Program. We hope to get approximately \$10,000 per grant from the Wisconsin DNR.

DNR Grants 1, 2, and 3 have been submitted over the past six years; we received approximately \$30,000 from them. (Briefly, Phase 1 dealt with information inventory and lake management, Phase 2, with trout and aquatic plant management and an updated historical research,

and Phase 3 with the condition of BOL with quantitative and qualitative studies.) We also received an AIS grant for almost \$20,000. Thus, we have achieved a lot, but much remains to be done.

This is a wonderful place and the people on this lake care so much! I'm proud to be part of this organization

Happy Fall!
Cherry Lommen



50-YEAR PIN

Jim Surpliss

Are there any more people who are reading this article who qualify for the 50-Year Pin? We have a number of pins available to those that qualify. You must have spent at least one night per year on Black Oak Lake for a total of 50 years. They need not be consecutive years but 50 years total. Please get word to me if I can give you a pin.



BOLROA SURVIVORS DINNER

SEPTEMBER 12

Julie Tryczak

Please join your friends and neighbors at the 2010 Survivors Dinner on Sunday, September 12th at the The Bear Trap Inn. The cost will be \$25 per person (includes tax & tip) with a cash bar. There are three entrée choices: Garlic Stuffed Tenderloin, Broiled Walleye or Grilled Chicken.

(Note: the grilled chicken selection only includes a \$3 beverage coupon.)

Come at 5:30 PM to socialize; the dinner will begin at 6:30 PM.

Please contact Julie with your entrée selections by Monday, September 6th.

Payment by mail to Julie Tryczak,

1065 Highway 32, Three Lakes, WI 54562 or at the door.

Phone: 715-546-2834

Email: jtryczak@frontier.com

WALTZ OF THE PLANKTON

Imagine the sights you see in early spring – maybe the first Fox Sparrow migrating through the northwoods or fragrant trailing arbutus in flower. These first signs of spring give way to the sight of newborn fawns and ripe strawberries. Later in summer, loons born in the spring are now full grown and blackberries are ready to eat. As we see these changes on land, there are also changes going on in the lake, out of sight perhaps, but important to the lake ecosystem. Interactions among the plankton through the year are extremely important and have a large impact on the lake food web.

Plankton are drifting microscopic organisms common and important in lakes. There are two types of plankton: phytoplankton and zooplankton. Phytoplankton are floating algae (as opposed to periphyton which are algae attached to plants, rocks, wood or other non-moving objects in the lake). Together, the phytoplankton and the periphyton photosynthesize, using the sun's energy to create sugars which can then be turned into any chemical needed by the algae. Zooplankton, as the “zoo” part indicates, are animals and most are microscopic relatives of shrimp and other crustaceans. Phytoplankton, at the base of the food chain, are eaten by zooplankton, which in turn are eaten by small minnows, which in turn are eaten by larger fish. Because zooplankton, as predators, and phytoplankton, as prey, are so intimately connected through the food chain, their numbers and varieties change in a kind of elaborate dance as the seasons change.

Just after ice-out, there is an abundance of light and nutrients and not too many hungry zooplankton and the phytoplankton grow and reproduce rapidly. Phytoplankton usually grow as “blooms” or pulses, with each succeeding group growing rapidly in response to their particular favorite conditions. Most of the early spring phytoplankton are diatoms, which outgrow other algae, partly because they can take up huge quantities of phosphorus and store it for when the lake levels of phosphorus are low. There is an enormous variety of diatoms, but each is made of two not quite equal-sized silica

“shells” that overlap like the top and bottom of a petri dish or a box with a lid that is too big for the bottom. Two factors keep the diatoms from dominating the lake all year. First, a diatom's need for silica for its “shells” eventually drives lake silica levels so low the diatoms can no longer reproduce. Second, zooplankton numbers increase and they start eating more and more diatoms. As zooplankton numbers rise, the diatom numbers start to fall.



Photo by Sally Lippert

As the water warms, zooplankton numbers rise rapidly. They start to reproduce and some groups of zooplankton soon become abundant. The average size of the zooplankton also increases with temperature and they begin to make a huge dent in the phytoplankton numbers. As the zooplankton graze heavily on the diatoms and the diatom numbers fall, the early season zooplankton species also decline. Other zooplankton better able to feed on summer algae begin to predominate. As summer progresses, there is a succession of different phytoplankton, starting with the edible diatoms but changing to small blooms of flagellates (that are able to swim a bit), inedible blue green algae, other large green algae zooplankton find hard to eat. Some phytoplankton known as dinoflagellates can also swim and so avoid predation or can grow so fast their numbers are not as affected by grazing zooplankton.

Though not strictly algae, blue green algae act much the same as phytoplankton and thrive in warm lake waters, especially eutrophic (highly nutrient rich) lakes in late summer and fall. Blue greens are able

to control whether they float (handy for shading out other algae) or sink. Blue greens are not tasty to zooplankton and they largely escape being eaten. Nitrogen, a necessary nutrient for all organisms, is abundant in the atmosphere as nitrogen gas but is unusable to algae in the gaseous form. Blue green algae are special in being able to convert nitrogen gas into a usable form, further helping them acquire the nutrients necessary for growth. These blue green algae are largely responsible for late summer blooms that humans find ugly, smelly and generally nasty.

In less nutrient rich lakes, as summer turns to fall, the water cools and the lake experiences fall turnover. With plenty of light and high nutrients levels following turnover, diatoms make an encore appearance. However, in the fall, because it is still warm and zooplankton are still abundant, diatoms are also joined by other phytoplankton such as large green algae and mobile phytoplankton better able to fend off the zooplankton grazers.

Though zooplankton prey mostly on phytoplankton, the food web is complicated by several other factors. Some larger zooplankton eat smaller zooplankton and zooplankton excretions (their equivalent of poop and pee) are full of nutrients that spur the growth of phytoplankton. In this way, zooplankton may actually cause an increase in phytoplankton numbers. Zooplankton must also watch out for their own predators – small fish or larger zooplankton. They are equipped with a few tricks: zooplankton are mobile and some migrate to deep water in the day to avoid predation. Most are transparent and less visible to predators in the day. Zooplankton also spread out in the water column, with different groups choosing shallow to deep zones in day and night.

Try Googling diatoms, dinoflagellates and desmids to see a few of the nearly countless exquisite phytoplankton common in our lakes. Also try to find pictures of zooplankton, including cladocera, copepods and rotifers that populate your lake. These microscopic gems are largely in command of the food web in your lake!

WATER CLARITY AND QUALITY

We monitor water clarity and send in water samples to the WI State Lab of Hygiene as part of the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network. Once a month we take secci readings to measure water clarity, and collect water samples for analysis.



Since 2005, the normal Black Oak Lake water clarity averages about 17' just after ice-out and soars to the mid 40' level by late June. Due to warming water, it then drops to about 30' of clarity from late July through mid-November and then starts back up as freeze up nears. This year, one large difference is in water temperature, which is up 8 degrees from the same dates in 2009. The water temperature on Memorial Day 2010 was warmer than at any time of the entire 2009 summer. This has brought the peak water clarities down about five percent as algae got an early start. The early April ice-out also moved our peak clarity

readings from the normal late June time frame to early June.

The June lab results are back and include readings for chlorophyll and phosphorous, which are fertilizers for algae and other forms of in-water growth. These numbers, according to Limnologist Dr. Susan Knight, are like your golf scores - the lower the better. Consistent with our best-in-the-state clarity, Black Oak's numbers have always been low, but the June results set a record. They showed only a chlorophyll number because, as I found out later, the phosphorous quantity was so low it was below their limit of

detection! The typical sources of phosphorous are landscape fertilizers, uncontrolled storm runoff, soaps containing phosphate, and grass clippings. Let's keep up the good work! See www.blackoaklake.com and click on LAKE INFORMATION > WATER QUALITY DATA for more details.



2010 FALL AIS SURVEY

As in the past several years, BOLROA has commissioned a professionally conducted full lake AIS survey for this fall. UW/ DNR aquatic biologist, Dr. Susan Knight, will again spend a day and a half patiently "mowing the lawn" as we cover the entire littoral zone (the growing zone shallower than about 20' of depth). The results of past annual surveys are posted on the INVASIVE SPECIES page on our website. If you would like to be part of the survey this year, we always have plenty of room on the pontoon boat. Dr. Knight was named "Teacher of the Year" by the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership in 2007. You will learn more than you ever cared to

know about lake bottom growth and limnology in general. The survey dates will be in early October and will be determined as the time nears. Contact Walt Bates for details.



Walt Bates

You may have noticed many former slalom course buoys scattered in the west and north bays marking logs that have been found, some the hard way! It almost looks like a poorly laid out slalom course back there! Pull up (carefully) to some of them and look at the logs just below the surface. Most of these are clearly human cut and could stem from the 1880s logging era. We have had some very expensive boat / log collisions this summer. Some of these hazards could not be found again and remain unmarked. Whenever you are west of the sand bar, please exercise extreme caution.

Walt Bates

PROPERTIES FOR SALE

- Madigan (3)
- Ritzwoller (41)
- Torres (55)
- Hall (62)
- Smith (97)

BOLROA TREASURER'S REPORT

8 - 13 - 2010

BOL PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

Major Income/(Expense) Items in '10

Donations	\$ 425
Gift	\$ 10,000
Picnic Auction	\$ 3,311
Matched Gifts at picnic.	\$ 3,042
Hrs or \$ for AIS.	\$ 4,575
AIS Inspections.	(\$ 4,464) †

Balances 8-13-10

CDs.	\$ 32,361
Checking	\$ 18,006
.	\$ 50,367

† (\$11,500) budgeted for the season

BOL RIPARIAN OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Major Income/(Expense) Items in '10

Dues	\$ 3,275 *
Newsletter spring 2010.	(\$ 397)
Planning Grant Reimb	\$ 2,500
Picnic – net.	\$55
Misc	(\$ 645)

Balances 8-13-10

CD	\$ 4,060
Checking	\$ 11,029
.	\$ 15,089

* 130 members YTD, 178 members in '09
\$ 5,694 due from DNR for '08,'09 AIS Grant

Dirk Meyer, Treasurer



Photo by Sally Lippert

WHAT BLACK OAK LAKE MEANS TO ME

Black Oakers, sharpen your pencils! Poetry, prose, young or old. We're looking for submissions for the Spring 2011 newsletter with the topic "What Black Oak Lake Means to Me." Please send your submissions to Julie Tryczak at jtryczak@frontier.com for consideration by May 1st, 2011.

COOPERATIVE BOAT LANDING REPAIR

Dirk Meyer

BOLROA representatives Dirk Meyer, Bob Beedie and Bob Barnum met with the Land O Lakes Town Chairman, Dan Balog to discuss a cooperative repair of the boat landing on Black Oak Lake between the Town and BOLROA. Dan Balog stated the town's heavy equipment and manpower would be available to do part of the work. The BOLROA representatives stated that they would request BOLROA's approval to pay for materials and a contractor for work that the town's equipment could not do. *[A similar collaborative effort between the Town and the Forest Lake Association is underway now at their boat landing.]*

A follow-up meeting was held between Dirk Meyer, Dan Balog and Connie Sparks, the Town Crew Foreman, who committed that his crew and equipment could remove and dispose of all the old concrete planks and pick up the new planks at the manufacturer and deliver them to the Black Oak boat landing area.

On 8-14-10, the BOLROA board approved funds to buy materials and hire a contractor.

The next steps are [1] to get DNR concurrence on construction details, [2] incorporate this work under the existing permit or get a new permit, [3] get contractor bids, and then [4] do the work.

IS YOUR PIER EXEMPT?

Bob Barnum

As you may remember, the WI DNR passed new regulations relating to the placement of piers. According to the DNR, most piers are conforming and therefore exempt from further action. Some can be grandfathered and require registration, while others may need to be downsized or individually permitted.

You need ask yourself one or two questions:

1.) How large is my pier – does it conform to current regulations? If your pier meets the size requirements in the DNR Pier Planner, your pier is exempt and you do not need to do anything, regardless of the date it was initially placed. Here is a brief summary of the size requirements listed in the DNR Pier Planner:

- Width – Maximum 6 feet or less
- Loading platform 8 x 8 ft. or less
- Length – for mooring your boat, using a boat lift, or to reach a 3-foot water depth, whichever is greater

2.) If oversized, when was your pier originally placed, before or after February 2004? Before February 2004 – Most larger piers may be grandfathered in under a free registration process that must be completed by April 2011.

After February 2004 – Piers must meet the size requirements as described in the DNR Pier Planner or their owners may seek an individual permit with a state review.

Please visit the DNR website:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/waterways/recreation/piers.html> for all the details.

WATER LEVEL

On August 17, the lake level was at plus 1 ½" on our measuring post (*see LAKE INFORMATION > WATER LEVEL HISTORY*). This is 1 ½" above the spring, 2010, ice-out level and 33" below four years ago. Although it might seem that the

water has come up more than that, consider that we lost 3" during April and May before a more normal rainfall pattern started. The public boat ramp was used routinely all summer - that is, if you have four-wheel drive!



This used to be our island!



Photo by Sally Lippert

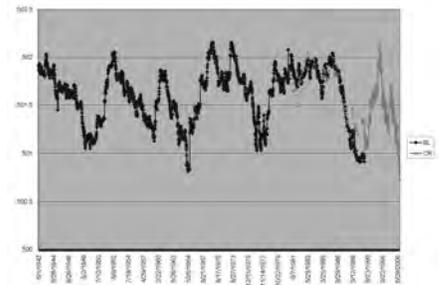
PHOTO CONTEST - NEW BOLROA DIRECTORY

Walt Bates

Every odd numbered spring we publish a new lake directory. In late winter you will receive an email outlining the process – you will be asked to review the currently published data and make corrections, deletions or additions. Flag your prize BOL photos until then, as there will be a new photo cover contest. The entries (submitted by email) must be Black Oak Lake related. Identities will be removed before your Board of Directors votes on the entries. We'd also like to hear any suggestions for anything new or different in the layout of the directory itself. Everything is on the table. Stay tuned...

Walt Bates

So, what will 2011 bring? Some trivia is in order. Historically, a winter with 70" of snow will result in an ice-out level about equal to the previous fall's freeze-up level. Approximately 10 to 12 inches of snow will melt down to one inch of water; therefore, a 100" winter would bring the lake water level up about three inches. We have not had a 100" winter in over 15 years; less than 50" fell last year. The bottom line is that it will likely be years before the water level comes back up. Although many old-wives tales persist about regular cycles of highs and lows (7 years, 15 years...pick a number - many theories abound), long term records do not seem to support the idea. You can go to the Black Oak Lake web page referenced above and check out the link at the bottom to view a graph of the water level of two lakes in the Minocqua area over a 70-year span where accurate recordings have been kept. Can you see a cycle there?



KAYAKS, CANOES AND RAVE REVIEWS!

Sharon Basten & Dee Caruso

A beautiful setting with no fretting!

On behalf of BOLROA and guests we would like to express our thanks to Stefan Anderson and Conserve School for hosting the BOLROA picnic on Saturday, July 17th, 2010. The food was delicious and the staff was polite and professional.

In total there were 155 adults, 17 tweens, and 5 under the age of 5, in addition to 14 members of the Conserve School community.

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

Dear Black Oak Lake Residents,

Your board has kindly agreed to allow this Wisconsin Lakes membership solicitation in your newsletter. **As chair of the Membership Committee of Wisconsin Lakes, formerly known as the Wisconsin Association of Lakes, I encourage you to join as an individual member!**



Wisconsin Lakes understands the mounting issues that Black Oak Lake is facing as are many lakes in our state. In much of Wisconsin polluted runoff from construction sites, storm sewers and agriculture results in unsightly and sometimes dangerous algae blooms and subsequent beach closures. On our northern lakes, like yours and mine (which is Lake Nancy in Washburn County), we worry about invasive species, zoning issues and excess development which leads to loss of natural shoreline.

But you might ask “why should I join Wisconsin Lakes (WL) when my lake association is already a member?” Here are some answers to that question:

- It is only through individual and personal attention that we will be able to work toward our commitment to protect and preserve our treasured lakes.
- Wisconsin Lakes is the only statewide agency working on behalf of lakes.
- Wisconsin Lakes is the organization which can most effectively lobby for our waters across the state.



Wisconsin Lakes President Earl Cook looks on as Governor Doyle signs the “Slow-No-Wake” bill

During the past year membership contributions like yours have been instrumental to our many successes like these:

- Helping to enact a ban on phosphorous in lawn fertilizers and dish detergents,
- Partnering for stronger minimum shoreland zoning standards across Wisconsin,
- Successfully advocating for passage of a law with stronger provisions to prevent the transportation of aquatic invasive species from one water body to another,
- Backed the new law which rules that boats within 100 feet of shore must travel at a “slow-no-wake” speed to guard near shore habitat,
- Increase the funding for invasive species grants,
- Holding workshops across the state to educate citizens about our lakes.

These accomplishments would not have come to pass without the financial support of individuals as well as lake organizations and businesses. All three groups are essential for our success!

Act Now, We Need Your Support!

As a member you will receive the quarterly Lake Connection newsletter, the eLake e-mail newsletter, updates on important issues of lake policy and stewardship and new membership benefits as they become available. Each dollar you give goes to work for you as we advocate for lake interests inside the capitol, with state agencies and across the state.

My family has been resident on Lake Nancy for 105 years and six generations of Lewises. I hope that many more generations will be able to enjoy our wonderful clean lake. That is why I am an individual member of Wisconsin Lakes, and that is why I am asking you to join using the form below.



Photo by Ed Clabots

Sincerely,

Sam Lewis

Wisconsin Lakes Board Member

YES! I'll stand up for all of our lakes as an individual and become an individual member of Wisconsin Lakes!

\$30 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$:_____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: (____) _____

E-mail: _____ Send me the Lake Connection quarterly newsletter by E-mail

Please charge my credit card:

Card #: _____ Exp Date: _____ Sec Code: _____

Signature: _____

Make checks payable to Wisconsin Lakes and send form to:
4513 Vernon Blvd, Ste 101 / Madison WI 53705-4964
For more information or to join online, see us on the web at:
www.wisconsinlakes.org

Black Oak Lake Riparian Owners'
Association Newsletter

PO Box 151
Land O' Lakes, WI
54540



Jim Surples

We have some wonderful news for our Foundation. We have received a gift of \$10,000 from an anonymous friend of our lake. In addition, we have received two additional donations of \$1,000 or more. This brings our total donation sum to \$50,367. We've had a rather good year, indeed.

As you already know, we have a full time, employed individual who provides inspections at our boat landing four days a week. Combined with the yearly AIS lake study and other environmental studies our total expenditures are somewhat higher than normal. In summary, the year was a success. As a reminder, the cost for

chemicals to help control milfoil is about \$1200 per acre.

Two thoughts: 1. When you shop at Trig's, write the number 58S on your itemized sales slip and deposit same in the charity bin on your right (between the men's and the women's washrooms), as you approach the doors leading outside. The Black Oak Lake Preservation Foundation then benefits because you were kind enough to shop at Trig's. 2. Please consider the Preservation Fund when working through any forward planning with a will or other instrument. I think that you would agree that the Black Oak Lake Preservation Foundation is a very beneficial undertaking.

THANK YOU FROM BOLROA

The BOLROA Board wishes to extend a huge thank-you and expression of appreciation to Sara Beedie & Elizabeth Eaton and their committee for all of their hard work in planning and executing the Picnic Auction for the past 5 years.

Their fundraising efforts have provided a strong financial base for the BOLPF.

We will miss them and all of their efforts, and wish them all the best going forward.