BOLPF NEWS

Spring 2024

A Letter from our President - Bonnie Clarke

The countdown is on for our drive North to Black Oak Lake. The ice is gone. The snow is long gone. The lake level is down. Meteorologists predict a hot summer in this La Niña year. We are so very lucky to share the clearest and the most beautiful lake in the state of Wisconsin, IMHO.

We know we can't take our treasure for granted. We are surrounded by lakes with invasive species. Our Clean Waters Clean Boats program inspectors are on the front lines. BOLPF members (you!) have provided funding for this successful program.

Thank you to the Board Members - VP Mark Hoffman, Treasurer Dave Paton, Secretary Celia Kistler, Keith Montgomery - who runs the Clean Boats, Clean Waters program, AND Rob Aikins, Nancy Travis, Morgan Fleming, and Jack Barnum. A special shout out to Chris Hook for putting together this newsletter!

Also thanks to the Nominating Committee - Barb Annin, Kathy Kelly and Sue Woltman. Thank you Sharon Basten, Picnic chair (July 27, 5 PM at Lowenwood), the Auction Committee who have a fantastic idea this year, Sara Beedie for the pontoon dates and co-chairing the BOL clothing, etc with Elizabeth Eaton. Elizabeth is also organizing the Lake Progressive Dinner Wednesday, June 26th.

And of course, my brother and our mayor, Walt Bates, who keeps us informed with lake wide emails and with data about Black Oak Lake. Take time to look at the amazing blackoaklake.com website. Kudos to his daughter Kristen for her time and expertise on this project. Be sure to get a directory from Walt if you don't have one!

The countdown is also on for me to allow others the privilege of serving on the Board. We have term limits! Looking forward to seeing each of you this summer.

Bonnie

Clean Boats Clean Waters - Keith Montgomery

Unlike the last two years, when ice kept anglers off the water on Opening Day, the weather cooperated this year and CBCW inspections began on schedule.

We have the same great team of inspectors back this year. We are fortunate to have a stable team of experienced inspectors.

One small note: The inspectors are required by the conditions of our DNR grant to ask various questions of boaters entering the lake, *and this includes residents*. Yes, when I put my boat in for the season (or take it out in September) they ask me if I have had the boat in another lake in the past five days and am I carrying bait, or have I emptied any live wells, etc. Then they ask for permission to look over the boat and trailer. *Please be patient and polite with our loyal team when they do this. We are not exempt from CBCW inspection.*

If you enter your boat (or kayak) on the lake directly from your property and you've been on another lake, please follow the protocol in the diagram here:

Incidentally, by the terms of our grant, our inspectors are required to take a course on inspection every other year, and we are all taking that 1- or 2-hour course this spring.

Thank you all for your generosity in supporting our CBCW program. The DNR grant pays for only around 12% of our expenses, so our contributions through memberships and at fundraisers are what keeps our lake clean of invasive species. We are one of a vanishingly small number of lakes that have no serious invasive species.

Ice Out and Water Level - Walt Bates

A warmer winter led to the 8th earliest ice-out in our unbroken 116 year long record. The last Black Oak Lake ice was, as usual, along the south shore of Barbers Bay and melted on Sunday, April 14. Go to Ice Out Reporting - Black Oak Lake Preservation Foundation. All the dates are listed and graphed, averages calculated and it has a lot of history. Most interesting is the fact that the early observers were using what would eventually become the DNR's definition of "Ice-Out" without even realizing it. There are few records that go back that far where all the participants used the same rules. Here they are graphed:

The water level at ice out was 38.63", the lowest since 2017, That's about 6" below last fall's freeze-up and about 11" above the average of the last 24 years. Here's that data:

Average depth from ice-out 2001 through freeze-up 2023 is 27.15″.

Using the BOLPF Website - Kristen Barringer

How to Login to the Black Oak Lake Website:

You may already know we have a website for the lake, located at https://blackoaklake.com/.

What you might not know is that you can login to the website. Why should you do this? Well, there is lots of exciting information only available if you are logged in. For example, the Property Directory which includes a map of all properties on the lake, the Members List with all members' contact information, and the ability to add your own profile picture, biography, and family history, and even **pay your dues**!

To login, go to https://blackoaklake.com/

Click My Account on top right. Enter the username and password that was sent to you by Walt Bates.
Hint: It's probably your email address and BlackOak123
You can change your password after logging in for the first time.

You should have received an email in April/May 2020 stating your username and password. If you forgot your username or password or you never received one, email Walt Bates at waterbirds@aol.com and he will send it to you, or reset it if you forgot.

To Pay Your Dues:
After logging in, you should see a section called Paid Membership with a link for "Renew, Upgrade or Update Billing". Click that, and it will prompt you through the payment process. (https://blackoaklake.com/my-account/#myaccount/About)

Here is a screenshot of the Payment Page on My Account:

Black Oak History – Walt Bates

SO WHY DO WE CALL IT THE "CROWN" PROPERTY?

That nearly 2,000 feet of undeveloped property on Black Oak's north shore was originally owned by the Otto Logging Company starting in the 1880s. A fireplace from what was likely the oldest structure on the lake still stands on it. In the early 1930s it was sold to Chicagoan Henry Crown. In the 1940s he sold it to his father, Arie Crown. Shortly after that it went to Frederick Gould then to Mary Jensen and then to the current owner, John Washburn. So, what happened to the Crowns?
There is a nationwide law firm called Gould and Ratner. When it was founded in Chicago in the 1930s its first client was Henry Crown. It now handles virtually all the legal work of Crown Enterprises. As to why they would put the Black Oak property into the hands of their lawyers no one knows but they clearly are pulling the strings. According to John Washburn, they have no plans for the property and would be bound by it being zoned as we all are: R-1 Single - Family Residential. More info on our zoning is at OUR WORK > ZONING.

LONGEST CONTINUAL OWNERSHIP ON THE LAKE

The property that has been in the same family the longest is that now currently owned by Barbara Knaak. Before 1910, the Patterson Family bought that property. They had to come up from Joliet, IL on logging trains to camp on it and brought their infant daughter, Myrtle, with them. She grew up to marry Howard Lloyd and they had two children, Dave and Barbara. Sadly, Dave went down on the USS Scorpion in 1968. Barbara married Chuck Paton and they had four children, Chuck Jr, Dave (current BOLPF treasurer), Peggy (Fink) and Barbie (Parry). These five fine people currently own that property as well as some adjacent ones. Myrtle Lloyd currently holds the record for the most summers at Black Oak Lake with 90 (see MEMBERS > 50 and 75 year pins).

BLACK OAK LAKE LOGGING

This photo is of Mary Otto's Loggers Camp in 1910. US Census data from that year showed 61 young men using this as their home and all listed their occupation as "Logger". When the logging ended a few years later (notice all the stumps), this was bought by Minneapolis man George St. Clair and converted into recreational use. He called it the Black Oak Resort and many of the current families on Black Oak trace their roots here. Al Bates and Frank Hoffman, for example, stayed here for fishing starting in 1915 before buying property.

Lowenwood News – Walt Bates

The Lowenwood property is a great neighbor and their 1,200+ acres are by far the largest property on Black Oak Lake with about 16% of the total shoreline! They have again agreed to host our annual picnic (more on this elsewhere in the newsletter) on July 27. They also host monthly Fish and Game lectures on the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30pm. Here are all the 2024 programs:

FISH AND GAME CLUB PRESENTATIONS 2024

Tuesday May 7
Curiously Convenient Conservation: Habitat Restoration, Ecological Recovery and Mines
Tom Hunt Ph.D.

Tuesday June 4
Largest to the Smallest: Bears and Ruffed Grouse
Alaina Roth

Tuesday July 2
Seeing the Forest for the Trees: Fire As an Ecological Process in the Great Lakes States
Jed Meunier

Tuesday August 6
Hibernation, Bats and White-nose Syndrome
Dr. Allen Kurta

Tuesday Sept. 3
Lake Superior's Watershed and Tributaries.
Hunter Roose, Michigan Tech

Tuesday Oct. 1
Forests Too Deer
Bil Alverson Ph.D.

All programs at LOWENWOOD
5400 Black Oak Road, Land O' Lakes, WI 54540
at 6:30 pm. Public is welcome.

Additionally, Lowenwood continues to permit our use of a designated trail on their property connecting West and North Black Oak Lake Roads so we can walk/bike around the lake. Here are the rules and we ask for your strict observance of them:

- The "designated route" is described on the lake website under "Members" and has many little pink and blue flags along it. Don't get lost!
- This permission is for Black Oak Lake residents and their guests only. A Black Oak resident must be part of any group that goes through. Be sure your children know these rules as it is usually them or friends that are violators.
- Dogs and bikes are permitted but no gas engines are allowed
- There will be times during the summer that Lowenwood has groups visiting and requests that we keep out. I will advise by lake-wide emails of any upcoming closures and signs will be posted at both ends. This permission is a huge benefit to us. Please don't spread this to non-Black Oak friends.

Summer 2024 times of trail closure.....If you're a frequent user, put these dates on your calendar.

June 17-21, July 14-19, August 5-9, Aug 16-18, Aug 26- Sep 8, Sep 26-27, Oct 16, Oct 21-25

Treasurers Report - David Paton

2023 was a good year for the Black Oak Lake Preservation Foundation. In terms of overall income, compared to 2022 we were down in 2023 as were expenses. Recently, year-to-year results have offered some big variances as the pandemic had impacts that are still being felt though not as dramatically.

What really saved the 2023 income line were some sums that came in both from members and the state grant from WI that we receive every year. As you can see in the attached exhibit, annual dues continue to be very important to the Black Oak Lake Preservation Foundation. The incredible generosity of a few members served to close the income gap and your BOLPF board is very grateful to those special members.

There are lots of ways to help BOLPF continue in its goals of: Protect Black Oak Lake waters and shoreline for recreation. Protect and enhance the Black Oak Lake environment Manage natural fish and wildlife habitats. Work to initiate and keep protective zoning ordinances consistent with private property rights. Promote safety.

The easiest is that members be diligent in their dues. That has been a successful endeavor and with the recently installed online bill-pay that has made payments to BOLPF, whether they be dues, memorials, or other special giving in recognition of the beauty of Black Oak Lake, easier.

One facet of giving we haven't spent a lot of time talking about are planned gifts. The Board of the Black Oak Lake Preservation Foundation asks a favor of you to please consider BOLPF in your estate planning. If there is any constant to what we say and hear about our beloved lake is the abundance of memories and giving to BOLPF ensures those memories will continue well into the future.

The IRS has made many changes to IRA's and other retirement accounts in recent years. One way to give was made permanent a few years back – the qualified charitable distribution. This refers to the sum that IRA owners are required to take once a certain age has been reached, also known as the required minimum distribution (RMD). The qualified charitable distribution allows IRA owners to designate that some or all of their required minimum distribution be distributed directly to the charity of their choice. The decision to take advantage of the qualified charitable distribution means that the owner's annual RMD will be met, the owner won't be taxed on it (by the same token, it cannot be taken as a deduction like a taxable gift might) and your favorite charity/ 501C3, the Black Oak Lake Preservation Foundation, will get the money and NOT the IRS!

It's a real option so please consult with appropriate tax counsel for details.

Thank you all for your attention to the BOLPF annual dues and we'll look forward to seeing you on the lake!

(Financial report next page)

Treasurers Report - Financials

Black Oak Lake Preservation Foundation
Budget: Year to Date
for the period of 01/01/2023 to 12/31/2023

Account Number	Account Name	Actual	YTD Budget	Difference
Income				
4000	Membership Dues	$5,228.83	$4,780.00	$448.83
4025	Donations - Auction	$496.80	$2,700.00	$-2,203.20
4050	Donations - Dollars for Hours	$11,904.46	$10,000.00	$1,904.46
4075	Gifts & Memorials	$3,423.15	$9,000.00	$-5,576.85
4100	Auction	$15,628.85	$9,000.00	$6,628.85
4101	Clothing & Glassware Sales	$2,091.00	$3,200.00	$-1,109.00
4102	Progressive Dinner	$1,080.00	$1,000.00	$80.00
4103	Picnic	$3,384.51	$4,500.00	$-1,115.49
4104	Survivor Dinner	$0.00	$1,000.00	$-1,000.00
4200	Clean Boats Clean Waters Grant	$4,000.00	$4,000.00	$0.00
4300	Interest Income	$0.00	$1.00	$-1.00
4301	Directory, Maps, Etc	$338.00	$500.00	$-162.00
Total Income		$47,575.60	$49,681.00	$-2,105.40
Expense				
5000	AIS Lake Plant Survey	$500.00	$600.00	$-100.00
5001	Aplos Accounting Software	$534.60	$540.00	$-5.40
5002	Clothing & Glassware	$4,819.05	$2,500.00	$2,319.05
5003	Directories	$1,192.00	$800.00	$392.00
5004	Insurance	$2,656.00	$2,850.00	$-194.00
5005	Picnic	$4,750.95	$4,000.00	$750.95
5006	Survivor Dinner	$0.00	$1,000.00	$-1,000.00
5007	Miscellaneous	$489.94	$450.00	$39.94
5008	Wisconsin Lakes & VLCRA Dues	$400.00	$450.00	$-50.00
5009	Boat Parade	$0.00	$100.00	$-100.00
5010	Lake Inspector Supplies	$0.00	$300.00	$-300.00
5011	Auction	$0.00	$500.00	$-500.00
5014	Website Expense	$0.00	$800.00	$-800.00
5200	Inspector Payroll	$27,660.97	$27,100.00	$560.97
5300	Lake Inspector Payroll Service	$1,005.00	$1,000.00	$5.00
5400	Tax: Federal	$5,374.80	$6,500.00	$-1,125.20
5401	Tax: State	$0.00	$10.00	$-10.00
Total Expense		$49,383.31	$49,500.00	$-116.69
Total		$-1,807.71	$181.00	$-1,988.71

BLACK OAK LAKE PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

BALANCE SHEET (As of 12/31/23)

Account Number	Account Name	Amount
Assets		
Current Assets		
1000	BOLPF Checking Account	31,187.43
1050	BOLPF Savings Account	29,254.04
1150	Vanguard	98,039.89
	Total Assets	**158,481.36**
Liabilities		
	Total Liabilities	**0.00**
Equity		
Unrestricted Net Assets		
3000	General Fund - Fund Balance	158,481.36
	Total Unrestricted Net Assets	158,481.36
	Total Equity	**158,481.36**
	Total Liabilities + Total Equity	**158,481.36**

Membership News - Sharon Basten

As your chairperson for BOLPF membership, I thought I would remind everyone about why it is so important to pay your annual BOLPF membership dues.

1. Almost all the money BOLPF raises goes toward our Clean Boats Clean Waters program, and AIS prevention. The rest goes for operating costs, our great lake directories, insurance, our annual aquatic plant survey, and other related activities that directly benefit our membership.
2. Your dues directly support BOLPF, and BOLPF is staffed entirely by your friends and neighbors who volunteer their time to keep our lake so clean and beautiful.

Here are the basics for BOLPF membership: Annual dues are $30. Dues paying members can be individuals or couples. You do not need to be a BOL property owner to join BOLPF. Members can also include adult children of property owners, friends of property owners, off-lake friends and local businesses. Many property owners have their adult children become dues paying members with their own listings in the Lake Directory. If you would like to do this, please send us their initial dues along with their contact information so that we can add them to our records and include them in the next Directory when it comes out. Please feel free to ask a friend, neighbor or family member to join BOLPF!

You can now pay your dues in one of the following ways;

1.) Send a check made out to BOLPF and mail it to:
Black Oak Lake Preservation Foundation
P.O. Box 151
Land O' Lakes, WI 54540
2.) Sign in to the BOLPF website and pay online — see Kristen Barringer's article in this newsletter for details.

And finally, in one last push, I will use a final plea from past years: "Please pay your dues – they are tax deductible!"

Thanks!

Sharon

Set your Summer social calendar

Progressive Dinner!

We are pleased to announce the 2024 Black Oak Lake Progressive Dinner June 26th, 2024! Sandy Seymour, Cathy Hesselman, D'Arcy Arpke, Galia Vineyard and Elizabeth Eaton are organizing the evening. . This is a fundraiser for the Black Oak Lake Preservation Foundation. There will be a $25.00 charge per person payable at the dessert course. ***Please see the end of the newsletter for sign-up information.***

BOLPF Annual Picnic at Lowenwood Saturday July 27th!

Enjoy a summer evening with family and friends at the BOLPF Picnic & Auction

Doors/Auction open at 4:00 — Dinner at 5:00

This year's picnic is catered by Rade Gratton and Tom Evert of Boondocks BBQ & Brews out of Stone Bank, WI. Rade and Tom reside in Barber's Bay. The menu offers a choice of Beef Brisket or Pulled Chicken served off the smoker, Smoked Mac and Cheese, Baked Beans with Brisket, Slider Buns, Creamy Coleslaw, Homemade Red Potato Salad, Corned Bread, Fresh Fruit Salad, and an Assortment of Cookies! Boondocks will also be adding a complimentary Corn Roast for the Picnic.

N67W33525 County Rd KOconomowoc, WI 53066

www.boondocksbbqs.com

Boondocks BBQ Sauces and Rubs are for sale at Charlie's Market

No beverages are being provided this year so please remember to bring your own

Adults $25.00, Kids (10 and under) $15.00, Kids 5 and under are **FREE**

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For reservations or information call or text Sharon Basten at 262-745-6567 or email at sharon.basten@yahoo.com. Please pay in advance or at the picnic and **make Checks payable to BOLPF**

Pontoon Parties!

Mark your calendars for this summer's Pontoon Parties:

Saturday, May 25th, Friday, July 5th, Saturday, August 3rd and Saturday, August 31st.

Grab your favorite beverage and an appetizer to share and join in the fun as we enjoy the evening on Black Oak. Festivities begin in Barber's Bay at 5 p.m. Stay for an hour or for the evening, it's up to you! Rain date will be the following evening.

Remember your friends and family who might not have a pontoon boat, offer to pick them up on your way.

Please do us all a favor and bring plastic glassware.

2024 Auction - Kathy Kelly

We are gearing up for another enjoyable picnic and entertaining auction scheduled for Saturday, July 27, 2024. How lucky we are to be welcomed back to Lowenwood, and doubly fortunate to have its fabulous staff with us.

The auction remains one of Black Oak Lake's largest fundraisers in caring for its health. Any auction purchases, monetary contributions, and/or matching donations all help support these initiatives. If you are interested in being a matching donor or making any kind of contribution, please let us know.

With the relatively non-existent winter, many of our local businesses are suffering its aftermath. We're busy thinking of alternative auction ideas in efforts to support our community. One change we'll be making this year is to purchase all auction gift certificates instead of requesting them. To this end, we need your help and would be ever so grateful in receiving any monetary donations.

Thinking more profoundly, maybe this could be a year of giving back to Land O' Lakes by way of asking local businesses how we can help. Maybe organizing a town volunteer project or lending a helping hand at a local shop, art gallery or restaurant. We will keep you posted, but please put on your creative hats and share with us any other supportive ideas you may have.

Should you have items to donate, we can arrange a pick-up, or any drop-offs can be done at the Surpless' cabin (6511 St. Clair Rd). Please alert us first by texting / calling / emailing Kathy (Surpless) Kelly – (773) 858-5687, kmsurpless@yahoo.com.

Lastly, we're always looking for auction committee support. Should you be interested in joining this lively group, we would love to have you.

Thank you in advance and see you soon!

Volunteer Shoreline Monitors – Cindy Miller

Would you like to help keep our lake clean, clear, and free of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS?) We can use 2 more volunteers to our team of 17 dedicated lake owners who monitor a section of Black Oak Lake from a boat, once a month - June, through August. If you can do more, all the better! This, along with our paid boat landing inspectors, is our main line of defense against AIS. Additionally, we should all be inspecting the waters around our dock and property as we enjoy our own shorelines. If you can help us, please call Cindy at 815-861-1707.

Current BOLPF Board

President:	BONNIE CLARKE	Exp 2024
V-Pres:	MARK HOFFMAN	Exp 2025*
Treasurer:	DAVE PATON	Exp 2024*
Recording and Corresponding Secretary:	CELIA KISTLER	Exp 2024**
Past President:	CHRIS HOOK	N/A
Board Member:	ROB AIKINS	Exp 2024
Board Member:	KEITH MONTGOMERY	Exp 2024*
Board Member:	NANCY HILL TRAVIS	Exp 2024*
Board Member:	MORGAN FLEMING	Exp 2025*
Board Member:	JACK BARNUM	Exp 2025*
Board Member:	MEGHAN WOLTMAN	Exp 2025

Why not take the time now to help BOLPF and make a donation to Dollars for Hours or Gifts and memorials?

Get your BOL SWAG from Sara Beedie & Elizabeth Eaton

We have lots of BOL items available now - glasses, hats, stickers, laminated placemats, s'more forks and more. Please contact Sara Beedie (540-588-3668) and come shop for your favorite way to show off our crystal clear lake!

Look out for a clothing order form, hopefully by the end of June.

Spring is here! See you all at Black Oak Lake Soon!

PS - Anyone who is interested in helping/taking over production of the newsletter, please contact me at CBH2@yahoo.com or 715-617-2069

Try out some of these useful links:

Blackoaklake.com
Borderbulletin.com
Vcnewsreview.com
https://vclra.org/
Maps.vilascoutywi.gov

Community Facebook groups:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/603917789628159/
https://www.facebook.com/groups/315695735269580/

BOL PROGRESSIVE DINNER - WEDNESDAY JUNE 26th

We are pleased to announce the 2024 Black Oak Lake Progressive Dinner! What a great way to meet new people and celebrate old friends. Sandy Seymour, Cathy Hesselman, D'Arcy Arpke, Galia Vineyard and Elizabeth Eaton are organizing the evening. This is a fundraiser for the Black Oak Lake Preservation Foundation. There will be a $25.00 charge per person…payable at the dessert course. We will also have a 50/50 drawing at dessert. You will be scheduled at a different house for each course, we are dispensing with the main course. The three courses will be: appetizers, salad and soup. The dessert course is graciously being hosted by Kay and Jim Fleming, on St.Clair Road. Appetizers will be from 5:00-6:00, salad from 6:15-7:00, soup from 7:15-8:00 and dessert from 8:15-??? If you choose to not host, please sign up to contribute by bringing an appetizer or dessert. If you have houseguests, you are welcome to include them, and we will keep them with you for the evening…sorry, no children at this event. A reminder that hosts will provide some sort of beverage but this is a BYOB event…so please bring your favorite adult beverage with you to each course.

This is a great chance to raise money and spend a fun evening with fellow Black Oakers. The deadline for registering is **June 15**, please text, call, or email one of the organizers. Your personal schedule for the evening (with guest list if you are hosting) will be delivered to you by June 22nd. We are looking forward to an evening of great food and great neighbors! Please call if you have any questions…Sandy Seymour 602-828-2145, Cathy Hesselman 330-509-9021, D'Arcy Arpke 941-685-2638, Galia Vineyard 715-617-4259, and Elizabeth Eaton 612-718-7057.

Names_____

Mailing address_____

Email address_____

Phone_____ Cell Phone_____

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I would like to host a course (indicate your first, second and third choice)

_____ Appetizer _____ Salad _____ Soup

I can accommodate_____ (8-20) people, including hosts

I would like to attend but cannot host a course, and I will bring an appetizer or dessert for our gathering: (please indicate which) Appetizer Dessert Either

Please note if there are any special accommodations needed, such as physical abilities, allergies, and dietary restrictions

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