BOLPF NEWS

Fall 2024

A Letter from our President - Keith Montgomery

I was up from Wausau a couple of times in late October to tidy up some things at the cabin before the winter. My time up at the cabin (measured in hours, unfortunately) confirmed for me that Fall is my favorite time of year on Black Oak Lake, except, of course, that I miss seeing our friends around the lake.

I appreciate the colors of the leaves of the trees and their sound underfoot. The quality of the sunlight filtering through the overstory is like no other season. I am also awed by how quiet things are. You don't realize how much ambient noise you become accustomed to at other times of the year -- like the drone of HWY B -- until you hear your voice echoing through the woods in the late fall as you call after the dogs. It's almost shocking to hear it, and to think you are the one breaking the silence.

In Black Oak Lake, we have much to be grateful for.

I am grateful to those who came before newcomers like Michele and I and who have been such wonderful custodians of the lake.

"Thank you" to all the board members and committee chairs and members who contribute their time to organizing the picnic and auction, maintain the membership list, the website, clothing sales, directories, keep the financial records, monitor our investments, and to those who monitor the health of the lake. Lastly, those who contribute to this Newsletter and publish it. We are a community, and I thank those who organize pontoon parties, the progressive dinner, the walk-around-the-lake and lunch, and the "survivors' dinner". It's a long list of people.

I am grateful for all of us who contribute to funding the inspection program at the landing. Those who are Foundation members, those who contribute directly to inspections ("dollars for hours"), and those who participate in the annual picnic and its auction. And then there are the volunteers who do lake monitoring of invasive plants each month.

Almost 1,000 lakes in Wisconsin have Eurasian Watermilfoil, but we are not one of them despite having over 1,000 boats enter our lake each year and the landing. And, more specifically, 30% of these boats have been in another lake which has Eurasian Watermilfoil within the past 5 days. That's 340 boats.

President's Letter Continues...

There is no guarantee that inspections will always succeed, but so far, they have. This year, we found Eurasian watermilfoil on a boat that entered before 7am, before inspection began for the day, but it did not appear to have introduced the weed (we shall see).

We all share the lake, and our actions -- not just the actions of visiting boaters -- also impact the lake.

Last year, I had a conversation with Paul Garrison, a scientist who has studied our lake and its history as recorded in sediment cores. You might recall when I wrote about this last year, I was surprised to know that residential development has had more of an impact on lake quality across the state than the cutover.

But our lake is in good shape, chemically. "In summary, the sediment core indicates that there have only been subtle changes in the lake over the last 100 years. Nutrient levels have only increased a small amount. Unlike many northern lakes with shoreline development there has not been a significant increase in submerged aquatic vegetation." It's impressive how much of the shoreline is in trees.

But, Garrison warns: "Although the increase in nutrients is relatively small, it does indicate that shoreline development is having some adverse effect on the nutrient levels in the lake. While the greatest impact of shoreline development is the alteration of habitat on the shoreline as well as in the shallow water area of the lake, some increased nutrients are added to the lake. *It is easier to reduce this input now than wait until it becomes a problem and then try to fix it*." An outcome of this increase has been that "the submerged aquatic vegetation community is larger than it was historically."

How can we assess our personal impact? And what can we do about it?

To assess your shoreline:

- Go to the Healthy Lakes and Rivers shoreline assessment: https://survey.healthylakeswei.com/
- Scroll down a register for an account (this way you can save your data and return any time you like – but take the survey anonymously – you just can't return to it).
- Take the survey to get an analysis and suggestions.

There are perhaps three things many of us can do:

- If you have downspouts, bury them in a small gravel hole to keep direct runoff and any eroded sediment it might carry into the lake. Do not drain water directly into the lake.
- If you have a lawn or have removed trees, consider a buffer of native plantings along the shoreline to keep sediment and nitrogen out of the lake. *We can help you get a grant to help with this.*
- Maintain our septic tanks and drain fields and ensure they are of a capacity appropriate for the size of the household and its water use.

Last year, I buried our downspouts in gravel pits I dug.

Lastly, there is the shoreline itself, which is susceptible to erosion from our actions on the water. Maintaining good distance from the shore while boating minimizes erosion and, in addition, minimizes disruption other's enjoyment of the lake shore.

We can all help keep Black Oak Lake healthy for future generations.

Water Level Headed Down — Walt Bates

Rhinelander recorded 1" of rain from Labor Day to October 31!

The water level in early November is under 27". Note that in 2020 it was at 53" and that in 2012 it was minus 2". Are we headed down that low again? No one knows. Notice on the 80 year graph that once the level turns around it doesn't always go all the way to the other extreme.

Here is an aerial photo of Black Oak's island when the water was at 2" in 2010. It looked more like a peninsula!

YEAR	ICE OUT	FREEZE UP
2024	38.63"	TBD
2023	47.75"	44.75"
2022	47"	43.5"
2021	52"	51.25"
2020	51"	53"
2019	52"	50"
2018	44"	48"
2017	31.75"	45.5"
2016	24.75"	26.25"
2015	27"	22"
2014	19.75"	27.5"
2013	2"	10.5"
2012	8.5"	-2.37"
2011	13.25"	6.75"
2010	0"	6.75"
2009	10.25"	2.25"
2008	16.5"	9.5"
2007	28.75"	14.5"
2006	35"	28.25"
2005	29"	32"
2004	34.5"	29.5"
2003	36"	30"
2002	24.5"	34.5"
2001	22"	19.5"

(Buffalo and Crystal Lake data normalized to Black Oak Lake data)

New Lake Directory — Walt Bates

It's time for the biennial rewrite of the Black Oak directory. There are many folks abandoning land lines, passing their ownership to other family members, or splitting off some of their property. And sadly, some people are no longer with us. **This rewrite, as always, means a new cover photo contest!** Please send me your submissions. There is never a theme here, just lake related photos of people enjoying the lake, local wildlife, unusual weather pictures, etc, etc. The photo submissions will be voted on by the Board of Directors with the top two going to the front and back covers. In addition to contact data, the directory will have photos and descriptions of invasive species and a centerfold lake map. The idea is to keep a copy in your boat in case you come across some suspicious looking weed or want to know who lives in that house you're going by. Starting after early January, I will be sending out EXCEL spreadsheets of current data so you can respond with changes, additions, deletions, etc. Final deadline will be about March 1.

Your Board of Directors has now defined who can be listed in the directory and be on the bulk email list that receives lakewide emails. That person must be in the immediate family of an owner of waterfront property on Black Oak Lake. Children of owners can be on the parents' listing until they reach age 26. At that point they will be put on their own listing. Provision is made for OFF WATER membership. For an OFF WATER person to be listed in the directory and be receiving emails, they must be current on their $30 annual membership dues. For this upcoming 2025 directory, that means their 2024 dues must have been paid. As you have no doubt read, paying the dues is very easy (just press the DONATE button on the website homepage) and can be done online for just over a $1 fee. You can even set up an automatic annual payment and never have to worry about it again.

Clean Boats, Clean Waters 2024 — Keith Montgomery

First, I have to thank Karl Hoessel for all his fantastic work over several years in inspections and in scheduling our inspectors (he started before I came in, in 2021). His work has made being the coordinator a breeze. If you've visited the landing, you'll know Karl: Red SUV, big white beard, usually there in the afternoon or evening. Karl and his wife, who live on East Duck Lake Road, are leaving us to move to Menasha (WI) to be near their grandchildren. We wish them well. He received a gift on behalf of the lake.

I'd also like to thank Dave Paton for his work in writing and mailing all those payroll checks (and before Dave, Sue Woltman). And, CBCW is only one component of our work in keeping invasives out: Cindy Miller, "Thank you" for coordinating the Lake Monitor Program which inspects the shore zone at least every month from May through September. Thanks, of course, to the lake monitors: In order of lots that's Eaton, Thomas, Morris, Lippert, Allman, Duff, Beedie, Beers, Hattenhauer, Bates, Zane, Basten, Gelb, Hill, and Hook! Lastly, there are several residents who stand ready to fill in on inspections: Adams (x2), Arpke, Beedie, Clarke, Hoffman, Paton, Surpless Kelly, Rao. I think I'm past due in making these thanks.

During the season, our inspectors collect data on boats entering and leaving. I'm most concerned about entering boats, but if our lake had invasives then inspecting leaving boats would be of equal concern (we do talk to boats that are leaving). I trust that inspectors at other lakes which have invasives, are inspecting departing boats carefully as it helps to protect us all.

I upload the data to the DNR -- that's a requirement for our grant. The DNR gives us a grant of $4,000 each year. We have to apply for that grant and, in return, I have to upload our inspection data. I then get to download the data in a usable format (Excel), summarize it, and make visuals out of it. The grant is only part of what funds our inspections: We have to add ~$33,000 to that, not including payroll costs.

2024 By the Numbers:

You can see the number of hours on the graphs for the past 7 years. The higher numbers this year are accounted for by two things: An early and ice-free opening day (+5 days), and good weather into October which led me to add an additional five days to the schedule. All years end the 13-hour schedule and go to a 12-hour schedule at the end of September (+/- 1 day).

This is a fairly typical rhythm to the year, except that the run-up to July 4 was exceptionally busy. The drop in mid-August is normal and is accounted for by folks returning kids to school. Usually, after Labor Day Weekend things drop a bit, but not so this year: We had some great weather. And then the drop at the start of October is usual.

It's important to remember that there are still boats going in even as we have finished inspecting just as there are before we begin our day of inspections. Boats in before 7am totaled 30 this year, one of which had Eurasian Watermilfoil on the trailer in the parking lot. We can't cover everything which is why our Lake Monitor Program is important.

The DNR states: "Although it is present in almost every county in Wisconsin, it [Eurasian watermilfoil] has only been verified in less than 10% of waterbodies statewide. While Eurasian watermilfoil can grow to nuisance levels in some waterbodies, recent studies have found that most Wisconsin lakes currently have populations at low frequencies, with relatively few lakes exhibiting very dense growth." We can hope.

Just one note to add to that statement …. in WI, a "waterbody" includes what would be called a "pond" in MN. If WI used the MN standard of 10 acres for a "lake", as opposed to the WI standard of 2.2 acres, then the rate of Eurasian Watermilfoil in WI could be 30%. Keep your eye on that number.

In 2024, 1,141 boats entered BOL. That number reflects the total hours we inspect but it also varies with the weather and in other ways we cannot know. It's a big number.

Most important in regard to AIS, is the number of boats entering that have been in another lake in the past 5 days -- that's the length of time invasives can be expected to be viable out of water. This year it was 45% of all boats entering, or 510 boats. As a percentage, that's about as high as we've recorded since 2017.

Here are the lakes these boats have been in, in the past five days (2 or more visits):

How many of these lakes have Eurasian Water Milfoil, Curly-leaf Pondweed, or Spiny Waterflea? Sixty-five percent (*not including 19 dock boats -- about which we know too little*). That's much higher than the 30% the DNR estimates across the state.

Looking at just those lakes with 2 or more visits (and excluding dock boats), 375 boats came from a lake in the past 5 days with Eurasian Watermilfoil, Curly-leaf Pondweed, or Spiny Waterflea -- that's 33% of *all* boats that enter BOL (and 82% of boats that have been in another lake in the past five days).

Annual Lake Survey — Dr. Susan Knight

Walt Bates, Keith Montgomery, John Clarke, Cindy Miller and Sara Beedie and I boarded Walt's pontoon boat on 23 September 2024 to search for aquatic invasive species, and especially Eurasian water milfoil (EWM) on Black Oak Lake. We found no EWM or any other invasive species.

The lake was calm much of the day although I also used the Aqua Scope attached to the special boom that was created to support the Scope. As usual, we started at the western end of the lake and finished the western part of the lake before stopping for lunch: delicious soup provided by Sandi Bates. After lunch we continued along the north shore to Barber's Bay and then along the south shore back to where we had stopped before lunch.

As in other years, we found some EWM look-alikes, including northern water-milfoil, water marigold and alternate-flowered water-milfoil. I pulled up some northern water-milfoil to convince myself it was not EWM, as the northern water-milfoil in Black Oak Lake often has a reddish tinge to the uppermost leaves and stems, as is also common with EWM. The water marigold was abundant and largely restricted to the western part of the lake. The alternate-flowered water milfoil is also abundant throughout the western part of the lake. We found plenty of other native plants, including fern-leaf pondweed, and large-leaf pondweed ("cabbage") in the western part of the lake. The eastern part of the lake has abundant wild celery, with its corkscrew-like flowers and fruits so popular with ducks. I also saw other pondweeds (besides cabbage) indicating a healthy plant community.

I continue to see a robust population of large purple bladderwort (LPB) in the far west end of the lake and in the north bay. Like common bladderwort, LPB is a carnivorous plant, and ingests small aquatic animals, especially zooplankton, to augment its nutrient supply. In some lakes, LPB forms floating rafts that interfere with recreation and can become a nuisance. LPB in Black Oak Lake appears to stay close to the bottom and does not appear to cause any trouble. This plant does not have any roots, and it is unlikely to persist in any other parts of the lake where it would likely be windrowed onto shore.

Walt informed me the lake level is down a bit, though it is nowhere near as low as it was about 12 years ago. In the past, rising lake levels have coincided with an increase in the area and abundance of LPB. Since lake levels may be heading down, the LPB on Black Oak Lake will not likely expand, although there was no sign it was decreasing, either.

I believe Barber's Bay is the part of the lake most vulnerable to invasive plants for several reasons. Winds are often out of the west, so winds could potentially carry invasive plants from the landing (where they are most likely to originate) toward Barber's Bay. This bay has a rich diversity of native plants, which is good and bad. With such a density of natives, there is perhaps less "room" for an invasive plant to find space to root. However, the high density and diversity also means that aquatic plants are successful there, and likely EWM would be successful too, given a chance to get started. We should all be especially appreciative of the monitors' diligence in combing Barber's Bay many times each summer. I understand it is hard to pick out EWM among all those other plants, and I appreciate everyone's efforts. On our survey every year, we traverse this bay more than other areas to be as sure as possible it is free of any invasive plants.

It is critically important that everyone involved in the Clean Boats Clean Waters and the Lake Monitor program remain alert to invasive species throughout the open-water season. While we crisscross the lake and look hard for invasive species, the area I am directly observing is tiny compared to the entire lake. Walt and the others told me a boater launched into Black Oak Lake one morning before your lake watcher arrived. There were some plants on the boater's trailer, possibly stuck between the boat and the trailer bunks. The inspector talked to the boater when he came out, and luckily, it seems no harm was done.

Your lake-wide attention has obviously paid off. Remember to watch for EWM along the shoreline as well as in the water, since EWM, should it ever occur, will likely fragment and some fragments may wash up on shore. Thanks to everyone, but especially to Walt Bates for piloting the search vessel year after year. See you next year!

Shoreline Monitoring — Cindy Miller

The shoreline monitoring crew of 16 Black Oak volunteers, continued to survey the entire Black Oak Lake Shoreline. In order to keep invasive species out of our lake, we continue our three pronged approach of boat landing inspections, volunteer shoreline monitoring, and property owners inspecting their own shoreline and dock area.

But we need more help, or some shore sections may go uncovered. Please call Cindy Miller at 815-861-1707 to volunteer for 30 minutes or less, once each month, from June to August.

Wondering How Far You Are From The Lake Or From A Property Line? — Walt Bates

Vilas County has put out maps that let you easily determine distances. Go to https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/a0d866dbd53042aeae591aa83f0aa6d8/ and drag Black Oak Lake into view. Select the scale you want with the + and - signs in the upper left. Then in the upper right, click on the tiny ruler with the two little arrows on it. Follow Instructions.

How did Black Oak get its name? — Walt Bates

Former geology professor at Conserve School, Paul McLeod, and the late Black Oak resident, Dave Hoffman studied the question of how Black Oak Lake may have gotten its name given that there are no Black Oak trees north of (roughly) Milwaukee. Much of the following is from their findings. Many lakes got their names from the loggers in the 1880s and if anyone knows their trees, loggers do. But the earliest maps we have show Black Oak already had its name before logging started.

So, what was going on up here before logging? The main activity was fur trading with the Indian tribes. It is interesting how many French names we have up here..... Lac du Flambeau, Lac Vieux Desert, Lac du Lune, Lac du Fleurs, Fond du Lac, Presque Isle, Lac Superiore (later changed to Lake Superior), Little Bateau, Big Bateau, etc etc. The reason for the French coming here starting in the late 1600s was for fur trading..... this was a boom time for western Europe and the ladies wanted fur coats.

In northern Wisconsin, the Indians' main collection point for locally acquired furs was at Lac du Flambeau just west of modern Minocqua. But from there the furs had to be taken to one of the two shipping ports in this area. They were Ontonagon, MI, and Lac Vieux Desert. These were chosen because they both had direct all-water connections to Europe. Between those two, Lac Vieux Desert was favored since Ontonagon would require a lot of land trekking to avoid Niagara Falls. Consider that there were no mechanized means of travel back then so routes were established to locate as much of the treks as possible on water. The portaging between lakes and rivers was through thick woods (take a hike through unlogged Sylvania to see what they faced). They slid their canoes along worn paths and loaded the furs into bateaus. That's a French word for a wide shallow sided boat that could be easily slid along on its bottom. A well worn route between Lac du Flambeau and Lac Vieux Desert is shown in this old map from the book, "A Tale of the Mackinaw Fur Trade".

Notice the dashed line that shows that route. It is anything but a straight line but it minimizes the amount of the trek that is over land. When going eastbound they had to paddle (or pole) upstream in what is now the Wisconsin River but that was easier than dragging canoes and bateaus through the woods! Notice something on that map.....**Black Oak Lake had already been named!** So the question is "When was this map created". No one knows, but the incorrect depictions (locations and shapes) of other unnamed lakes in the area implies that it was a very long time ago, well before the loggers came along. It could mean that Black Oak trees did grow this far north way back then. Or it could just mean that the fur traders weren't as good at tree identification as the loggers were.

Emergency Response in Land O Lakes Township — Mark Hoffman

Earlier this summer, a stove fire occurred at the end of a windy driveway on Black Oak Lake. The Land O'Lakes Fire Department responded with two fire engines and was quickly able to extinguish the fire. Thank you Land O'Lakes Fire Department!

Their response to the fire was hindered by several large trees lining the driveway. In this case, the apparatus drivers were able to negotiate the tight driveway and access the fire.

I am reminded of another fire on Black Oak Lake, thirty years ago, where the responding engine sideswiped a tree damaging the engine, blocking the road, delaying the response and allowing the fire to spread until another engine could gain access. Please evaluate your own driveways for access. Our Emergency Services personnel try their best when seconds count. Your driveway maintenance can make a difference.

Below is the Land O'Lakes Town Ordinance for driveway specifications. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Driveways:

Definition is any area where travel occurs from a public road overland(s) (whether by easement or ownership) that is not considered to be a part of the public roadway for the purpose of gaining access to land or improvements.

(1) For the first 25 feet of driveway, it shall slope away from the intersecting roadway a minimum of 1% and a maximum of 5% to prevent erosion onto the roadway.

2) A driveway roadbed shall be constructed of suitable material to support all types of emergency and fire control equipment and requirements for culverts shall be determined by the Town Foreman or Board in considering the application. If culverts are required, a minimum diameter shall be 18 inches.

(3) To adequately provide emergency services and fire protection while insuring safe and unobstructed entry and exit from properties within the Town of Land O' Lakes, the following minimum standards shall be met.

a. minimum road surface width ..... 14 ft.
b. minimum width clearance ..... 14 ft.
c. minimum height clearance ..... 14 ft.

(4) Driveways shall be free and clear of low hanging limbs and overgrown brush on the traveled surface.

Social Events on the Lake 2025

Black Oak Lake has a strong association of residents. One thing that contributes to this is our respect for the lake and another is the social events we have each summer that get us together:

1. Pontoon parties -- once a month or so May-September.
2. Progressive Dinner -- usually in late June.
3. BOLPF Annual Meeting -- late June.
4. July Fourth Boat Parade.
5. Annual Picnic and Auction -- tentative date either Saturday July 26th or Saturday August 3rd. Caterer to be determined (And thanks to Boondocks BBQ for doing such a great job this past summer!)
6. Walkaround the Lake -- late August/early September following by a BBQ lunch.
7. Survivor Dinner -- late September/early August.

Look for details of these events in the Spring Newsletter and emails and don't miss out on the fun. See Morgan's reviews from last summer:

"We loved being a part of the boat parade for the fifth time in our many years on the lake. Even though we had to cede our prized trophy to Cindy Miller's "See ya, Cicada," the kids laughed and screamed their hearts out, the torpedo rope broke but we kept chugging along, and we loved the chance to wave to our friends and neighbors around the lake."

"Always a good time with family and friends. We promise at the 2025 auction not to spend $100+ on the raffle items next year so that more than the Fleming/Klose/Klaus clan can get into the joy of winning. We laughed, we won, we cried. And next year we swear we will know the words to the alma mater beyond "I've been north, south, east, and west but Black Oak Lake I love the best!"

Morgan Klaus [nee Fleming]

BOLPF Membership

BOLPF Membership

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 go the "Members" area of the website (tool bar along the top) and then go to "Members-Only Content". Once there, proceed to the "Donations" page where you will find the blue button "Pay your Dues" click there and then proceed to the "Renew, Upgrade or Update Billing" button where you can enter your credit card billing information.

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

Treasurers Report - David Paton

The yearend Treasurer's Report was presented at the most recent board meeting. We are doing okay but not as good as the recent past. Gains on investments have offset losses in other areas. The financial details of our BOLPF accounts are below for your review.

As a reminder to support BOLPF, dues can still be made the old-fashioned way via a check to our P.O. Box and now they can be made online as well. See more about Dues and Donations below. This can also be accessed on our website at: https://blackoaklake.com/home/how-to-help/membership-dues-and-donations/

Checks should be made payable to the Black Oak Lake Preservation Foundation and mailed to:

P.O. Box 151, Land O' Lakes, WI. 54540
Land'O'Lakes, WI
54540

FINANCIAL DETAILS:

Below is the current status of the BOLPF balance sheet:

Headwaters Bank, LOL:

Checking balance:	$18,808.95
Saving balance is:	$29,402.70
Vanguard Investment account:	$104,668.93
TOTAL NET WORTH AS OF 10/31/2024	$152,880.58

MEMBERSHIP DUES AND DONATIONS

Black Oak Lake property owners, their family members and off-lake friends can become dues paying members of the Black Oak Lake Preservation Foundation (BOLPF)*. Tax deductible dues are $30 annually. You can mail your check made out to BOLPF to BOLPF, PO Box 151, Land O' Lakes WI 54540, or bring it to the BOLPF annual meeting. Be sure to note that it is dues for the current year on your check. You may also make a tax deductible donation to BOLPF. If you are making a donation or paying dues for past or subsequent years, please indicate that on your check so we can keep our records accurate. Thanks for being part of the dues paying members of BOLPF. Your dues help to preserve Black Oak Lake as one of the most desirable recreational lakes in Wisconsin.

Other BOLPF fundraising consists of memorials, the silent auction at the annual picnic, sales of Black Oak related clothing or other items, various classes conducted by knowledgeable members, the progressive dinner, outright donations and the "dollars for hours" program. This asks people to spend eight hours inspecting boats at the beach or to donate $100 which is about what we would have to pay an inspector for that amount of time.

*The Black Oak Riparian Owners Association (BOLROA) was recently merged into BOLPF to take advantage of some tax savings opportunities.

2024 Auction Review — Kathy Kelly

2024 was another successful and entertaining picnic/auction, and that is thanks to all of YOU! We're grateful for the service of so many.

All accounted for now, and solely dependent upon our BOL patrons, we raised over $9,000 this year which directly funds the lake monitors. Our lake would not be what it is today without them.

Many long hours and hard work went into this event, and we're forever thankful to: our Donors (please see list below); our Volunteers: Jean Cuttell, Kathy Gelb, Cathy Hesselman, Celia Kistler, Susie Whipp and Mary Jo Zane; our Picnic Chair: Sharon Basten; the Lowenwood property and the Lowenwood hosts; our Caterers: Rade Gratton and Tom Evert of Boondocks BBQ & Brews, Stone Bank, WI; the Silent Auction Bidders & Raffle Ticket Purchasers; and our outstanding Auction Committee: Darlene Erickson, Kay Fleming, and Galia Vineyard.

Our Auction Committee is not getting any younger (!!!) and we simply cannot manage this event without the support of all of BOL. So, please remember us next year when we reach out for funding and inspiration ☺. And, if you would like to help - we would love to have you! With many new, young BOL families, volunteering and getting involved in any BOL activity is a wonderful way to meet your neighbors and other fellow Black Oaker's. What a great way to build lake memories of your own.

Until next year, thank you for another enjoyable picnic/auction event!

Thank you Donors:

Lisa/Rob Aikins, Christine Alfery, Jennifer/Stephan Anderson, Barbara/Michael Annin, Nan/Andy Banton, Jack Barnum, Shirley/Bob Barnum, Deb/Scott Barnum, Lisa/Steven Bates, Sandi/Walt Bates, Lynn/Bud Chumbley, Bonnie/John Clarke, Julie/Charles Croft, Darlene Erickson, Kay/Jim Fleming, Morgan Fleming, Kathy Gelb, Kris/Mark Gostisha, Roger Greenwald, Mark Haynes, Rindy Hesselman, Cathy/Parry Hesselman, Mark Hoffman, Kathy/Peter Kelly, Celia Kistler, Beth/Shayne Kline, Jamie (Fleming) Klose, Elizabeth Leininger, Dirk Meyer, Michele/Keith Montgomery, Dave Paton, Helen Jo Pierce, Sue Schurch, Jeff Thomas, Mary/Jim Thomas, Nancy/Brian Travis, Galia Vineyard, Meghan Woltman, and Mary Jo/Dan Zane.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (as of the 2024 annual membership meeting)

President:	KEITH MONTGOMERY	Exp 2026**
V-Pres:	MARK HOFFMAN	Exp 2026**
Treasurer:	DAVE PATON	Exp 2026**
Recording and Corresponding Secretary:	CELIA KISTLER	Exp 2025
Past President:	BONNIE CLARKE	N/A
Board Member:	MARY THOMAS	Exp 2026*
Board Member:	DAN ZANE	Exp 2026*
Board Member:	NANCY HILL TRAVIS	Exp 2026
Board Member:	MORGAN FLEMING	Exp 2025*
Board Member:	JACK BARNUM	Exp 2025*
Board Member:	MEGHAN WOLTMAN	Exp 2025

* Then eligible for two more years on the BoD.

**Officers have the option of adding a fifth year.

All changes occur at the June/July annual meeting.

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

Have a good winter everyone. See you at Black Oak Lake in summer 2025!

The newsletter needs a new, creative editor! If you are interested in helping/taking over production of the newsletter, please contact me at CBH2@yahoo.com or Keith Montgomery at montgomerybol@outlook.com