

CURRENTS

BLACK LAKE
ASSOCIATION, INC

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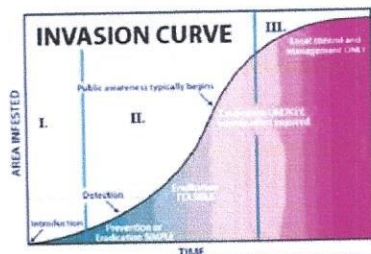
Boat Steward Program Becomes Reality

Starting this boating season, a Boat Steward Program will be in place at the Black Lake boat launch on County Route #6. After several years of hard work and perseverance this has finally come to reality!

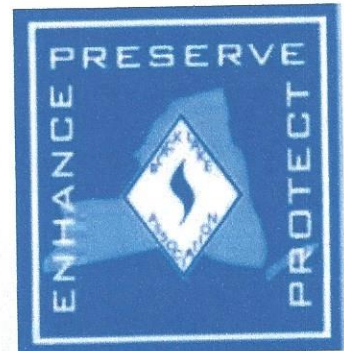
You might wonder, what exactly is a Boat Steward Program and why do we need one? Basically the program involves conducting voluntary boat/trailer inspections and delivering education and outreach to recreational boaters to prevent the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). Black Lake currently has several invasive species – Eurasian watermilfoil, zebra mussels, curly leaf pondweed, and European frogbit. The first two have been more damaging to our water quality than the others.

The Boat Steward inspections will focus on keeping NEW INVASIVES out of Black Lake, and preventing EXISTING INVASIVES from spreading to other waterbodies. There are numerous invasives we do not have – both plant and animal – that can significantly threaten water quality and recreational activities. Black Lake is one of NY State’s top fishing destinations, with the public launch accessed regularly by out-of-state/region boaters who travel from waterbody to waterbody, as well as those who fish the St. Lawrence, which is susceptible to foreign AIS from ocean going vessels.

By keeping new AIS out of Black Lake and working to reduce existing AIS, native aquatic species have a better opportunity to survive and thrive, keeping an ecological balance. The earlier the detection of new invasives, the higher the probability of eradication, as pictured in the “Invasion Curve” graph.



Continued on page 4.



Mailing Address

Please note that your Association has a new mailing address. All future correspondence should be sent to:

Black Lake Association
P. O. Box 308
Hammond, NY 13646

Banner Photo

Thank you to member Jeff Gilbert for his gorgeous “sunrise” photo used in this newsletter banner.

NEW INITIATIVES

Association Launches Website

As a way to keep Black Lake Association members better informed of activities and opportunities, we have created our own website, thanks to volunteer member Marsha Arend. The initial launch will get us up and running, with future enhancements planned. Check us out at www.blacklakeassoc.org.

Previously we have been listed on the Black Lake Chamber website www.blacklakeny.com. If you go there, a link will take you directly to our new site. If you have suggestions for site improvements please email us at blacklakeassoc@gmail.com.



Photo shared by member Doug Devo.

Monthly Photo Contest Starts in May

We have initiated a new Black Lake photo contest to capture various aspects of “life” at the lake, so we can share them with our members. These could depict recreation, sports activities, nature, wildlife, gardening, family gatherings, etc. Winners will be shared on our website and Facebook page. Get out your cameras or phones and start capturing things that you find interesting at Black Lake.

Entries should be sent to our email address at blacklakeassoc@gmail.com, no later than the last day of each month. All photos will become the property of the Black Lake Association, and may be used in various marketing and promotional projects or venues for the Association and the sponsor of this contest.

We are very pleased that the Black Lake Chamber of Commerce has decided to sponsor this contest for the next twelve months. We look forward to collaborating with them on this exciting venture. We look forward to seeing your entries!

New Facebook Presence



Social media is another way to stay current with Association activities, so check out our new *Facebook* page. We’ve posted some of the photos members shared with us for possible inclusion in our new brochure.

Just go to www.facebook.com and search for the Black Lake Association. This is a closed group for members only, so if you are a *Facebook* user, or want to become one, just “like” us / request to be invited to the group.

Well & Septic Workshop – June 2016

Our Association will offer a Well / Septic Workshop in June. The workshop is offered in collaboration with the Indian River Lakes Conservancy (IRLC), which has invited experts from RCAP Solutions and the University of Illinois’ Private Well Class to share their knowledge and expertise with area homeowners.

Representatives will discuss factors that affect well water quality, as well as the proper care and management of your septic system. The specific date, as of press time, had not been confirmed. If you are interested in registering for this free event, email us at blacklakeassoc@gmail.com or call 315-440-6508. Check our Facebook page for date confirmation.

Call for Volunteers

A not-for-profit association like ours, is only as effective as the volunteers who step forward to make a difference. We need VOLUNTEERS who love the lake and are willing to give a few hours (or more if you can) each year to advance our initiatives. Please consider sharing your enthusiasm, expertise, or just plain willingness to help out. You will be glad you did.

We know your time is precious when you spend it at the lake, YET so is Preserving, Protecting and Enhancing the lake for your enjoyment and those who follow in your footsteps. Please email: blacklakeassoc@gmail.com and let us add your name to our volunteer list. When special projects come up, we will contact you to see if you are available and interested at that time to help us out.

There are specific needs for individuals with computer and clerical skills.

FINANCIAL PERSPECTIVE

IRLC Water Project Grant Shared with Black Lake

The Indian River Lakes Conservancy (IRLC) was the recipient last year of a land trust grant to establish a water project in the Indian River Lakes Watershed.

After reading an article in our Fall 2015 newsletter regarding a membership drive, Ed Robertson, the Chair of this water project for IRLC, contacted us regarding the challenge we articulated in that article to reach out to *“the high percentage of hard to reach seasonal property owners, who only enjoy the lake for a week or two, a month, or a summer season, yet impact the lake and its environment along with everyone else.”*

Ed asked: “Because Black Lake has more property owners (950+) than all of the other 17 Indian River Lakes combined, would we be interested in using \$2,500 of their grant funds to reach out to our fellow Black Lakers in an effort to get them to join our Association?” Of course, we said yes! We know that communication is key, and getting more people to join and informed on a consistent basis is critical.

As a result we are using the funds for two direct mailings to all property owners inviting them to our FREE Ice Cream Social on July 6th.



Photo submitted by member Mike Powell for new brochure.

Financial Update

by Ronni Badini, Treasurer

As your new Treasurer, I would first like to thank all the members who have paid dues for 2016 and beyond (88%). Receiving this revenue early in the year ensures that the initiatives we planned and budgeted can be financially implemented. For those of you who have not yet paid for 2016, please send your check for \$25 to Black Lake Association, PO Box 308, Hammond NY 13646.

Our current financial condition is sound with a checking account balance of \$4,837 and regular savings of \$10,021. We also invested \$5,000 in January 2016 with Vanguard in order to earn better interest -- \$237 so far this year. We can withdraw the funds anytime we need them with no penalty.

We do have some major expenses coming up that have not yet been paid, such as NYSFOLA Conference, CSLAP Fees, BL Chamber Guide and our upcoming membership drive and ice cream social. In addition, we have designated \$7,000 match towards the NYS Boat Steward grant that will be spent over the 3-year period of the grant. The Board approved a deficit budget for 2016 because of the planned extraordinary expenses this year. Our financial condition remains strong.

I hope you all have a great summer and enjoy our wonderful Black Lake! If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. Ronni Badini, rbonthcay@aol.com or 610-462-8555.

Reminder

Additional 2016 Black Lake Association membership stickers can be purchased for \$1 each. Put them on your boat, 4-wheeler, car camp, etc. Contact Ronni Badini, Treasurer, if you are interested. See article above for contact information.



BOAT STEWARD PROGRAM

Boat Steward Program (continued)



After conducting an Outreach / Education weekend last August with NYS Parks, they became aware of the volume of traffic that typically frequents our boat launch. As a result, they agreed to rotate their Boat Steward to

Black Lake every Saturday throughout the summer starting in 2016.

In addition, last December, a Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) grant was announced by Governor Cuomo to initiate a \$2 million "New York Aquatic Invasive Species Spread Prevention Program." We applied in January and were notified on April 27 that we were awarded the full 3-year grant! The project cost is \$49,500, with the grant covering \$35,950. The match funds totaling the remaining \$13,550 were pledged as follows:

- Black Lake Association \$7,000
- Goose Bay Reclamation Corporation \$2,000
- Town of Morristown \$2,000
- Butterfield Lake Cottage Owners Association \$750
- Grass Lake Association \$300
- Indian River Lakes Conservancy \$250
- Millsite Lake Property Owners Association \$150
- Lake of the Woods Association \$100
- In-Kind and Volunteer Services \$1,000
- TOTAL MATCH FUNDS \$13,550

As the priority of the NYS AIS Grant was "regional" in nature, versus a focus on one lake, we partnered with the Goose Bay Reclamation Corporation to secure one Boat Steward to be shared between Black Lake and Goose Bay on the St. Lawrence River.

In addition, there are Indian River lake associations that will be participating in multiple Outreach / Education Days at three DEC boat launches. These include the Butterfield Lake Cottage Owners Association, the Grass Lake Association, the Millsite Lake Property Owners Association and the Lake of the Woods Association. Each of these associations is in the beginning stages of considering their own boat steward program,

and are eager to learn how they work, how they can help prevent the spread of AIS, and why it is important so they can share this with their membership and property owners.

Volunteers from each of these associations will work side-by-side with the paid Boat Steward at their respective launches to see first-hand how to approach boaters, what to look for, how to inspect boats/equipment and how to document/report each encounter.

We are contracting for our Boat Steward with the Adirondack Watershed Institute Stewardship Program at Paul Smith's College. They have a depth of experience with boat steward programs in the Adirondack Park, and are willing to share that knowledge with us through these services. They will recruit, hire, train and educate our boat steward, as well as train our volunteers in the appropriate and successful techniques of boat steward programs.

A Boat Steward is planned, as follows, for our launch four days a week throughout the summer – Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, when traffic is most heavy.

- Thursdays 1/2 Day NYS DEC Grant Steward
1/2 Day BL Association Volunteers
- Fridays NYS DEC Grant Steward
- Saturdays NYS Parks Steward
- Sundays NYS DEC Grant Steward

Boat Steward Volunteers Needed

One of the things we articulated in our grant application to DEC was our willingness to implement a "volunteer boat steward program" to supplement a paid steward at the boat launch. This demonstrates that we, as an Association, are vested in the long-term health of the lake.

We are looking for people to volunteer on Thursdays for 2-4 hours to supplement the paid stewards at our boat launch. Boat inspections are voluntary, so our approach is non-confrontational, educational interaction with boaters. Our goal is to educate them about how to check for aquatic invasive species (AIS) and why it is important to check, both coming "in" and "out" of Black Lake. Volunteer Boat Steward Training will be provided.

Please email: blacklakeassoc@gmail.com or call 315-440-6508 to volunteer.

NYSFOLA CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

NYSFOLA 2016 Conference "The Water is Great in New York State"

by Rich Henderson

The New York State Federation of Lake Associations, Inc. (NYSFOLA) just completed the weekend conference at White Eagle Conference Center, Hamilton, NY on beautiful Lake Moraine. This 33rd year of the conference had over 235 attendees gathered to learn and participate in important lake-related activities. With over 7,800 lakes, ponds and reservoirs in our state, NYSFOLA is the go-to organization; this is the pre-eminent conference to learn about lake law, pollution control issues, invasive species—their ongoing invasion and possible controls, dam safety, water quality monitoring, agricultural/residential impacts as well as multiple and competing priorities for our waterbodies.

Friday through Sunday morning there were 48 sessions to choose from. A track for boat launch steward programs was popular. Director Ron Perry and volunteer member Jim Staples from the Black Lake Association participated in anticipation of our starting a boat steward program this summer. Also full was iMapInvasives—a comprehensive data base growing with input from cellphones and laptops of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) around the state. The Point Intercept Rake Toss was demonstrated for the evaluation and identification of AIS.

The Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP) training, in both classroom setting to explain sampling requirements and actual on-boat training on Lake Moraine to learn Secchi disk and Kemmerer bottle use, was at capacity. Black Lake Association volunteers Alan Boekhout and Jim Staples participated on our behalf. They will provide back-up support to our CSLAP volunteer member, Mike Powell.

Finger Lakes Institute and DEC had microscopes with actual lake samples to teach identification of microscopic animals and algae. There were numerous sessions describing what we know about Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) and methods to deal with them: alerts to treatments. The program contained case studies demonstrating how lakes employ different methods to control AIS with varying success. Talks on septic system management, manure spreading and feeding lot regulations offer understanding of nutrient loading.

Presentations on effective use of social media and strategies to form or grow lake associations proved to be in demand. NYSFOLA's attorney, David Wright presented Lake Law 2016 with updates on lake legal issues and interesting litigation. For fun we had a Paint-A-Lake session for aspiring artists, the annual Wine and Cheese Party, the Silent Auction, the Wine Auction and four raffles with proceeds benefiting NYSFOLA. Centrally located, and affordable, this conference is a must for lake enthusiasts.

Congratulations to Director Rich Henderson, who was elected President of NYSFOLA at this conference. He has been a member of NYSFOLA's Board of Directors since 2011. Rich is Past President of our Association and a member of our Board since 2005.

First timers at NYSFOLA from our Association share some thoughts with members.

- Ron Perry noted: "Raising the awareness of lake issues and how they affect each of us and our property, would probably help to increase volunteers as much, or more than anything we can do."
- Alan Boekhout commented that: "It was a good opportunity to meet a fellow camp owner from an entirely different area of the lake and share notes about our experience over the years."

- Jim Staples said this about the boat steward workshop he attended: "The key theme was to standardize the program for all — procedures, forms, even the red shirts — so boaters from all over the state will recognize us as a cohesive program dedicated to controlling AIS."

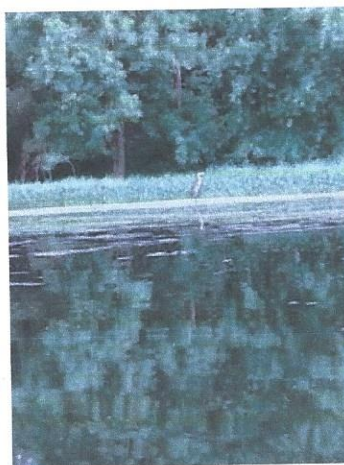


Photo submitted by member Nancy Vredenburg for new brochure.

COMMUNITY NEWS

July 2nd Boat Parade

Don't forget the 9th Annual Black Lake Boat Parade on Saturday, July 2nd. Decorate your boat in patriotic colors of red/white/blue. If you can't participate, make sure you find a spot to watch. Last year the parade started at 12 noon @ Mile Arm Bay, and followed the right shoreline, ending at McLear's.

Details are not finalized yet for 2016, so watch for updates on our *Facebook* page.

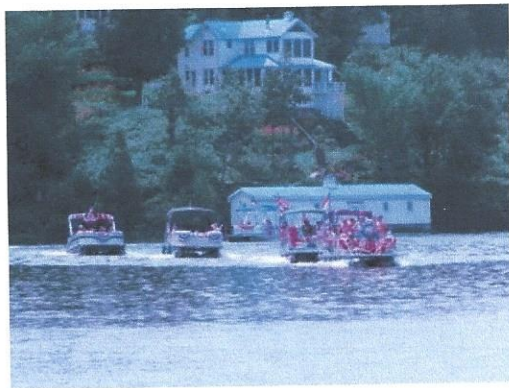
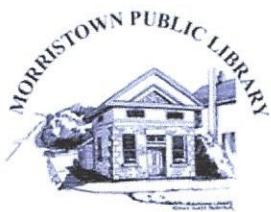


Photo by Pete Bogardus © 2015

Plein Air Festival – August 4-7

The Morristown Public Library has once again invited artists from across NY State and beyond to capture the area's bucolic beauty through their paintings. Black Lake, the St. Lawrence River, castles, farms and other North Country venues will be captured by the more than 30 artists scheduled to participate.



Take the opportunity to watch them create their art outdoors, as well as attend Sunday's art show featuring over 90 original paintings (oil, acrylic, watercolor) for sale. Mark your calendar and plan to participate; you won't regret it. Event details will be posted on their website.

www.morristownpubliclibrary.org

Panfish Marathon 2016

The Black Lake Chamber of Commerce is once again sponsoring the popular Panfish Marathon from mid July to early October. Entries and details will be available from participating Chamber merchants, once things are finalized, or go to the BL Chamber website www.blacklakeny.com as more information becomes available.

Black Lake Boat Launch Improvements

Construction at the Black Lake Boat Launch is progressing well, according to Mark Spaulding, NYS Parks, 1,000 Island Region. "The new docks / ramps are tentatively set to arrive and be installed by mid-May. The boat ramp is useable by the patrons now and they seem to be adjusting to the two-lane configuration quite well," according to Spaulding. The waterless restroom is nearly complete, with solar lighting, handicap parking and site improvements still on the agenda. Improvements should be completed before Memorial Day.



Photos courtesy of NYS Parks.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Officers:

President: Karen Winters, kwinters@gmail.com
Vice President: Sue Watson, watson_sueella@hotmail.com
Treasurer: Veronica Badini, rbonthebay@aol.com

Board of Directors:

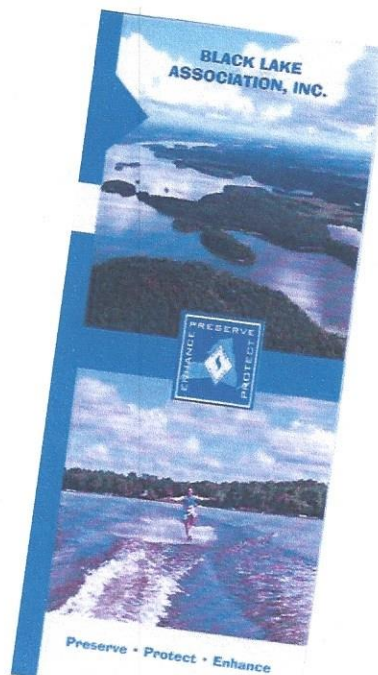
Harriett Bartlett, harrbartbay@aol.com
David Duff, woodandduff@gmail.com
Richard Henderson, rchender01@gmail.com
Ron Perry, decreseller@gmail.com

Annual Meeting – Saturday, July 9

We are in the process of planning for our Annual Meeting, scheduled for Saturday, July 9 (10 am to 12 noon) at the Black Lake Fish & Game building, County Route 58 and Potato Street / Gilbert Road intersection.

Highlights of our new Boat Steward Program at the NYS boat launch on Black Lake will be shared with attendees. This is also the meeting where we elect Board Members and provide you with information regarding our goals and planned initiatives.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. We can use your input.



Our new brochure has been printed and will be mailed in May to all Black Lake property owners, encouraging them to join our Association.

BLACK LAKE ASSOCIATION

2016

Membership Application / Renewal

Name (s): _____

Permanent Address: _____
(City) (State) (Zip)

Lake Address: _____
 Please check if this is a mailing address. From: _____ To: _____

E-mail Address: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Newsletter Preference: USPS E-mail

2016 Annual Membership Fee: \$25 Renewal: _____ New: _____

Add my name to the Volunteer List (You will be contacted as volunteer opportunities arise to see if available.)

Interests: _____

Referred by: _____
(Current Member Name)

Your mailing label shows the last year your dues were paid.

Make Check Payable to Black Lake Association and return to:
Veronica Badini, Treasurer
P. O. Box 308
Hammond, NY 13646

INVITATION

FREE Ice Cream Social – July 6

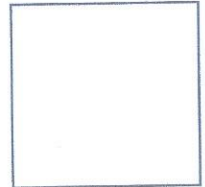
As part of our 2016 Membership Drive, we are inviting all Black Lake property owners to a FREE Ice Cream Social on Wednesday, July 6 from 5-9 pm at Bella Brooke Vineyard and Winery. This will be an opportunity to socialize with other Black Lakers, enjoy delicious ice cream, listen to the music of Joe Battles, and learn about the initiatives our Association is undertaking in our effort to preserve, protect and enhance the Black Lake eco-system.

With over 950 property owners on the lake, our membership needs to grow beyond our current count of 150. More voices need to be heard, more volunteers need to be recruited, more property owners need to understand the threats to our water quality, more need to invest in the lake, and more dues revenue needs to be generated to undertake the long-term initiatives that will benefit us and generations to come.

Mark your calendars now, talk to your neighbors and watch for special mailings in May and June regarding this fun event. We planned it for the week of July 4th when more might be staying at the lake for the week. Bella Brooke Winery has graciously provided their grounds and new building free for this event. Spread the word – it should be a fun gathering.



Black Lake Association
P. O. Box 308
Hammond, NY 13646



Mailing Label