

The Blackwater blurb

Volume 6, Number 2

October 2011

Keep An Eye Out For Invasive Species

There are thousands upon thousands of little critters and plants that live in Blackwater Lake. Fortunately, so far we are not aware of any problems with invasive species in our lake. We want to keep it that way. Most of us get out on the lake and have the opportunity to watch out for these harmful species. Below are some tips to help you identify a few of the invasive species that are found in nearby waters.

Zebra mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*) are fingernail-sized mussels. Adults are 1/4 to 1 1/2 inches long and have D-shaped shells with alternating yellow and brownish colored stripes. You will often find them in clusters in shallower (6 – 30 feet) waters.

Source: Mn Sea Grant

Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) Purple Loosestrife Plant. Source: MNDNR
These are just a few of the more common invasive species we have in Minnesota. As someone that cares about the future of Blackwater Lake, we should all learn how to recognize these harmful species, so that we can act quickly to prevent them from becoming entering or spreading in our lake. For more information on invasive species, visit <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/index.html>.

Curly-leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*) Curly-leaf pondweed is another submergent plant found in lakes. It starts growing under the ice and

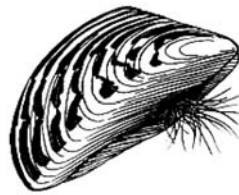
can start causing nuisance problems early in the year. It usually dies off by early July and releases nutrients into the water column. It is found in shallow water, about 3 – 10 feet deep. The leaves are reddish-green, oblong, and about 3 inches long, with distinct wavy edges that are finely toothed. The stem of the plant is flat, reddish-brown and grows from 1 to 3 feet long. It reproduces and can be spread from turions, which are hardened stem tips.

Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)

This invasive submergent plant has been around for a while and is found in shallow water and up to about 25 feet deep, depending on water clarity. It is similar to the native watermilfoil which we have in Blackwater Lake, but Eurasian watermilfoil has fine, almost feathery, leaves. When held up, the leaves droop. They grow in a whorl of 4 around the stem. The native milfoils tend to be stiffer plants. One very important identifying feature is the number of leaflet pairs. Eurasian watermilfoil has 12 – 21 leaflet pairs. Native milfoils usually have only 5-9 pairs of leaflets. This plant is often confused with Coontail, a native species in addition to the native milfoils.

Source: MN Sea Grant

Carolyn Dindorf
Secchi Disk Committee Member



Zebra Mussel



Curly-Leaf Pondweed



Purple Loosestrife



Eurasian Watermilfoil

Blackwater Lake Association, Inc.

A member of the Minnesota Waters Association
And Association Of Cass County Lakes.

Officer and Board Members

Chairperson

Lloyd Thielmann lloydterryt@aol.com

Vice-Chairperson

Dick Clough rich_clough@msn.com

Secretary

Craig Laughlin srcfunding@aol.com

Treasurer

Linda Burns burns.linda3gmail.com

Director

Elmer Schwerin sherwin@tds.net

Director

Tim Marr NonandBop@tds.net

Director

Richard Pfutzenrueter pfutz001@tc.umn.ed4

Director

Court Lechert clechert@tds.net

Director at Large

Bob Seemann rseemann@tds.net

Newsletter

Carla Hunt scoopspub@msn.com

Immediate Past Chairperson

Barb Laughlin barbie-laughlin@hotmail.com

Committee Members

Healthy Lakes:

Bob Seemann Lloyd Thielmann Linda Burns
Jim Eller

Secchi Disk:

Jim Eller Bob Seemann
Lloyd Thielmann Carolyn Dindorf

Fish Management:

Lloyd Thielmann Court Lechert Dick Clough

Bog Control:

Elmer Scherwin Jim Lorbeski Glenn Stocker
Craig Brockhagen Lloyd Thielmann Tom Staley

Waterway Task Force:

Elmer Scherwin Jim Eller Glenn Stocker

Membership:

Tom Staley Lloyd Thielmann

Website Chair:

Elmer Scherwin

WebMaster:

Travis Skalicky

Chairman's Update

I am honored to be chairman of the Blackwater Lake Association and just hope that I can fill the shoes of the many chairpersons before me. They all have done a great job and I thank them for that. We would like to encourage all of the association members to contact any of the board members listed with any concerns that you may have concerning our GREAT lake. Our board of directors is a very exciting and dedicated group so don't hesitate to speak to them and we will see what we can do. We make a lot of decisions on the internet so we can act on many things quickly if it is necessary. The minutes from our annual meeting are posted on the web site and our BOD fall meeting minutes will also be there for all of us to review. We invite any member to attend our BOD meeting to voice thoughts or concerns. As you will see we are all very open in what we do and we will address any lake issues we can.

This next spring we will be doing (hopefully) the last leg of the BOG removal and we are looking for a BOG chairman. We have had Elmer Schwerin, Dick Clough and Bob Seemann in the past years as chairmen and we thank them from the bottom of our hearts. We will be setting the dates and lining up strategy at the fall board meeting for the spring of 2012.

Your new healthy lake committee is in the process of acquiring a grant of \$2400.00 and another matching grant of \$5000.00 which will help with the many projects and visions we have. At the visioning meeting the lake owners present chose to focus on water quality and quantity so we will be working in those directions. We updated the Lake Management Plan to show our latest plans and thoughts. It is a road map for future leaders of our association to just pick up with our thoughts and continue in the directions we are headed.

The exciting things we did this past year are BOG removal, 4th of July parade, annual meeting, healthy lakes meetings and training, water clarity and quality testing, septic testing, beaver control and more.

We belong to the Association of Cass County Lakes and the Minnesota Waters Association. They both are very active in the invasive species issues and we are very concerned also. We will be following up after this board meeting with some of the ideas and thoughts that your board came up with.

Thanks

Lloyd Thielmann
Chairman of the Board



Membership Report

As we write this report on or about October 1, 2011 we have 78 current or paid members. This number is still down from past years. Your board of directors, along with many very strong volunteers are working to make and keep our lake the beautiful gem that it is. We need your support as both a volunteer and a member. Please know that you can contact any of the board members listed in this publication for any questions or ideas.

We are involved in many projects and they all require money so please consider joining and sending your completed application along with a check for \$30.00 to BLA Inc Treasurer, Linda Burns @ 6015 11th Ave S, Mpls, MN 55417. WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Some of us have just forgotten to sign up this year and that is no problem. For your convenience we have marked the address label on this BLURB with a red X if you are a current member. X means you are in the in crowd.

There are many things we have been doing or are doing with our money and we have exciting news that we are working on a **\$5,000.00** grant from the Healthy Lakes Initiative Foundation. This is a matching grant so we need to have our own money to get theirs and continue with all the work we are doing.

Thanks to those who are members and thanks in advance to those who are rejoining us or joining for the first time. Welcome aboard!!!

Lloyd Thielmann
BLA Inc Chairman

Treasurer's Report

We are pleased to announce that at the time writing this report we have 79 paid members. That is up 5 from this same time last year. We do have some new members so this means we are still behind our record setting numbers of 2008-2009 which was 125 members. This means that a few people have just forgot or didn't send in their dues. For your convenience we have marked a RED X on the address label if you are a current paid member. If there is not a RED X on your label please fill out the application and send your \$30.00 check to BLA Inc Treasurer, Linda Burns @ 6015 11th Ave S, Mpls, MN 55417.

At this time we have a check book balance of **\$5,045.36** and we no longer have a CD as we cashed it in this spring to pay for BOG expenses. We are still in great shape as we await the grant money from the Healthy Lake Initiative. It is a matching grant so we still need a healthy balance to do the things your Board is deciding upon to make our lake a better and healthier place for time to come.

The bog donations have been most generous and we thank you. So far **\$9,095.00** has been collected over the last 4 years and we are still accepting any extra you might have. Please send your checks to Linda at the above address. We will hopefully wrap up the last leg of the bog removal in the spring of 2012.

Lloyd Thielmann
BLA Inc Chairman

Linda Burns
BLA Inc Treasure

\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$



MEMBERSHIP FORM Dues \$30 (Fiscal Year - July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012)

NAME: (please print) _____

SPOUSE: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ - _____

E-mail: _____ HOME Ph: (____)____ - _____,

BUS. Ph:(____)____ - _____

Lake Address if not your permanent residence:

Street: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ - _____ Ph:(____)____ - _____

Particular Interests/Concerns: _____

Willingness to get involved: High _____ Medium _____ Low _____

Send to BLA INC. Treasurer, Linda Burns 6015 11th Ave. S. Minneapolis, MN 55417

Healthy Lakes Report

As we write this report on about Oct 1st we have some very exciting news. We are just about done rewriting the Lake Management Plan for our lake (we are done and it is in the hands of the Initiative Foundation). We had a visioning meeting on July 30, 2011 with 15 lake owners present. At this meeting we worked to find our main areas of concern for our lake. With the help of John Sumption, our facilitator, we determined that our focus should be on water clarity and quality for the years to come. We want to keep our lake the fantastic treasure that it is for generations to come.

When we get this Lake Management Plan finished and accepted by the Healthy Lakes Foundation we will have received about **\$2,400.00** in grants. We will also be able to show plans for projects (some continuing and some new) and receive another matching grant for **\$5,000.00**. WOW!!!! This is very exciting so we can get help with our final bog removal, septic testing program, beaver control program, aquatic vegetation study, invasive species work and many more programs. We strongly encourage anyone who has not had or feels the need to have their septic system tested to do so. Your lake association board of directors has continued the plan of paying for it and the grant money will definitely help.

It is amazing that the Healthy Lake & Rivers Partnership Program wants to give us all this money to do such great work for our generations to follow us. We thank them!!

This new Healthy Lakes committee consists of Chair/Bob Seemann, Lloyd Thielmann, Linda Burns, and Jim Eller. Be sure to thank them all for their work on this project for our lake and as usual if you have any questions please feel free to contact any one of us and we will answer your question or find someone that can.

The (new) Healthy Lakes Committee
Bob Seemann 218-682-3332
Linda Burns 612-869-3542
Lloyd Thielmann 763-427-5358
Jim Eller 612-727-2074

Annual Fourth of July Boat Parade

Had a great participation from the Blackwater Lake cabin owners. The boats were decorated in true American colors- red, white and blue as were the boat drivers and their passengers. Lady Liberty led the parade while songs of freedom filled the air. Many cabin owners have told me how their whole family gets involved decorating their boats and creating costumes for themselves. Our French visitor Marie-Lys Borsa from Paris commented that the parade was "very patriotic" and I couldn't agree with her more. See you again next year!

Patriotically submitted,

Barbie Laughlin
BLA Inc. Past Chairperson

Web Site Update

Please take the time to get familiar with our web site. Minnesotawaters.org. go to lakes and rivers groups. In the future, we will be using the web site to keep you up to date with current information. We are paying for this service and it is time we start using it to our advantage. Paper costs money, while copy costs are expensive and stamps are not cheap any more. Travis Skalicky, our Web Master, has done a very good job of putting this together and we should make use of it

Elmer Schwerin
BLA Inc. Director

Waterway Task Force Report

We have again, hired our trapper for another year. He will also be taking care of the Wild Life Management Area, so he will have complete coverage on both sides of County Road #11. The DNR issued him a new contract just recently. I am asking for volunteers to help keep the grating in front of our culvert clear of debris next spring. People that live here through the winter and are here during the spring melt can help.

Elmer Schwerin
BLA Inc. Director



6th Annual Blackwater TRYathlon

Have you ever wondered if you wanted to Try a triathlon? Blackwater Lake neighbors on the South side did just that on Labor Day Monday this year. Named the Blackwater TRYathlon, folks competed in a sprint triathlon by swimming 1/4 mile, biking 13.7 miles and running or walking 3.1 miles.

"The best part is accomplishing something that you didn't think you could do," said Pat McKee who completed for the first time along with her son and friends from the Twin Cities.

Now in it's 6th year, the idea to host a neighborhood triathlon started percolating when Blackwater Lake friends Barb Laughlin and Becky Seemann couldn't register for the Northwood Triathlon in Nevis, MN. because it closed out within days of opening. The two said, "Then let's figure out a way to do our own at Blackwater!"

It's a fun TRYathlon where everybody is a winner. And it's a great picnic afterward. If you're interested in 2012, contact Becky Seemann at rseemann@tds.net for details.

Blackwater's Reason For Staying Clean

On July 3, 2011 Tom and I spent the afternoon out on our lake, with our pontoon, fishing gear, books, magazines, food, and drink. It was sure fun to see the many others doing the "water thing". Canoes, kayaks, a sailboat, fishing boats, pontoons, boats pulling tubes, sea-dos, etc. all moved in the water. The shorelines, too, were full of water excitement. This is why we care about our lake, and want to protect it.

For several years now we have been made aware to "float a clean boat". When moving our equipment to other lakes, we need to include cleaning the boat surface, the live well, drain plug, fishing gear, bait buckets, the trailer, and the

motor. At times it will necessitate cleaning anything that was in the water, such as skis, inflatable towing equipment, life jackets, and fishing nets.

When using other lakes, we cut the spread of invasive species with a thorough cleaning. It's up to us to protect our lake and other lakes as well. We owe it to the people using the lakes now, and those who will enjoy them in the future.

Do your part to protect our lake.

Gerri Staley

Annual Meeting Prize Donors and Winners

PRIZE

Shoremaster Beach Ball
 Shoremaster Beach Ball
 Shoremaster Beach Ball
 Shoremaster Beach Ball
 Shoremaster Beach Ball
 Shoremaster Beach Ball
 \$10.00 Gift Certificate
 Water Balloon Launcher
 \$20.00 Gift Certificate
 Cutting Knife
 \$25.00 Gift Certificate
 \$20.00 Gift Certificate
 \$10.00 Gift Certificate
 \$10.00 Gift Certificate
 \$10.00 Gift Certificate
 Shoremaster Hat
 Blackwater Hat
 \$20.00 Gift Certificate
 \$20.00 Gift Certificate
 Necklace
 Necklace
 Necklace
 Reusable Bag
 Cabin Life Magazine Subscription
 Blackwater Bog Book
 Floating Boat Key Ring
 Floating Boat Key Ring
 Shoremaster Lip Balm
 Insulated Coffee Mug
 Insulated Coffee Mug
 Blackwater Cutting Board
 Minnesota Cutting Board
 Bird House
 Natural Dish Soap and Cloths
 Friendly Products Bag
 Wooden Picture Frame
 Can Koozie
 Can Koozie
 Can Koozie
 Can Koozie
 Can Koozie
 Can Koozie
 Can Koozie
 Can Koozie
 Can Koozie
 Can Koozie
 Can Koozie
 Can Koozie
 Can Koozie
 Can Koozie
 Can Koozie
 Hanging Plant
 Lake Membership For A Year
 Lake Membership For A Year
 Grill Serving Set
 Scented Candle
 Scented Candle

DONOR

All Care
 All Care
 All Care
 All Care
 All Care
 All Care
 Mule Lake Store
 Wheeler Marine
 Wheeler Marine
 Walker Bank of Longville
 Patrick's Fine Dining
 Mule Lake Corral
 Mule Lake Corral
 Mule Lake Corral
 Mule Lake Corral
 All Care
 Mule Lake Store
 Hawks Bar of Monticello
 Hawks Bar of Monticello
 Artwoods Design
 Artwoods Design
 Artwoods Design
 Walker Bank of Longville
 Tim and Jan Marr
 Tom and Gerri Staley
 All Care
 All Care
 All Care
 All Care
 All Care
 Artwoods Design
 Artwoods Design
 Reim Lemke
 Lorraine Lemke
 Janice and Jane Schuter
 Artwoods Design
 All Care
 All Care
 All Care
 All Care
 All Care
 All Care
 All Care
 All Care
 All Care
 All Care
 All Care
 All Care
 All Care
 All Care
 Richard Pfitzenrueter
 Blackwater Lake Association
 Blackwater Lake Association

WINNER

Tom Tiemens
 Ron Sonnenberg
 Pat Schwerin
 Bob Seemann
 Jean English
 Sue Peterson
 Reim Lemke
 Keith Wahlstrom

 Dodi Sletten
 Richard Pfitzenrueter

 Gerri Staley
 Claus Peukert
 Karen Minge
 Tim Marr
 Rick Zbikowski
 Jerry Franke
 Jody Sorenson
 Peggy Skalicky
 Jeff Wibeto
 Nancy Rakotz
 Al Peterson
 Marjorie Clough
 Jim Sletten
 LaVern Lucas
 Betty Loucks
 Tom Staley
 Larry Hunt
 Dick Clough
 Linda Burns
 Auggie Grapentin
 Erik Minge
 Travis Skalicky
 Rose Burns
 Don Rakotz
 Harriet Redman
 Becky Seeman
 Barb Thompson
 Doug Sorenson
 Lorraine Lemke
 Court Lechert
 Lloyd Thielmann
 Cindy Lucas
 Diane Peukert
 Jan Marr
 Kevin Skalicky
 Colleen Grapentin
 Eldred Redman
 Corrine Sonneberg
 Elmer Schwerin
 Andrea Pfitzenrueter
 Kathy Zbikowski
 Bart Dalbronski

Got News, Announcements to
Make, Pictures to Share?

Please submit articles of interest to:

Carla Hunt, Editor, Blackwater Blurb
19145 Concord St. NW
Elk River, MN 55330

or e-mail to Scoopspub@msn.com.

WANTED

**Bog Chairperson
And Workers**

**Usually the Sunday & Monday
after Memorial Day**

Blackwater blurb
Blackwater Lake Newsletter
282 Norman Point Road NW
Longville, MN 56655-3284