

The Blackwater blurb

Volume 10, Number 1

June 2015

Aquatic Invasive Species

AIS is a very complicated and serious issue that is confronting all the lakes in our state and country for that matter. It is common sense that it is much better to try to prevent it than it is to “try” to get rid of it once it has been established. In talking, it is most important to have inspectors to monitor the boat landings and all the activities and practices that go on around them. We must also develop stiffer penalties for offenders and educate everyone about these issues. We are lucky enough that the state of Minnesota has appropriated a lot of money to fight this problem. It is being channeled thru many different county agencies, the DNR and other government groups. Our state legislators are very aware of the issues and the concern of their constituents and we need to continue to contact them when these bills come up. To reach your senator just go to the internet and sign on to Minnesota Legislator-Geographic Info Services and follow their trail.

Currently we have a DNR trained inspector at our access for 10 hours per weekend and we were told that starting later in June we would get up to 24 hours per weekend. These hours of inspections are right now being paid for by the Cass County Environmental Services so be sure to thank them if you get the opportunity. All it takes is some of these species on one boat that is infested and away we go, so we all need to be very vigilant and do our part. Once again (see something say something) is a good plan. We can't be too careful. Please cooperate with these inspectors and be respectful because they are just doing their job and helping us. We also have a car and boat counter at the public access which we purchased last year and the DNR monitors and records the data. This tells us at what time of day and on what



day the heaviest traffic occurs. The DNR and your lake association uses the data to help plan our inspection times.

Over the last winter Craig Laughlin and Lloyd Thielmann spent 2 days at the first AIS Summit in St. Cloud and we learned many important ideas. There are numerous other workshops where we can learn new technics. Some of the thoughts that came from the summit are. We are getting AIS from all sides and that is the Mississippi River, The Great Lakes and the Hudson Bay. It is very important to all of us because the property values drop on infested lakes, the businesses suffer and the worst part is the lake suffers and declines.

We hope to have quite a lot of display and reading/viewing material at our annual meeting for all to learn

from. It is our job to educate and inform ourselves and all our neighbors about the great risk at hand. We should also try to help our neighboring lakes because that is where the problems could originate from. There are many invasive species but for us right now the most common seem to be Eurasian Water-Foil, Zebra Mussel and Rusty Crayfish any of which could play havoc with our great lake. Education only goes so far. We were told that knowledge is not a significant predictor of adherence. SOME people just don't care!!! We need to change them!

There are many stations for decontamination of boats and trailers in our area so there should be no excuses.

We are currently working as a board to develop more signage and do our part to make it easy for all to comply. We do have an AIS Action Plan and I can send it to anyone that wants to view it. We are in the process of developing an early detection response plan. Please do your part to help with this very serious problem!!!

Lloyd Thielmann

Chairman's Update

Blackwater Lake Association, Inc.

A member of (ACCL) the Association of Cass County Lakes, Conservation Minnesota (formerly Minnesota Waters) and (LLAWF) Leech Lake Area Water Shed Foundation.

List Of Officers And Committees

Chairperson

Lloyd Thielmann lloydterryt@aol.com 763-427-5358

Vice-Chairperson

Dick Clough rich_clough@comcast.net 952-435-5159

Secretary

Craig Laughlin srcfunding@aol.com 763-550-1946

Treasurer

Linda Burns burns.linda3@gmail.com 612-869-3542

Director

Richard Pfutzenrueter pfutz001@tc.umd.edu 651-687-0471

Director

Travis Skalicky tkpks@msn.com 763-227-8405

Director

Barb Laughlin Barbie-laughlin@hotmail.com 763-550-1946

Director

Claus Peukert city8@hickorytech.net 507-232-3774

Director at Large

Becky Seemann becky.seemann@icloud.com 218-682-3332

Committee Members

Healthy Lakes/AIS:

Linda Burns	Lloyd Thielmann	Travis Skalicky
Jim Eller	Court Lechert	Carolyn Dindorf
Becky Seemann	Claus Peukert	

Secchi Disk Readings:

Jim Eller	Bob Seemann
Carolyn Dindorf	Lloyd Thielmann

Fish Management:

Lloyd Thielmann Court Lechert Dick Clough

Waterways/Bog Control:

Claus Peukert Bob Seemann

Membership:

Becky Seemann Tom Staley Geri Staley Lloyd Thielmann

Newsletter

Carla and Larry Hunt

WebMaster:

Travis Skalicky

Reporter:

Becky Seemann 218-682-3332

Seedling/Septic Testing Court Lechert Barb Laughlin

Legislative/Governance Craig Laughlin Lloyd Thielmann Linda Burns

New Members Packet

Tom & Geri Staley 218-682-2532
Staley@uslink.net

Once again hello to all Blackwater Lake owners, neighbors and friends. It is now spring/summer in our great area of the north country.

The lake is full of water again thanks to our recent rains and everything seems good. The board of directors has just finished our spring meeting and we love the fact that there are no major issues. As you can imagine most of our time was spent talking about AIS again because we are trying to stay ahead of the facts. We discussed septic testing, beaver control, water testing and AIS.

There is now a new policy for septic testing for all to take note of. It is in a separate article in this Blurb and we encourage all to take advantage of this for what it was meant to do.

Beaver control is important also and the association has a hired hand to work on keeping the water way into Woman Lake open and flowing. He is available for hire on personal properties but the association will not be involved. He has done work for a few of our members and has helped them considerably. We all need to pitch in and try to keep our culvert free of weeds and logs so whenever anyone drives or walks by the culvert (please) feel free to pull anything out of the way to allow good flow.

We have three different people taking secchi disk readings around the lake and we have Jim Eller taking samples to send to the lab for various testing procedures. Our lake recorded a reading of 19 feet of clarity on Sunday May 24th which is the highest I have ever recorded. We also thank Court Leckert for his water level testing and recording. There is an article in this publication about water levels. We thank each and every one of them.

AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) will be our next big issue and we have an article in this paper on that also. Please take that very seriously as it can harm every one of us.

We will be having our annual meeting on Saturday, **July 18th** at the Woodrow Township Hall so be sure to mark your calendars and save the date. We will be having another boat parade on July 4th (see article) with a large prize for the best decorated boat or pontoon as judged by the participants.

The DNR is in the midst of reviewing our bass regulations and we will have a guest speaker from our area fisheries department at the annual meeting to try to explain everything and answer any questions we may have. He will also help us learn how to give our thoughts and ideas to them for analysis this fall.

We encourage all to join the association by filling out your application and sending your check to our treasurer who is listed in her report.

Once again I urge you to contact any of the listed board members with any issue that you want discussed and we will discuss them. We can't act on everything but know that we will talk about them. We also should thank each and every one of them for their dedication to our great lake.

Please remember our Vision Statement which is "Blackwater Lake Association's mission is to preserve the resources we have for future generations by undertaking necessary actions and providing a forum for ongoing education".

Chairman of the board
Lloyd Thielmann

Membership Report

Membership for the current year, which started July 1, 2014, is 124. And, we already have 9 paid members for the upcoming year which starts July 1, 2015! The total for the previous year was 119.

As we did last year, the mailing labels on last November BLURB edition showed printed in red either "PAID" or "PLEASE JOIN" This reminder appears to work, as 17 members renewed their membership after the mailing.

Annual individual and associate membership dues are \$30. Dues received at this time will be applied to the upcoming year which starts July 1. Please use the membership form in the BLURB, or download a form from the Blackwater Lake site on the Minnesota Waters website: [HYPERLINK "http://www.minnesotawaters.org"](http://www.minnesotawaters.org) www.minnesotawaters.org. Mail check for membership dues and donations to Blackwater Lake Association Treasurer Linda Burns at the address below and on the membership form.

Linda Burns, Treasurer BLA Inc
6015 11th Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55417

Treasurer's Report

We started the current fiscal year, July 1 - June 30, with **\$5104.01**. The balance as of last November 2014 BLURB was **\$4710.58**. Current balance is **\$4190.64**.

Expenses have included \$287 for the seedling program. Thanks go to Court Lechert for managing the orders for tree seedlings from Blackwater Lake Association members through Crow Country Soil and Water District.

Chairperson Lloyd Thielmann and Secretary Craig Laughlin attended the Jan 20-21 the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Summit. One attendee was granted admission, so the final cost to our association was **\$191**.

We paid annual memberships to the Association of Cass County Lake Associations (ACCL) and to Conservation Minnesota/Minnesota Waters who hosts our website.

Other expenses include the publication and mailing of the BLURB.

Currently, our only source of income is our annual membership dues - which will continue at **\$30**, and donations.

Although there is no grant money coming directly to our association, 24 hours per weekend of boat inspections at the public access are being paid by State funding through Cass County Soil and Water District. Last year we paid **\$635** as a portion of the amount for inspection hours.

Linda Burns, *Treasurer BLA Inc*



MEMBERSHIP FORM

(Fiscal Year - July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016)

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: Volunteer for culvert watch _____ DNR helper _____

AIS Inspection/support _____

**Please send completed form along with your \$30.00 check to:
BLA Inc Treasurer, Linda Burns 6015-11th Ave S Mpls. MN 55417**

Blackwater Lake Water Levels

The fluctuating water levels of Blackwater Lake are a topic of interest to many of our members. A lake's water level, or "elevation", is expressed as the number of feet above mean (average) sea level that the surface of the lake happens to be at a given moment in time. Surveying equipment is used to install a measurement system that starts with the establishment of a "benchmark". Benchmarks are stationary objects of a known elevation and are established by comparing the elevation of the new benchmark to that of one that is already known.

Blackwater Lake's water levels have been recorded since 1935 using, at various times, three benchmarks situated around the lake. One is located at the home of Court Lechert and consists of a 3/8" x 8" spike driven into a large white pine at an elevation of 1340.24 feet above sea level. Surveyors use that benchmark each spring to determine the elevation of the zero mark on a lake gauge that is pounded into the lake bottom a few feet from Court's shoreline. Over the past 10 years, the zero elevation on Court's gauge has ranged from a low of 1324.14 in 2009, to a high of 1325.01 in 2011 (a variation of about 11 inches) for a mean elevation of 1,324.56. During the same period, the spring water level, at the time of installation of the gauge, varied from a low of 1325.9 in 2007, to a high of 1326.7 in 2014, for a mean elevation of 1326.3. The zero setting on the lake gauge, therefore, started the year an average of 1.74 feet underwater (1326.3 - 1324.56), which would cause the gauge to read +1.74 on its scale. When Court tells us that the scale is reading in the triple digits, that means that the lake elevation is at least 1.00 feet above the lake gauge's zero elevation. Readings in the double digits mean that the lake elevation is .99 feet, or less, above the zero mark on the lake gauge. Court provides his readings to the DNR on a monthly basis, and they convert his raw data into actual water level readings for the lake and an annual graph. The graphs are available at our annual BLA meetings, and are published at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/index.html> (along with other information on Minnesota lakes), as well on our BLA website. Be sure to thank Court next time you see him for providing this valuable service.

The ordinary high water level of Blackwater Lake is 1,326.5 feet. According to the Minnesota DNR: "'Ordinary high water level' means an elevation delineating the highest water level that has been maintained for a sufficient period of time to leave evidence upon the landscape, commonly the point where the natural vegetation changes from predominantly aquatic to predominantly terrestrial."

The record high water level for Blackwater Lake is 1,327.33 and occurred on May 8, 1999. The record low of 1,323.4 occurred on February 28, 1935, thus creating a variation of 3.93 feet between the all-time high and the all-time low. The most recent reading of 1,326.32 feet above sea level was recorded on July 23, 2014.

The following graph shows Blackwater Lake water levels over the past 10 years. You can see from the graph that the water level has fluctuated by almost two feet during this time, and that it has exceeded the ordinary high water level (1326.5 feet above sea level) in each of the past three years.

Explained By: Craig Laughlin



FOURTH OF JULY BOAT PARADE SET TO START AT 2:00 PM

It's time to start thinking about how you'll decorate your boat this year for the Fourth of July Boat Parade around Blackwater.

A cash prize of \$100 and a trophy (donated by Skalicky Painting) will be awarded to the best decorated boat, which will be voted on by parade participants at the end of the parade after making the full circle back to Little Blackwater Lake.

Parade participants should gather near the entrance to Little Blackwater Lake between 1:45 and 2:00 to check in with the lead boats (Cindy Larson and Peggy Skalicky) to receive an entry number.

The parade will start its procession counter clockwise around the lake at 2:00 pm.

After the parade makes its way back to Little Blackwater and parade participants indicate to the lead boats their choice to win the Best Decorated Boat Award, the prize will be awarded and everyone is invited to tie up in the middle of the lake to continue the celebration.

Cross your fingers for great weather, and we hope to see you there!!

By Cindy Larson

Septic system policy

Your BOD has once again renewed our commitment to the quality of our great lake. We will continue to pay for voluntary inspections of septic systems in order to comply with the latest laws and regulations and keep our waters as good as they have been. This will be paid for only when done by our inspector and not in conjunction with a construction permit and or sale of the property. It is meant to monitor our systems for possible contamination but not for commercial uses. The new policy will take effect upon publication of this Blurb. Please contact any of our board members if you have any questions.

Thanks

Lloyd Thielmann



MEET YOUR LAKE NEIGHBORS

By Becky Seemann *Reporter*



Dick and Marjorie Clough

Dick and Marjorie Clough (pronounced Kluff), of Burnsville, had been thinking about an Up North get-a-way for years. Originally from Iowa, Marjorie spent time as a young girl on Lake Okoboji. Dick, who grew up in the Minneapolis area, had hunted deer with his dad on Big Boy and Leech Lake since the 50s. When they became empty-nesters in the early 90s, the two started looking. They initially didn't have much success, not until they spotted an ad for a cabin on Blackwater Lake.

They immediately fell in love with the "quiet" of Norman's Bay and bought the cabin. That was 1993, and they've been in love with lake life ever since. When you ask them what they like to do when they're here, they say that they never want to leave the lake. They'll add that they are putzers and like nothing more than to work around the cabin, sit in the swing and read, and go out on the lake to fish. They also are delighted with all their wonderful neighbors.

Best of all is the time they spend with their family at the lake. It's always entertaining as the kids explore and play. Already this spring, granddaughter Madeline, age 10, was investigating what happens when the snake she and the neighbor kids captured decided to regurgitate the frog it had just eaten. They actually were holding the snake when it spit out the frog. Since that was such an amazing experience, why stop there. The kids then fed the snake a minnow in hopes that it would vomit it up too.

Or there was the time when grandson Josh, age 4, set up a stand on the road to sell minnows. Never a dull moment, they say. Dick and Marjorie have two grown sons and families who live in the Twin Cities, which includes six grandkids ages 2-11.

Another time, it was Dick on a fishing outing when he inadvertently got a fish hook embedded in his hand and went to the clinic to have it removed. He was surprised when they took his picture with the hook in his hand, framed and hung it on the wall along with dozens of other pictures of big-fish catches. The clinic staff said he was the first 191-lb fish they'd ever seen caught.

Then it was the big rain storm 4-years ago when Blackwater experienced 12 inches of rain in a 24-hour period. There was so much water that you could kayak in their back yard. To prevent the dock from floating away, they filled 30 five-gallon buckets with water to place on the dock to weight it down.

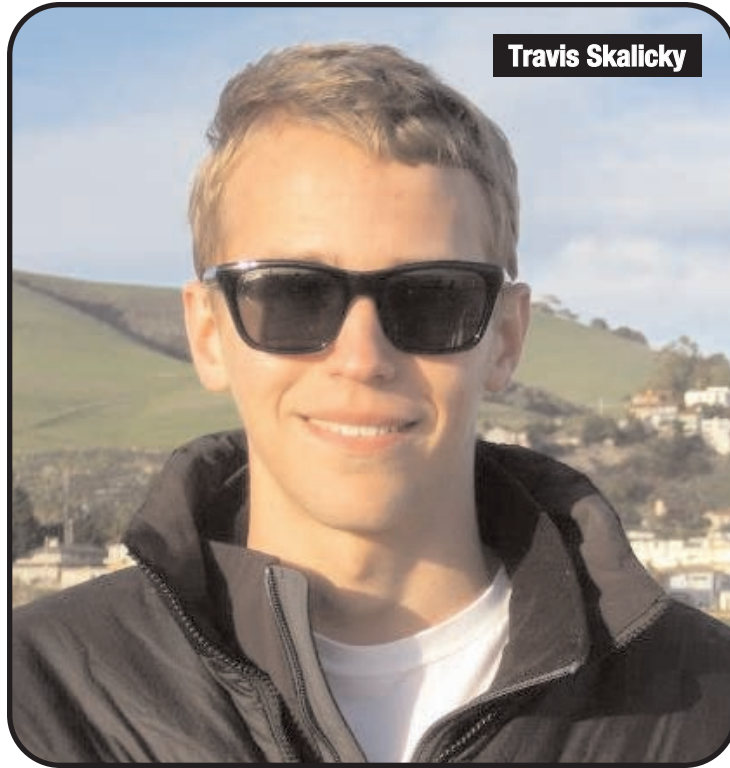
Dick and Marjorie are both retired, Dick from a successful career running a construction, building materials and land development company; and Marjorie who taught first and 6th grades, and later created figurines out of German clay that she turned into a small business.

Dick helps the Blackwater Lake Association by serving as vice-chairman and volunteers on the fish management committee.



MEET YOUR LAKE NEIGHBORS

By Becky Seemann *Reporter*



Travis Skalicky



Travis Skalicky (pronounced Ska-lick-e) of Coon Rapids, has been heading to Blackwater Lake every few weeks since he was a 4-year-old. First, it was to Pine Haven Resort starting in 1994 with his dad and mom Kevin and Peggy Skalicky, and his sister Kelly. Then in 1999, the family bought a lot on the northwest side of the lake. At first, they camped on the land. That is, until the tent blew away. Grandpa and Dad, both considered to be good do-it-yourselfer types of guys, built a bunk house next that they stayed in until the house was built in 2007-2008.

Travis is also a project guy, like his Grandpa and Dad. One of this recent projects was building a fish-house-on-wheels that cranks down. It also serves as an extra place to sleep.

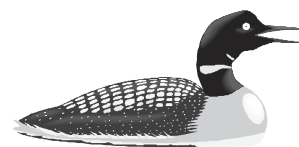
He likes fishing for the illusive walleye in summer and winter. He is into anything to do with boating and has a passion for sailing a Hobie Cat, a popular catamaran sailboat. He also likes 4-wheeling in the woods over at Stoney Lake and the Chippewa Forest.

When he's not at the lake, Travis is in college studying accounting at the University of St. Thomas where he will be a senior in the fall. He is working for a global mobility company in an internship where he

prepares tax returns for US expatriates and foreign nationals who needs US tax preparation as they are taxed on their world-wide income. He is hopeful for a full-time employment opportunity with the company when he graduates.

He's turned his love for the Hobie Cat into a successful business as a way to help pay for college. He buys the brightly-colored catamarans, repairs them, then turns around and sells them. So far, he has restored and sold 35 Hobie Cats.

Travis also finds time to volunteer for Blackwater Lake as a member of the Blackwater Lake Association Board and serves as it's webmaster.



BLACKWATER LAKE DIRECTORY UPDATES

Directories were distributed in Spring 2014. If you need a copy, please contact Lloyd Thielmann, Chairperson. If you have changes or corrections, please note on your annual membership renewal, or email Linda Burns: [HYPERLINK "mailto:burns.linda3@gmail.com"](mailto:burns.linda3@gmail.com) burns.linda3@gmail.com. (Note: NO revised edition of the Directory will be printed in the foreseeable future.)

Additions:

Lovaas, Todd & Karen
Home: 967 Cannon Ave, Shoreview, MN 56126
Home: 651-490-5661
Email: [HYPERLINK "mailto:rondamathiewetz@mathiewetz-const.com"](mailto:rondamathiewetz@mathiewetz-const.com) tklovaas@yahoo.com
Lake: 2869 Norman Point Rd, Longville, MN 56655-3415

Nyquist, Jeff & Roberta
Home: 24304 E. Clark Rd, Nisswa, MN 56468-2883
Home Phone: 281-963-8050 cell: 218-821-0361
Email: [HYPERLINK "mailto:jefrob1@charter.net"](mailto:jefrob1@charter.net)
jefrob1@charter.net
Lake: 3010 Phoebe Trail NW, Longville, MN 56655-3275

Mathiewetz, Brian & Ronda Jane
Home: 17786 CR 8, Sleepy Eye, MN 56085
Home: 507-794-6545 cell:507-360-9162
Email: [HYPERLINK "mailto:rondamathiewetz@mathiewetz-const.com"](mailto:rondamathiewetz@mathiewetz-const.com) rondamathiewetz@mathiewetzconst.com
Lake: 364 Norman Point Rd, Longville, MN 56655
Lake Phone: 218-682-2791

If you care to keep your Directory updated, please note the following additions and changes/corrections in your copy:

Changes/Corrections:

Bahr, Gary & Linda
[HYPERLINK "mailto:gbahr7@gmail.com"](mailto:gbahr7@gmail.com) gbahr7@gmail.com

Mutchler, Gary & Donna
1547 Lake Clay Dr., Lake Placid, FL 33852
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[HYPERLINK "mailto:roossl@comcast.net"](mailto:roossl@comcast.net) roossl@comcast.net

Shaner, Joel & Kathy
270 Norman Point Rd

Sonnenberg, Ron & Corrine
6017 Bethia Lane
114 Norman Point Rd. NW



**Next annual meeting will be held Saturday, July 18th, 2015.
Please mark your calendar now.**



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.



Connect to our website!

Go to **www.minnesotawaters.org** then lake and river groups, and
then Blackwater Lake Association, Inc. (Cass County).

It is full of information

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