

# The Blackwater blurb

Volume 11, Number 1

May 2016

## How many of these aquatic invasive species can you identify?

Thank you Blackwater Lake volunteers for your willingness to monitor for potential aquatic invasive species. Early detection can make a difference when management or eradication options may still be available to us.

Here are the six aquatic invasive species (AIS) that are likely the most threat to Blackwater Lake. These are plants and animals that are not found in the lake, but are found in other lakes or streams in northern and other parts of Minnesota. If you spot one of these species in Blackwater Lake, take a sample and photos, mark where you found it and notify a board member or the Department of Natural Resources immediately so it can be verified and action taken to control it.

### Plant #1

- Grows under water (submersed)
- Leaves in whorls around stem
- 12- 21 leaflet pairs
- Leaves hand limp when pulled out of water



### Plant #2

- Grows under the ice and will be visible in May or earlier. It dies off by the end of June to early July. The leaves have serrated curly edges.
- Grows under water (submersed)
- Stiff wavy leaves 2" wide, 2-3" long
- Leaf edges serrated "Lasagna-like"
- Alternate translucent leaves with branching leaf veins
- Forms turions (winter buds)



### Plant #3

- Grows along the shoreline or in wetlands
- Emergent plant (rooted in water but grows up out of water)
- 3 – 7' tall
- Purple spike bloom Aug – Sept
- Angled stem (often square)
- Downy smooth-edged leaves, usually paired and opposite



### Animal #1

- Alternate light and dark stripes
- Black to brownish D-shaped shell
- 2" to 3" long
- Byssal threads present
- Attach to hard surfaces and plants



### Animal #2

- Small (3/8 – 1/2")
- Light brown to black
- 4 – 6 spirals (whorls)
- Teardrop-shaped opening
- May be found in very large numbers



### Animal #3

- Up to 5" long
- Rusty colored spots on tan/light brown body
- Claws larger and smoother, may have black bands at tips



## 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

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

#### 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

Jerry Franke    jfranke@mchsi.com    507-237-2423

### 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

## Chairman's Update Spring 2016

Greetings to all owners, friends and neighbors of Blackwater Lake. Yet another spring has sprung and here we are to enjoy this great lake we call home. We are all so very lucky to have this gem for us and our families to enjoy.

As you can see in the membership report we had 127 members which is up from 124 a year ago. This is about a 71% involvement. It is great but there is no reason we can't improve on it because as you all know we are striving to keep our lake this way for future generations. Contact your neighbors and encourage them to join us.

We need to continue to support the AIS inspection process. We do have Cass County inspectors at the public access on a part-time basis and we need to help them in any way we can. We also need to thank them for what they do whenever we can. We recently applied for a DNR grant for more money to support this task but were denied for various reasons. Cass County Environment Service will supply a "rest room" at the access to help us. Your board recently voted to donate \$500 to the fund for inspectors and we will soon receive a schedule of inspection dates. We won't be covered on all the most popular days (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) but we will have more coverage than last year.

We have found a new volunteer to do the water testing and we want to thank Jim Eller for his dedication in the past years. Our new sample collector is Jim Sletten and we thank him for stepping up.

We are still paying for septic inspections to monitor our systems for contamination. It is a volunteer inspection but we encourage all to use it. As we stated last fall it cannot be used for construction permits or commercial sales permits. Contact myself or any of the board members if you wish to have it done.

Our new beaver control and water way worker did a fantastic job this year. He has given the board a detailed report and kept it flowing the way it should. Last season he trapped 11 beavers and did a fantastic job of keeping the culvert open.

Your AIS committee has also done a great job. We have had a training session last fall and a refresher session on May 21st. We have an 8-member response team in place. Each road that leads to the lake is covered and they keep watch for AIS which mainly includes zebra mussels and various aquatic plants. They will be armed with zebra mussel samplers and large rakes. The AIS team is headed by Becky Seemann and Carolyn Dindorf and they are doing a fine job. Be sure to thank them for their efforts.

The area fisheries office along with the DNR has raised the slot limit on our bass to 14 inches. There will be a small article in this blurb explaining our fisheries.

A few upcoming dates to remember are summer and fall board Meetings (June 26th and Oct 2nd), 4th of July boat parade at 1:45 at the entrance to little Blackwater, and the annual meeting on July 16th at 10:00 with coffee and donuts at 9:00 in the Woodrow township hall.

There will be an advertisement in this publication for Blackwater t-shirts and hats. Please order directly from the add and keep in mind that 15% of all sales go back to our general fund.

Be sure to sign on to our web site for a lot of great info on our lake. If anyone has issue or concerns please feel free to contact any of our board members and we will definitely discuss them. We can't always act on them but we will talk about them.

Thanks to all of you that work on our great lake and see you on the water.

Lloyd Thielmann  
*Chairman of the Board*

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.

## Membership Report

Membership for the current year, which started July 1, 2015, is 127 paid members. Last year, total membership was 124.

Thanks to all who support our Blackwater Lake Association's activities by paying their annual membership dues!

Annual individual and associate membership dues are \$30. Dues paid at this time will be applied to next year. Please use the membership form in the BLURB below, or download a form from the Blackwater Lake Association site on the Minnesota Waters website: [www.minnesotawaters.org](http://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

The current fiscal year is from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

As there is no grant money available this year or the upcoming year, our sources of income source are membership dues, donations, and proceeds from t-shirt sales. To date, we have received **\$2760.00** in membership dues, **\$170.00** in donations, and **\$117.90** from t-shirt sales. We also received a refund from the Longville Area Walleye Catch & Release program which has been discontinued.

Total income: **\$3218.45**.

Many thanks to all who join and renew, and to those who make donations in addition to their dues.

Our largest expenditure has been toward AIS prevention. Expenses include educational materials for the annual meeting, supplies to make AIS early detection tools, training materials for AIS early detection volunteers, and maintenance of the signs placed along the public access. Total AIS expenditure: **\$1199.77**.

Other expenses include publishing and mailing the BLURB, beaver control, seedling program, testing/monitoring lake quality, dues and donations to affiliate organizations, website, annual meeting refreshments, 4th of July parade, and thank-you cards.

Expenses total: **\$4837.32**. Expenses exceed income by **\$1618.87**; the difference is largely related to the costs of AIS prevention.

Linda Burns, *Treasurer BLA Inc*



## MEMBERSHIP FORM

(Fiscal Year - July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017)

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 \_\_\_\_\_

I/we wish to include an additional donation to support AIS efforts on Blackwater Lake (please check) \$20 \_\_\_\_\_ \$30 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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



These and many more invasive species are a threat to the quality and use of our lakes. Make sure your boat and equipment is not transporting any of these or other plants and animals. Take steps to prevent the spread of AIS. This is especially important if you've had your boat in an infested lake.

**CLEAN** all visible aquatic plants, zebra mussels, and other prohibited invasive species from watercraft, trailers, and water-related equipment before leaving any water access or shoreland.

**DRAIN** water-related equipment (boat, ballast tanks, portable bait containers, motor) and drain bilge, livewell and baitwell by removing drain plugs before leaving a water access or shoreline property. Keep drain plugs out and water-draining devices open while transporting watercraft.

**DISPOSE** of unwanted bait, including minnows, leeches, and worms, in the trash. It is illegal to release bait into a waterbody or release aquatic animals from one waterbody to another. If you want to keep your bait, you must refill the bait container with bottled or tap water.

**Spray, rinse, dry** — Some invasive species are small and difficult to see at the access. To remove or kill them, take one or more of the following precautions before moving to another waterbody, especially after leaving zebra mussel and spiny waterflea infested waters:

- Spray with high-pressure water (make sure you get in the crevices)
- Rinse with very hot water\*
- Dry for at least 5 days

Run motor and personal watercraft for a few seconds to discharge water before leaving a water access.

Learn more about preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species on the DNR website

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquaticplants/index.html>.

*(Photos by Carolyn Dindorf, Jeff Gunderson, Michal Manas)*

#### Answers for page 1

- Eurasian watermilfoil
- Curly-leaf pondweed
- Purple loosestrife

#### Animals

- Zebra mussel
- Faucet snail
- Rusty crayfish

---

## 2016 CALENDAR

**June 26** - Board Meeting 8:30 am - Thielmann's cabin

**July 4** - Boat Parade - 2 pm - entrance to Little Blackwater

**July 16** - Annual Meeting 10 am (come early for coffee) - Woodrow Township Hall

**Oct. 2** - Board Meeting 8:30 am - Thielmann's cabin

All Board meetings are open to the public

## AIS Training Session

Your AIS committee has put together a training session that will help all of us identify the various plants and animals that are our AIS. It was originally for the early response team and the board members as a refresher course but we can open it up to any member of our association that is interested. It will be held at 8:30 A M on Saturday, May 21st at the Woodrow Township Hall which is the same place as our annual meeting. It should last about 1 1/2 hours and will be very informative.

Please RSVP [becky.seemann@icloud.com](mailto:becky.seemann@icloud.com) so we know how to set up the seating.

Thanks and hope to see you there or on the water.

*Lloyd Thielmann*

## Fishing Regulations

The Minnesota DNR has changed fishing regulations for large and smallmouth bass on Blackwater Lake. All fish from 14-20" must be immediately released, and one fish over 20" is allowed in possession.

The DNR has also proposed major changes to northern pike regulations in the state in an effort to restore balance to the sizes of pike present in Minnesota lakes. In Blackwater Lake and many others, small nuisance pike have created a lot of problems for fisheries managers and anglers. This change requires legislative action – watch for new developments on this as the legislative session winds down. More information on this proposal can be found at [www.dnr.state.mn.us/pike/index](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/pike/index).

We are scheduled to receive a stocking of 678 pounds of Walleye fingerlings this fall. We are on an even year schedule. The next gill net study will be in 2019.

*The fishing committee Lloyd Thielmann and Dick Clough*



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

Meet at 1:45pm near the entrance to Little Blackwater. Parade starts at 2pm and goes clockwise around the lake. Cash prize and trophy goes to best decorated boat.

*Cindy Larson*



## Piehl's Wildwood Resort – Discovering Memories and History

Dear Blackwater Lake Neighbors,

Russ Piehl and I own the cabin with the eagles statues in the yard located as you head into Little Blackwater. It is part of what used to be 'Piehl's Wildwood Resort' from 1949 to 1968. I am in the process of writing about the history of the resort and looking for memories to include.

Do you have any information about the history or a story to share? Or maybe it is a tale you heard. Was there a major blizzard or something that affected all of us on the lake? Or do you know a person who could share some information? Those 'I remember when' kinds of things are fun, too. Please email me your stories, even if they are only 2 or 3 lines long. Some of the most interesting things describe everyday life. An example of a memory might be telling about hiring a team of horses to pull the ice houses off the lake or Russ as a 10-year-old earning a penny for every sunfish he cleaned.

If you would like to visit or if I have questions, include your phone number and/or email address and we can set up a time to meet. Names of those who have contributed will be included in a list of resources. Keep in mind, I make all final decisions about what to include in the finished document and reserve the right to edit what is shared with me.

I appreciate your time and thank you for your stories.

Barb Piehl, piehl001@umn.edu, 651-246-1141 cell



### In Memory: Marilyn Marcellus - 1940 - 2016

Marilyn (Lindhart) Marcellus passed away after a short battle with cancer on Jan. 16, 2016. Survived by her loving husband of 55 years, Duane, and children, Jennifer Marcellus Koithan and husband Jim of Houston, Jeffrey Marcellus of Pequot Lakes, and Jodi Marcellus of Houston, 2 grandchildren, and brother, Robert Lindhart of Arizona. Marilyn grew up in Humbolt, Iowa. She graduated from Iowa State University and earned a Master's Degree in Special Education from the University of Northern Iowa. She taught for 27 years and is recognized for starting a special education program at the Humboldt schools she attended as a child. After living 26 years in Pocahontas, Iowa, Marilyn and Duane moved to their home on Blackwater Lake in 1996. For the last few years, Marilyn is known for tracking the loon population on Blackwater for the DNR. Marilyn's creativity, intellect and sense of humor will be greatly missed.

Note: In Memory is a new addition to our bi-yearly lake newsletter. Feel free to contact a board member with news to include in future issues.

By Becky Seemann



## MEET YOUR LAKE NEIGHBORS

By Becky Seemann *Reporter*



Welcome to Blackwater Tom and Robin. From Maple Grove, the Shannons first discovered Blackwater Lake almost three years ago when they visited friends, Craig and Barb Laughlin, located on the southwest side of the lake. They were immediately enchanted with the serenity of the lake and charmed by the warm, friendly folks they met.

Originally from Syracuse New York, Robin has great memories of summers spent with her sister at a lake cottage they called "lake camp" near the Adirondack Mountains. She says that growing up some of her favorite times were sleeping in their outdoor porch. Tom grew up in Boston and his summer vacations were spent at their family cottage along the ocean shore. Robin says, "We always thought it would be fun to have a vacation place—away from our real life, but we weren't really planning for it yet."

Last summer, when Tom and Robin learned about an 11-acre lot on Little Blackwater for sale on auction, they decided "maybe this could become our own special place." They bought the land and ever since it's been a fast-tracked year. The two developed plans in the fall, construction began in late winter and by early summer their cabin will be livable. Of course, it includes an outdoor screened-in sleeping porch.

They talk with delight about spending as much time as possible at Blackwater. For the next couple years that equates to working on interior staining, painting, floor tiling and developing a path to the lake. When they aren't at the lake, Robin works as a pediatric nurse practitioner and Tom is a marketing executive with a medical equipment company. They have two children, ages 22 and 24.



## 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](mailto:Scoopspub@msn.com).



### Connect to our website !

Go to **[www.minnesotawaters.org](http://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