

# The Blackwater Blurb

Blackwater Lake Newsletter

Volume 12 Number 12 2017

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.

## Trees Are At The Root Of Good Fishing *by Mike Duval MN DNR*

The roots of good fishing stretch deep into Minnesota's forests.

Trees – even trees far from the water's edge – contribute mightily to making Minnesota one of the nation's top five angling destinations.

That's because tree roots hold soil in place, thereby reducing erosion and minimizing unwanted nutrient-laden runoff. Sky blue water – healthy habitat itself – is the product of soil being bound to the land rather than bound toward a lake, river or stream by erosive forces.

Similarly, leaves and conifer needles buffer pounding rains, thereby allowing moisture to seep into the land rather than streaming across it. Minnesota has sparkling trout streams in the southeast and clear, high quality walleye, muskellunge and bass lakes in the north, in part, because forests – nature's gigantic sponge – help provide what is most important for fish: clean water.

Individual trees at the water's edge also provide benefits. Fallen trees along shorelines are an important physical habitat for many fish species and their prey. This woody habitat is used by fish for spawning, feeding, and protection from birds, otters, and other predators that would eat them. The nature of fallen trees is to nurture healthy fish populations.

In fact, research studies have shown the importance of woody structure for maintaining abundant yellow perch populations in lakes. In the absence of wood, perch populations crash and an important food resource for walleye and pike is lost, affecting growth and survival of these popular game species. Forested shorelines are a continuing source of new woody habitat input that replaces older fallen



trees that decay over time and lose much of their habitat value. While it's counterintuitive to think forests benefit fish, that's clearly the case. Resource managers well know that forest stewardship provides benefits that extend well beyond the wood products industry – they extend all the way to the 1.4 million people who fish Minnesota's waters.

To illustrate this point consider the cisco, often referred to as a tullibee. Tullibee is an important prey species for lake trout, pike, muskie and walleye. Most of Minnesota's quality pike, walleye, and muskie fisheries have tullibee as the primary prey species.

Members of the trout family, tullibee require cold, oxygenated water to survive. That's a problem for this species in late summer because the water near the surface becomes too warm and the water at the bottom contains too little oxygen. As a result tullibee become trapped in a narrow band of habitat somewhere in between, sometimes only a few feet in depth. If the water warms too much from the top down or oxygen depletion extends too high from the bottom up, the fish die.

Healthy forests can help prevent this from occurring by keeping nutrients on the land, which minimizes their oxygen-depleting impacts. When tullibee disappear from a lake, the quality of other game fish populations can suffer as they have to shift to less suitable prey of lower nutritious value. Tullibee exemplify the complex ecological relationship among forests, lakes, fish species, and fishing quality.

So it's clear – good forest stewardship is good stewardship for fishing, as well. And conservation-minded private forest landowners play an important role in sustaining quality fishing in Minnesota!

Blackwater Lake Association Newsletter  
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## Blackwater Blurb

### In this Issue:

- Chairman's Update
- Forests at the Root of Fishing
- DNR Walleye Stocking Report
- Blackwater Wordfind
- So You think You Are Insignificant
- Meet Your Lake Neighbor: Cabin Trust to Next Generation Living the Resort Life
- Free Tree Seedlings



Photo by Jerry & Evonne Frank

### Mark Your Calendar

Board Meetings	Cabin Coffee Gatherings
May 6, 2018	10:00 AM June 14, 2018
June 12, 2018	10:00 AM July 12, 2018
October 7, 2018	10:00 AM August 9, 2018
Annual Meeting	Boat Parade July 4th
July 14, 2018	

Please submit news, announcements or photographs to:  
Becky Seemann  
2608 6th Ave NW  
Longville MN, 56655  
[becky.seemann@icloud.com](mailto:becky.seemann@icloud.com)

Visit our Web Site at:  
<https://minnesotawaters.org/blackwaterlakeinc>

We hope everyone had an enjoyable summer season on our great lake. The fall season was fantastic in color and plenty of rain. Our lake is back up to the full mark and all is well. At our fall board meeting we were able to fill the vice chairperson and director spots, both approved with a unanimous board vote. We are pleased to welcome Carolyn Dindorf as Vice Chair and Val Hyde as Director.

In gratitude, we want to thank retiring volunteers for their time and service: Since 2001, Dick Clough has served on the association board and on various committees. Since 2006, Larry and Carla Hunt have provided their graphic design, writing and printing expertise as well as served wonderful lunches at our annual meetings. Since 2013, Claus Peukert has served on the association board and written for the Blurb newsletter.

Regarding membership, it's down a little but

not too drastically. There is still time to join. We have once again put a red PAID/PLEASE JOIN on the address label to remind those of you who may have overlooked sending in your dues. It is just a reminder so that we can continue to work to keep our lake the gem that it is. Membership dues and donations are how we can build our treasury back up in the event a need arises.

We had a great 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade and annual meeting. They were both very well attended with 25 boats/pontoons and near 70 of us at the annual meeting.

We will be retaining the same beaver control person as last year. He did a great job.

We continue to invite anyone to attend our board of directors meeting with your concerns and ideas. We won't always act on them but we will definitely discuss them.

Have a great winter, see you on the water.

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Blackwater Lake Association, Inc. is a member of the Association of Cass County Lakes, Conservation Minnesota (formerly Minnesota Waters), Leech Lake Water Shed Foundation and Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocate.

- Chairperson Lloyd Thielmann [lloydterryt@aol.com](mailto:lloydterryt@aol.com) 218-682-2504
- Vice Chairperson Carolyn Dindorf [cdindorf@yahoo.com](mailto:cdindorf@yahoo.com) 763-537-9077
- Secretary Dodi Sletten [dsletten@comcast.net](mailto:dsletten@comcast.net) 612-991-3041
- Treasure Linda Burns [burns.linda3@gmail.com](mailto:burns.linda3@gmail.com) 612-869-3542
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- Director Barb Laughlin [barbie-laughlin@hotmail.com](mailto:barbie-laughlin@hotmail.com) 612-875-1005
- Director Val Hyde [pvhyde@hotmail.com](mailto:pvhyde@hotmail.com) 608-525-3209
- Director at Large Jerry Franke [jfranke@mchsi.com](mailto:jfranke@mchsi.com) 507-237-2423

**Healthy Lakes Committee:** Linda Burns, Jim Eller, Becky Seemann, Lloyd Thielmann, Court Lechert, Travis Skalicky, Carolyn Dindorf and Bob Seemann

**Secchi Disk Reading:** Jim Sletten, Carolyn Dindorf, Bob Seemann and Lloyd Thielmann

**Fish Management:** Jerry Franke, Court Lechert and Lloyd Thielmann

**Membership:** Becky Seemann, Tom Staley, Geri Staley and Lloyd Thielmann

**Waterways and Bog:** Bob Semann and Travis Skalicky

**Communications:** Val Hyde and Becky Seeman

**Webmaster:** Travis Skalicky

**Seedlings and Septic:** Court Lechert and Barb Laughlin

**Legislative and Governance:** Craig Laughlin, Linda Burns and Lloyd Thielmann

**New Members Packet and Mailing List:** Tom and Geri Staley at [staley@uslink.net](mailto:staley@uslink.net) 218-682-2532

**Living the Resort Life The Mouw Family**

It was 40 years ago when Harriet and Rod Mouw went on a fishing trip with friends to Leech Lake. As quick-decision makers, they returned that same fall to buy Holiday Haven, a seven-cabin resort on Woman Lake. They have never looked back.



From Sioux Center, Iowa, Rod's experiences in construction and lumber were perfect for running a resort where there are always projects—building decks, repairing roofs and endless other remodeling jobs. Besides running the resort, Harriet was active in the community through

Longville Chamber of Commerce. Rod was involved with the Long Pine Playground Association, Minnesota Resort Association and Congress of Minnesota Resorts.

Then in 1997, they purchased another resort — LakeView Camp on Blackwater and Mule Lakes from Paul and Pattie Norman. Ask them what they like best about their years living at and running a resort? They say, "It's all the people.

And what a great way to raise kids. Our kids played with all the children of families who vacationed here year after year. One of our rules over the years was that our kids were not allowed in the guest's cabins nor were kids of guests allowed at our house."

Now retired having sold the last cabin at Lake Haven in January, they are making time for themselves — enjoying their family in Minnesota, fishing in Canada, playing golf, quilting and traveling extensively.

**Blackwater Membership Report** *by Becky Seeman and Lloyd Thielmann*

Thanks to all of you who support Blackwater Lake! Membership is 95 paid members for the year ending June 30, 2018.

**Together we will continue to make a difference! Please become a member for 2017-2018**

**MEMBERSHIP FORM Fiscal Year July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018. Dues \$30.00**

NAME: (please Print) \_\_\_\_\_ SPOUSE \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Home Ph (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Bus Ph (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Ph (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Address if not your permanent residence: Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone numbers (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Interests/ Concerns \_\_\_\_\_

I/ WE are interested in helping protect Blackwater Lake by: volunteering on the AIS Committee \_\_\_\_\_

Serving on the Association Board \_\_\_\_\_ other \_\_\_\_\_

Included is my Blackwater Lake Membership dues of \$30 \_\_\_\_\_

And an additional donation to support AIS efforts on Blackwater Lake for \$ 20 \_\_\_\_\_ \$30 \_\_\_\_\_

\$ 50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_ Total enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Please send completed form along with your check for dues and donations to :

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

## Meet Your Lake Neighbors *by Becky Seemann*

### A Cabin Trust for the Next Generation: The Schmokel Family



It was the 50's and bachelor Bill Schmokel of Prior Lake being passionate about Minnesota's north woods bought a hunting shack on the Boy River. It was his special hide-away. Then jump ahead a few years when he and his wife Eileen swapped the hunting shack for a cabin on Blackwater's north side. That was 45 years ago. Since then, the cabin has always been the family's very special place to be together.

Bill passed away in 2016. As he and Eileen wanted their four children —Shelley, Scott, Paul and Mike—to continue the tradition of enjoying lake life together, they created a Family Cabin Trust LLC to help facilitate shared ownership.

The four siblings reflected on how their trust arrangement is successfully working when they were around the campfire during fall cabin clean up weekend. Their by-laws include selecting dates each year when each will have an exclusive

two weeks over the summer. In the spring, they take turns bidding on dates—similar to the way the draft for NFL football works. Regarding expenses, they each contribute monthly dues to a cabin fund and when they are at the lake they pay a \$10 per night family usage fee. For example, if three family households are there at the same time, that would be \$30 a night. Monthly dues cover their operating expenses and the usage fees pay for repairs and upgrades.

Each spring and fall all four siblings come together for a weekend at the cabin to open it up or close it down. So far, everything is working well. And let's not forget to mention all the fun they have throughout the year between swimming, sailing, water skiing, snowmobiling or sitting around a bonfire.



## Treasurer's Report *by Linda Burns*

We began the current year on July 1, 2017 with \$2029.91. This is lower than past years, in large part due to purchasing the Blackwater Lake wear (shirts, hats, visors) to resell at a profit towards our AIS fund. Our income to date is \$5298.00; income sources include membership dues, donations to AIS fund, and purchase BLA wear. Our expenses to date are \$3021.69, and include annual meeting/picnic refreshments, 4th of July Parade, donation to area First Responders, BLURB, beaver control, dues to affiliate associations, and water testing. Our current balance is \$4306.22.

## Generous Sponsors *By Barb Laughlin*

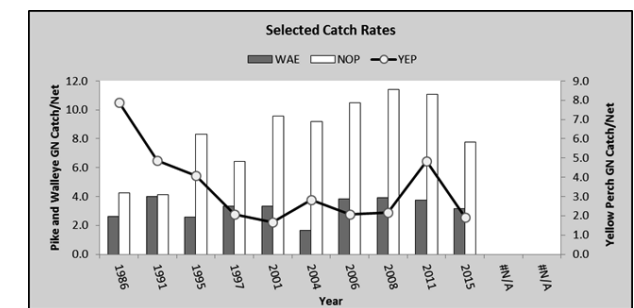
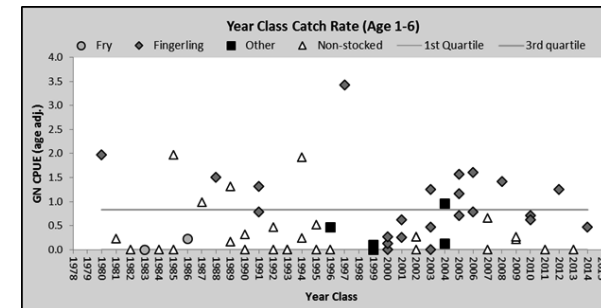
The Blackwater Lake Association would like to acknowledge and give a **BIG THANK YOU** to the generous sponsors of our 2017 annual picnic door prizes. With their support, we were able to provide a parting gift for everyone in attendance at our annual picnic.

The list includes:	Artwoods	Claus and Diane Peukert
Wheeler Marine	Duane Oesterich	Mule Lake Store
Prososki All Care	Tom and Geri Staley	Auggie Grapentin
Lakes Area Building Center	Jean English	Harriet Redmann
The Corral	Sue and Al Peterson	Rein and Lorraine Lemke
First National Bank of Walker	Linda Burns	Howard and Carole Langston

## DNR Walleye Stocking Evaluation

Subject: stocking evaluation

I hope you have had a great summer. We reviewed walleye stocking on Blackwater Lake this past year and will be reducing the fingerling stocking density from 2.0 to 1.0 lbs/LA/alternate year. Per the graph below, we doubled fingerling stocking density from 1.0 lb/LA/three years (roughly) to 2.0 lbs/LA/alternate year beginning with the 2006 year class. We have seen no measurable increase in the strength of walleye year classes or walleye gill net catch rate as a product of increased stocking effort. This change will be effective next year (2018), as Blackwater is on an even-year schedule.



Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I think the results of this review are pretty self-evident – doubled stocking with no improvements.

Best regards,  
**Doug Schultz**

Area Fisheries Supervisor | Division of Fish & Wildlife  
**Minnesota Department of Natural Resources**  
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Walker, MN, 56461  
Phone: 218-547-1683  
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Website: [mndnr.gov](http://mndnr.gov)

## So You Think You Are Insignificant *by Val Hyde*

It happens to everyone sometime, more often in the country, most often at the lake. Its happened to all of us at one time or another. You can't sleep so you go outside to watch the moonlight twinkle on the water. Then it happens. You look up at the stars, get lost for a moment, then realize how insignificant you are. It's humbling. It's comforting. It may not be true. Your impact may be far greater than you realize. Like light pollution. Party lights that delight your guests and porch lights that light your way are necessary, but, when your guests go home and you go inside, lights left on become light pollution.

When you use your lights unnecessarily, you are not just wasting money, you are creating light pollution. Fireflies and other insects once had the undisturbed light of the sun and moon. Lights at night confuse nocturnal insects that use light to signal their mates. Male fireflies identify their species by flashing a pattern of lights, then females flash their light to attract the males. Fireflies only mate when ambient lighting is less than the light of a full moon. With lighting systems in developed areas usually exceeding that intensity of brightness, female fireflies are not attracting males--threatening the future of the species.

Fireflies are nocturnal beetles that use a very efficient chemical reaction to create bioluminescent light. Inside their abdomen a chemical called luciferin combines with oxygen, calcium and ATP to make their spectacular light. Over 98% of the energy of this reaction becomes light, in comparison, an incandescent light bulb only emits 10 percent of its energy as light, the other 90 percent is lost as heat. Watching the light show is one of the pleasures of life at the lake. Firefly populations are declining. Outdoor lights can interfere with fireflies' mating behavior, so it's best to keep the lights off.

So you turn off your lights when you don't need them and limit your use of pesticides, especially during firefly season, what else can you do to help fireflies? Keep an old wood pile. Plant some pine trees. Firefly larvae live in logs and the fallen leaf and pine needle litter that accumulate beneath trees. Let a strip of grass grow along the edge of your yard so female fireflies will have a safe place to rest while they signal to the males that light up the night looking for them. Remember, because they bring wonder to our nights, lightning bugs are our special friends. So when the party is over, turn out the lights.

## Free Tree Seedlings *Court Lechert and Lloyd Thielmann, Healthy Lakes Committee*

Your Blackwater Lake Association Board members, have again voted to provide funding our tree seedling program. As in previous years, we will work with the Crow Wing County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) to obtain nursery stock (seedlings) for distribution to residents on Blackwater Lake.

For individuals who are not already on our list & wish to participate in this program, you can either e-mail me: clechert@tds.net or phone me at 218-682-2696. By being on this list, as soon as I receive notice of what the selection will be for this

coming season, you will receive an e-mail from me so you can place your order, usually in the month of January.

It is first come first served. We will fill orders until we reach our budgeted amount. In years past, we have had a "waiting list", in case someone doesn't pick up their order.

Feel free to call or e-mail me with any questions about this program & I'll do my best to get you answers.

Watch for the e-mail message this January.

## 4th of July Boat Parade *by Cindy Larson*

Turnout for this year's 4<sup>th</sup> of July Boat Parade was great, even with it being on a Tuesday! A total of 25 boats participated, winding their way around the shores of Blackwater Lake.

The Spence family from Eagan went home with the prize for Best Decorated Boat, with their Ice Cream Truck theme. The frozen novelties that they handed out to the other boaters may have helped them solidify the win.

Following close behind the Spence family in votes was the Schroeder family from Hastings, with their patriotic themed boat.

Once again, it was a beautiful day for a parade on the water, and it was great to see everyone enjoying the day on their boats, docks and shore.



2017 Boat Parade best decorated boat \$100 prize winner

## Blackwater Lake Association Services Word Find

aquatic  
invasive  
species  
response  
team  
water  
quality  
monitoring  
septic  
testing  
beaver  
control  
waterway  
clearing  
land  
preservation  
free  
tree  
seedlings  
boat  
parade  
website  
blurb  
newsletter  
bog  
removal  
new  
member  
packet  
directory

E	V	I	S	A	V	N	I	A	Q	U	A	T	I	C
B	L	U	R	B	C	W	L	O	R	T	N	O	C	T
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D	H	E	T	B	B	E	G	N	E	W	N	D	U	O
E	F	P	S	N	L	N	E	J	D	O	G	X	A	B
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G	N	G	S	B	T	T	T	E	J	E	E	N	K	R
G	D	E	G	O	E	A	T	T	S	T	T	G	C	X
V	R	O	R	D	W	W	Q	E	P	A	F	S	A	Y
P	B	Y	S	B	E	A	V	E	R	W	F	A	P	P