



Shoreline News

Big Portage Lake Riparian Owners Association

June 2009

The President's Pen

The winter season is finally over and springtime is here – can summer be far away? It sure is great to see the lake come to life with the arrival of homeowners, boaters and fishermen.

Sadly, BPL is beginning the season with unusually low levels. WHY? Several explanations are offered: water tables are really low, the winter snowfall was not enough, or the area is going through a 7-year drought cycle. No one knows for sure and to gain additional insight, a few of the board members are attending a seminar on Northern Wisconsin lake levels and will have more information for us at the annual meeting. During this time it would be a good idea to avoid using any lake water for any on-shore purposes.

Thanks to all who voted on the changes to the bylaws. The response was overwhelmingly in favor of the changes. A complete interpretation of the new bylaws will be given at the annual meeting. Soon after the meeting the documentation will be posted on the BPL website.

The boat landing and lake monitoring projects are underway for 2009 AND in the need of more volunteers. There is not a large time-commitment and the monitoring helps protect our waters. Please see a board member for the sign-up sheet and volunteer some of your time while at the lake. Thank you.

The lake management project is in process. The committee plans to submit a request for grant funding during the third quarter of '09. Committee chairman, Jules Eberhardt, has detailed the process in this newsletter for your information.

The annual meeting will be held on July 11, 2009 in the Land 'o Lakes fire barn. Social time will be 8:30 a.m. and the meeting will start promptly at 9 a.m. Please mark your calendars a plan to attend. You will find the time to be well spent.

Also, please note that the annual picnic date is August 8, 2009 at the Land 'o Lakes pavilion. Good food, prizes, games; conversations with old and new friends and fun are always present at the picnic. Check out the PICNIC page.

Enjoy the summer and we'll see you on the water.

Dale Ekkela,
President, BPLROA

Event Calendar 2009

July 11th Annual Meeting

LOL Fire barn
8:30 a.m. – Social
9:00 a.m. – Meeting
**Board meeting to follow

August 8th Picnic in the Park

4:30 p.m.
Dinner 5:30p.m.

September 5th

Board Meeting
Tom Gratz
8:30 – coffee
9:00 – meeting



BOARD MEMBERS – If you would like to serve on the board, please call Dale Ekkela 715-547-6804 or any board member. Everyone is welcome to volunteer. Board terms are 3 years - meetings are held just 3 times per year – Memorial Day& 4th of July & Labor Day weekends. No experience necessary. New people & new ideas are always appreciated and very important to the continuing stewardship of Big Portage Lake.



Treasurer’s Report

By Alice Muehlethaler

If we could see the miracle of a single flower - our whole life would change...Buddha

2009 annual membership dues in BPLROA remain at \$20 per year for property owners and \$15 per year for Associates. Thanks to all of **YOU** for supporting the Riparian Association.

In 2003, the Board set up the **Environmental Contingency Fund**. Donations made to this fund are specifically earmarked for protecting our lake from invasive plants and other catastrophic problems. ***Contributions are most welcome to prepare for future needs.***

Net Worth as of 05/22/2009	
Checking Accounts	\$2,281.39
Savings Account	322.85
Non-cash Inventory – shirts	100.00
Fidelity Portfolio	13,698.89
Total Assets	\$ 16,403.13



Invasive species are a growing problem in northern waters. 2008 was, gratefully, a good year for our lake as no exotics were found and we’re again checking the boat landing and the water so 2009 can also be problem free. Some neighboring lakes were not as lucky.

BPL is fortunate to have a proactive Board and a group of dedicated volunteers who check out the lake via boat, SCUBA and snorkeling. Dale Ekkela continues to check the State of Wisconsin website weekly for information regarding the problem.

Many other lake associations in the area are also being watchful regarding boats & trailers launched into

their lake. Frighteningly it takes just a tiny amount of weed on the bottom of a trailer or boat to infect our waters.

We all owe a big **“thank you”** to all the lake volunteers for their dedication and vigilance. They give of their time to scrutinize the lake for what can be a devastating infestation. Also, should you find any suspicious weeds, gather a sample in a plastic Ziploc bag, add water and get it to Dale ASAP.

PROTECTING OUR LAKE IS EVERYONE’S RESPONSIBILITY

If you would like to join the “team”, just give Dale a call 715-547-6804 – he’ll be happy to include you and see that you get the training required.



PICNIC IN THE PARK

A stylized illustration of a picnic basket with a red handle, a green cup, and a blue mug, sitting on a wooden table with a red 'X' design.

It's that time of year once again...are you ready for a PICNIC?

Tom Gratz, John Alt and a crew of volunteers are again gearing up for our Picnic in the Park

With a twist...

A SPECIAL RAFFLE...

A second raffle ...

A bake sale...

Plus the local merchant items!!!!

All proceeds from raffles & bake sale are going into the **Environmental Contingency Fund.**

Menu: Italian beef, pasta, brats, BBQ Beans, Hot Dogs, Watermelon, Soda & Water
(BYOB)

PLAN TO ATTEND THE PICNIC

As always if you want to help, make a comment or a donation of a door prize
please give Tom Gratz a call at 715-547-6899

No reservations are required – so plan to come early in case the food runs out!
Non Paid Homeowners & Guests: \$5.00 /adult - \$3.00 per child – Under 2 Free



BIRDHOUSE RAFFLE

Jim Tidwell donated this amazing bird feeder.

Its all hand crafted with a shake roof; easy fill top; large capacity seed holder; squirrel guard and impressive detail that any feathered friend will love.

Profits from this raffle go directly to the
Environmental Contingency Fund

Special tickets will be available from John Alt at the
annual meeting in July

Did You Know ?

As if Zebra mussels, rusty crayfish and Eurasian Milfoil weren't enough – now we need to be aware of and on the lookout for the Spiny Water Flea. This isn't an insect but a tiny crustacean with a long, sharp, barbed tail spine. It is native to Great Britain and northern Europe and was first found in Lake Huron in 1984...most likely a stow-away in the ballast water of a trans-oceanic freighter. Since its discovery in the U.S. the population of Spiny Water Fleas has exploded and can be found throughout the Great Lakes and in some inland lakes. FYI – it was recently found in Stormy Lake in Conover.

The effects on our ecosystem isn't certain but resource managers are concerned because Spiny Water Flea reproduces rapidly – females can produce up to 10 offspring every two weeks in warm summers – and as temps drop off in the fall, their eggs lie dormant throughout winter. They may compete directly with young perch and other small fish for available food. The Spiny Water Flea isn't very appetizing either – their sharp spine makes it difficult for smaller fish to eat them, leaving only some large fish to feast. They feed on plankton and that population is declining where the Flea is found.

These invaders will be spread - both adults & eggs – in bilge water, bait buckets and live wells. Additionally, fishing lines and downriggers may often be coated with both eggs and adult fleas. One more reason to clean **all** of your equipment when moving between lakes.

2008-2009 Board Members

Dale Ekkela - President	715-547-6804	daleekkela@bigportagelake.org
John Alt – Vice President	715-547-3364	
Alice Muehlethaler - Sec/Treas	714-547-3532	alicemuehlethaler@bigportagelake.org
Tom Gratz – Director	715-547-6899	
Dawn Eckstein – Newsletter	715-547-3207	dawneckstein@bigportagelake.org
Dan Johns – Director	715-547-3532	danjohns@bigportagelake.org
Dale Reilley – Director	715-547-6305	
Jules Eberhardt – Director	715-547-3259	juleseberhardt@bigportagelake.org
Jill Edwards – Director		jilledwards@bigportagelake.org
John Kranner – Director		johnkranner@bigportagelake.org
Sybil Holtzer - Honorary member		



Board Member elections at the Annual Meeting – TWO POSITIONS are available for volunteers



THE MAILING LIST DATABASE IS BEING UPDATED AND New Directories will be printed
YOUR HELP AND COOPERATION IS NEEDED

1. Please fill in the following information and return the entire sheet to:
Big Portage Lake Riparian Owners Association
P.O. Box 629
Land O' Lakes, WI 54540

**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR COOPERATION!**

2. If you are renewing your membership, please include your dues check \$20 for property owners and \$15 for associate members.

3. If you are not a member, please complete the sheet anyhow – **Your information is needed for the local fire department and emergency services as to current names, fire numbers and telephone numbers to help protect your property in case of an emergency.**

2009 Information Form



I enclose my 2009 dues: Members: \$20.00 per year

Payable in January

Associate Members: \$15.00 per year

Please Print - Thanks

Name _____ Spouse: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____ Phone# _____

Lake Address: _____

Lake Phone: _____

Email: _____

YES or NO – Send the newsletter via Email

Send My BPLROA Mail To: _____

YES or NO – Send the paper newsletter

Associate Member (s) with My Property:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

More than one Associate member? Please provide all names/addresses on a separate sheet.

Additional Property Owner(s):

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

More than one property owner? Please provide all names/addresses on a separate sheet.

Volunteer Opportunities:

YES or NO – I'll volunteer for monitoring the boat landing – see reverse side for dates

YES or NO – I'll help with the Picnic in August

YES or NO – I'd consider becoming a Board Member

Comments – Compliments – Complaints:

If you have more to say than fits here, please include on a separate sheet.

2009 Clean Boats, Clean Waters

By John Kranner

John Kranner is coordinating the efforts for 2009 until our July meeting. He needs volunteers for weekends through Labor Day. Here is John's contact information:


Local Address – 5318 Maple Leaf Road

Cell# 920-428-5895

Home Address: 640 Hansen Street, Neenah WI 54956

Phone: 920-886-9163 or 800-843-3174 ext 2488

Email: jkranner@sbcglobal.net or jkranner@jkeller.com

 A new coordinator for Monitoring is needed immediately as John's work schedule has changed. IF you are available most of the summer, please call and volunteer. The job isn't difficult but does require someone who is at the lake most of the summer or year-round. **PLEASE HELP!!!**

BPLROA is Online!

By Ron Steiner

The website is up and running - www.bigportagelake.org! Check it out if you haven't already. They even have the Vilas Review there for reading plus the Newsletter and other information of interest to BPL residents.

LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN

By Jules Eberhardt

The purpose of this project is two-fold:

- First, we need to be better prepared to react if BPL becomes infected with an invasive species. The DNR advises they can respond more quickly and accurately to address an infection if we have a lake management plan in place.
- Second we need to gain a better understanding of the overall condition of our lake. The information obtained through this project will help guide future BPLROA plans and programs.

The project is basically a base-line assessment of the lake regarding aquatic plants, water quality, watershed features, incorporating fisheries information and detailing aquatic invasive species status, including present and planned prevention activities. Public input is solicited and education provided. It is led by a consultant experienced in lake management planning with opportunities for volunteer assistance.

The DNR offers grant programs, which provide 75% of the cost of such projects, and BPLROA will be applying for funding. These grants allow credits for volunteer time assisting the consultant to reduce the cash portion of the remaining 25%. We will be applying this summer for the first year of the two-year project, which would be conducted in 2010 and 2011.

Many lake associations are competing for available funds, and we were told by the DNR that a comprehensive lake management project such as this would be well received and ranked highly for funding. In order to qualify for grant money we are also applying to the DNR for status as a "qualified lake organization". The Board believes this is a very compelling project.

State funding coupled with the opportunity to learn more about our lake will only aid us in our stewardship of BPL over the long term.