



# Shoreline News



## Big Portage Lake Riparian Owners Association

January 2010

### THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

“What Your Board Does For You”

The Big Portage Lake Riparian Association Board of Directors has two basic goals that define our existence. The first goal is to maintain the pristine conditions of Big Portage Lake, accomplished by providing lake stewardship. The second goal is to facilitate the interaction with the lake association membership.

The following is a brief outline of major board activities, with more detailed project information available later in this newsletter.

- The board reviews and monitors the financial investment status of association funds at each board meeting. Financial reports are published three times each year and are always available upon request.
- The board organizes and administers lake and boat landing monitoring processes, which in part, are intended to proactively identify and mitigate the risk of introducing invasive entities to the lake. This is our most significant challenge, and is achieved as a combined volunteer effort between the board and the membership.
- The lake management project is progressing well and we are well-positioned to receive government grants. Additional detail can be found later in this newsletter.
- Directory information is currently being updated and distribution is anticipated during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2010.
- The website (bigportagelake.org) is still under construction and we hope to be fully functional very soon.
- The lake history project is moving forward. Interviews are being conducted to document our lake. It is still very early in the project and as more information is available, it will be shared with the membership.
- Of course, our two main communication events are held on an annual basis.

The annual meeting occurs around the July 4<sup>th</sup> timeframe. At this event, relevant information is provided to the membership, new board members are elected, and association feedback or concerns are addressed.

The event of interest is the annual picnic, held during the first weekend of August. This is a great time to meet new lake members or reacquaint with existing members. We hope you plan to attend, as both gatherings are traditionally productive and a lot of fun.

The board of directors has three scheduled meetings per year, but many more hours are spent on board projects. Board Members assume different responsibilities as we move from project to project always keeping our two basic goals in mind.

There are more challenges ahead for the lake and the Board of Directors are positioned to meet these challenges.

Thank you  
Dale Ekkela  
BPLROA President



#### **EVENT CALENDAR 2010**

**May 29<sup>th</sup> --- Board Meeting**

Location — Dan Johns

8:30 — Social

9:00 — Meeting

**July 3<sup>rd</sup> --- Annual Meeting**

**LOL Fire Barn**

8:30 — Social

9:00 — Meeting

**\*\* Short Board meeting to follow**

**August 7<sup>th</sup> ---Picnic**

**Town Park**

**\*\*Details to follow**

**Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> --- Board Meeting**

Location — Tom, Gratz

8:30 — Social

9:00 — Meeting

## **NEW DIRECTORIES:**

Jill Edwards, Coordinator

Work has begun on updated Big Portage Lake directories and maps. The plan is to have the 2010 directory with map available to members in time for the Annual meeting on July 3, 2010.

The directory information will be gathered from the BPLROA member Information Forms and Vilas County public records.

If you know that your information in either of these two sources is not up to date, please make changes/corrections **by January 31, 2010**

Email: [JillEdwards@bigportagelake.org](mailto:JillEdwards@bigportagelake.org)

OR

be sure to send your dues and Information Form to  
PO Box 629, Land O'Lakes WI 54540 by Jan 31, 2010.

Each membership is entitled to a directory with a map and additional copies will be available for a nominal charge.

## **BOAT LANDING MONITORING**

Dale Reilley, Coordinator

### **We need your help!**

Volunteering your time at the boat landing accomplishes two important goals:

1) The **first line of defense** against Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) begins at the boat landing. State law (SB-123) and media exposure have clearly framed the issue making our job easier.

2) The **State will pay BPLROA** for each volunteer hour worked at the landing. The payment is a credit, partially offsetting the expense of our "Lake Management Plan".

**So, please help in this effort!**

**Training is quick and easy!**

**Just check "YES" on the Membership Form  
and we will contact you in April.**



**Thanks for your support!**

# LAKE MANAGEMENT PLANNING GRANTS AWARDED TO BPLROA

Jules Eberhardt, Coordinator

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has awarded BPLROA two grants totaling \$18,774 for the lake management planning project described in our previous newsletter.

The grants will cover 75% of the estimated cost of the work planned for 2010, which is primarily field work including water quality sampling and analysis, an aquatic plant survey, mapping and analysis, shoreline and watershed assessments and a phosphorus loading study. Lake user input will be gathered through a survey and a planning meeting.

A third grant will be applied for in February 2010 to cover planned 2011 project activities which will focus on presentation of results and preparation of a lake management plan.

The project will be led by Onterra, lake management planning consultants from DePere, WI, who have extensive experience in such projects and are familiar with WDNR grant programs.

The 25% of the project cost not covered by the grants will be the responsibility of our Association. However, we can offset most of that cost by volunteer hour credits for participating in specific project activities as well as hours spent on our Clean Boats – Clean Waters boat landing monitoring program.

Please try to find some time this coming summer to help out with boat landing monitoring and other project activities as they are announced. This includes attending the project kick-off and planning meetings once they are scheduled. All qualify for volunteer hour credits thereby reducing our cash cost.

We are looking forward to this project, which should help us better understand our lake and help us be better prepared to respond to any “infection” by invasive species.



## EMERGING STUMPS:

As we all know too well the water level on Big Portage is at it's lowest point in many years. As a result stumps are starting to emerge eight to 15 inches below the surface. Some of them have been marked with buoys, but there are probably many more.

This spring, after ice-out, when you are on the water or getting ready to launch, please check-out the bulletin board at the public landing. There is a map with known stump locations. If you locate a stump please mark it with some kind of floatation device and notify a board member of the location.

## **BOARD MEMBERS 2010**

www.bigportagelake.org

NAME	LAKE PHONE	EMAIL ADDRESS
Dale Ekkela, President	715-547-6804	dalekkela@bigportagelake.org
John Alt, Vice President	715-547-3364	JohnAlt@bigportagelake.org
Alice Muehlethaler, Sec/Treas	715-547-3532	AliceMuehlethaler@bigportagelake.org
Dawn Eckstein, Newsletter	715-547-3207	DawnEckstein@bigportagelake.org
Keith Chapman	715-547-3924	KeithChapman@bigportagelake.org
Jules Eberhardt	715-547-3259	JulesEberhardt@bigportagelake.org
Jill Edwards		JillEdwards@bigportagelake.org
Tom Gratz	715-547-6899	TomGratz@bigportagelake.org
Dan Johns	715-547-3766	DanJohns@bigportagelake.org
Dave Leifheit	715-547-3780	DaveLeifheit@bigportagelake.org
Dale Reilley, Boat Landing	715-547-6305	DaleReilley@bigportagelake.org

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

In 2003, the Association 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.***

<b>BPLROA FINANCIAL STATEMENT</b>		
As of 12/13/2009	Alice Muehlethaler, Treasurer	
Checking Account Balance		\$2,275.28
Savings Account Balance		323.25
Lake Planning Grant Account		100.00
Non-Cash Inventory—shirts		100.00
Fidelity Portfolio		
Environmental Fund	\$1,737.67	
Charitable Trust	6,973.12	
Working Capital	5,313.99	
	14,024.78	14,024.78
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>\$16,823.31</b>

In 2009, the Board voted to set dues amounts for the new Family and Individual categories of membership at \$35.00 for Families (similar to a former member plus an associate member) and at \$20.00 for each Individual member.

### ***Your membership entitles you to***

- a. A copy of the directory and map of Big Portage Lake*
- b. Meals for those in your membership at the picnic*
- c. All correspondence*
- d. Opportunity to vote at Association meetings*
- e. Opportunity to run for election to Board of Directors*

**Please Join - Big Portage Lake needs you !!!**

# Did You Know?

## 32ND ANNUAL WISCONSIN LAKES CONVENTION

*Fringe Benefits: Restoring Wisconsin Shorelands &  
Shallows*

KI Convention Center, Green Bay

Register and pay online at [www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexplakes/  
conventions](http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexplakes/conventions)



RESTORING WISCONSIN SHORELANDS & SHALLOWS

## SB 123 & NR40

The battle against the spread of aquatic invasive species officially has a new tool! SB 123 was signed by the Governor on October 28, 2009. This bill addresses a number of invasive species-related topics. Most importantly, it contains the “**illegal to transport**” language and authorizes non-DNR law enforcement (in addition to DNR law enforcement) to enforce it. To view the document visit: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/2009/data/SB-123.pdf>.

Here is a summary of the bill:

1. Expands upon the current law to prohibit objects (vehicles, sea planes, and watercrafts) from being placed into water with any aquatic plants or animals attached. Previously only boats were addressed.
2. Makes it **illegal to transport** or operate any vehicle, sea plane, or watercraft on a highway with **any** aquatic plants or animals attached. NR 40 already contains this language and now having it in code will make it easier for non-DNR law enforcement to enforce. **This is a huge step forward to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species!**  
*FYI: A recently conducted study determined that visually inspecting and removing aquatic plants and animals was just as effective as pressure washing.*
3. NR 40 lists species that are prohibited to possess. This authorizes the DNR to conduct compliance investigations.
4. Authorizes the DNR to promulgate an emergency rule in order to rapidly respond to an invasive species by quickly identifying, classifying, or controlling them. A good example of how this could be implemented is the recent removal of Hydrilla from a Marinette County pond.
5. Authorizes the DNR to designate a noxious weed by rule. This should make plants listed in noxious weed laws more consistent with those listed in NR 40.
6. Allows a person to dispose of plants in a solid waste facility if the plants are classified as invasive species with the DNR. Previously it was illegal to put yard waste in the trash.

SB 123 compliments and expands upon NR 40, Wisconsin's Invasive Species Identification, Classification and Control Rule. NR 40 became effective September 1, 2009.

To view plant species listed in NR 40 visit: <http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/classplants.asp>

To view animal, fish, algae and other species listed in NR 40 visit: [http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/  
classanimals.asp](http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/classanimals.asp)

For more information about NR 40, visit: <http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/classification/NR40.htm>

To view NR 40 visit: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/rsb/code/nr/nr040.pdf>

**BPLROA SUMMER PICNIC 2009:**

Tom Gratz and John Alt, Coordinators

Yes, even the association was involved in change in 2009. The annual meeting had a different date and the BPLROA summer picnic was the second weekend of August instead of the first weekend. The event was noticeably lightly attended. However, all attendees had great conversation, excellent food, prizes and fun games for the children.

New this year was a bird feeder donation event and items were auctioned off for donations plus a donation jar was made available at the check in table. \$835 was generated from these three activities and deposited in the Big Portage Lake environmental fund. Ample giveaways were given out to lucky people whose names were drawn. The children took turns “whacking” the piñata that contained lots of candy.

The picnic is generally held the first Saturday in August and is for the benefit of all members, their families, their guests and non-members who wish to join the fun. For 2010 your BPLROA Board of Directors need your input regarding the annual picnic. The following survey, plus a hand vote at the 2010 Annual meeting will contribute as to what social event will be offered in the summer of 2010.



Survey regarding a BPLORA Social Event for summer of 2010

- Yes, let's have a picnic!
- No picnic
- No social event
- A different social event

Your suggestion: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please complete the above form and **send with your Information Form and dues** to:

BPLROA  
PO Box 629  
Land O'Lakes WI 54540