



A LOOK AT THE LAKE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BURT LAKE PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

FALL

2023

Eightysix Days

Jim Burke, President

Monday, June 12 was a sad day. Long time BLPA Board member John Roberts passed away at age 85. His service of two decades on our BLPA Board in many ways guided us to where we are today. He was the driving force of our newsletter and inspired us to write about issues that matter to Burt Lake. He created our annual calendar and empowered others to make it better every year. John and his wife Linda designed and built our website, which we're in the process of taking to a new level. More about that later. Of all the things that John brought to our organization, the most valuable was his insight and creative thinking as evidenced by his "decision filters" which we rely on for guidance today. He was our moral compass.

Another long serving board member, Dean Pollard died on August 1, two days shy of his 91st birthday. Those of us that were privileged to know him recall that he was passionate about everything that he did. Dean started and championed our Adopt A Road program that cleans up nearly thirty miles of roadside along Burt Lake. We're continuing the program that he inspired and revitalizing it. More on that in forthcoming issues.

Dr. Ed Williams who came to our board many years ago passed away September 6 at age 95. He had an infectious smile and positive attitude. Ed was always

joking and laughing about the humor of the moment. You may remember him at our annual meetings selling raffle tickets – you couldn't say "no" to him. It's been said that he could sell a refrigerator to an Eskimo. We all miss Eddie; he was a lot of fun to be with.

Much happened over eightysix days.

It's been said of our veterans that the worst thing is not dying for your country – The worst thing is to be forgotten.

May we never forget these soldiers dedicated to the preservation of the lake we all love. May God bless them.

"The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, and spends himself in a worthy cause, who at the best knows the triumph of high achievement and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls that know neither victory nor defeat."

-Teddy Roosevelt

Tom Prout

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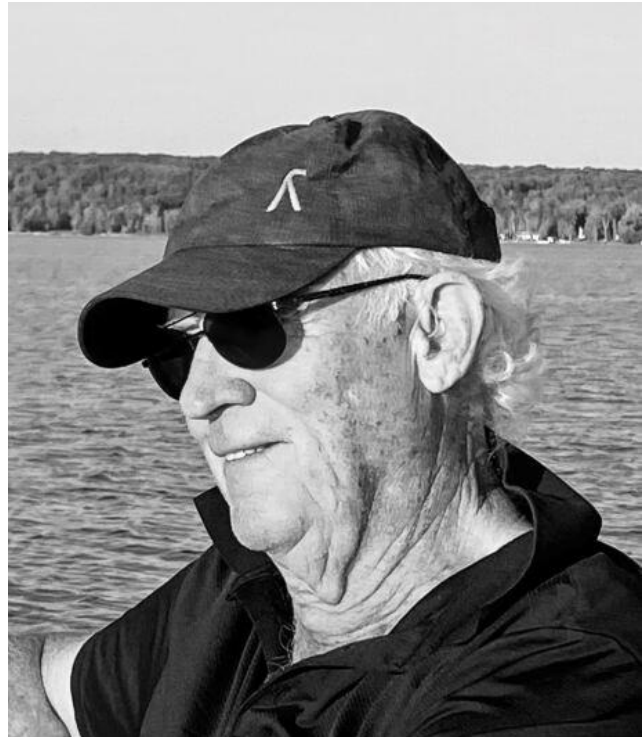
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My Thoughts of John Roberts

Gina Burke, Secretary

This past June, BLPA lost John Roberts; a huge advocate for the organization. He was a BLPA Board Trustee for twenty years and chaired our Marketing and Communications Committee. For all of you that truly enjoy the calendar and newsletter, he was the mastermind for both publications. John always made sure that the BLPA board was continually thinking about what was next for the newsletters and held all of us to a high level of expectation. Sometimes it took a little prodding. Besides those tasks he worked on the website. There were many times in board meetings when the discussion seemed to fizzle without resolution. Out from the quiet in the room the soft spoken voice of John would say “start with the decision filter” and that would get the board talking to resolve the topic. There were times when I would call or send him an email to solicit his thought and always appreciated his candor and opinions. He is and will be missed by everyone whose life he touched.



U.S Fish and Wildlife Service

Gina Burke, Secretary

While everyone enjoyed the weather that was experienced on what is called by the meteorologists as the end of summer, US Fish & Wildlife Service (USF & WS) spent a very busy Labor Day weekend on the Sturgeon River. And then they continued with the work after Labor Day on the Burt Lake lentic area; best defined for most of us as the area including the mouth of the Sturgeon River feeding into Burt Lake. Larval sea lamprey can be found

burrowed in the Sturgeon River bed along with various other streams in the Tip of the Mitt. Lampricide treatment has been used as the method to kill the larvae in the streams before they can grow into reproducing adults. Without this type of control in place, adult sea lamprey could have an impact on the fishery in Burt Lake such as walleye, trout and lake sturgeon. Thanks to USF&WS for their work!





Walleye Survey Update

Neal Godby, DNR Fisheries Biologist

DNR Fisheries Division, along with Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians (LTBB), have been assessing naturally produced juvenile walleye populations in Burt Lake and other lakes within the Inland Waterway for nearly two decades. These assessments are done in the fall with boat electrofishing surveys near shoreline at night. The electrofishing boats use bright lights and a generator; you may have seen one of these (pictured below) on the lake before and thought aliens have landed! Instead, these “index” surveys are done to capture a portion of the juvenile walleye population (particularly age-0) and enable us to calculate the number of age-0 walleye (those that hatched that year) per hour and per mile for comparison of yearclass strength over time. We have found that survival of age-0, or young-of-the-year, walleye to fall is a good predictor of yearclass strength over time. Catching acceptable numbers of age-0 walleye in a given year is a good start for a given year class, but certainly does not ensure that all will make it to 15 inches and beyond and to the frying pan. Check out the graph below showing the number of age-0 walleye per hour we have caught in previous surveys of Burt Lake. Note that years without a bar were years that no survey was completed. These surveys show that Burt Lake has

consistent natural reproduction of walleyes, often on a much greater and more consistent scale than other nearby large lakes (Mullett, Black).

We have recently completed another fall juvenile walleye assessment in 2023 (September 25). The 2023 yearclass of walleye in Burt Lake looks good again, like it has in four of the last five surveys. Preliminary results will be presented at the upcoming Northern Inland Lakes Citizen Fisheries Advisory Committee meeting. Please contact your BLPA representative to learn more.

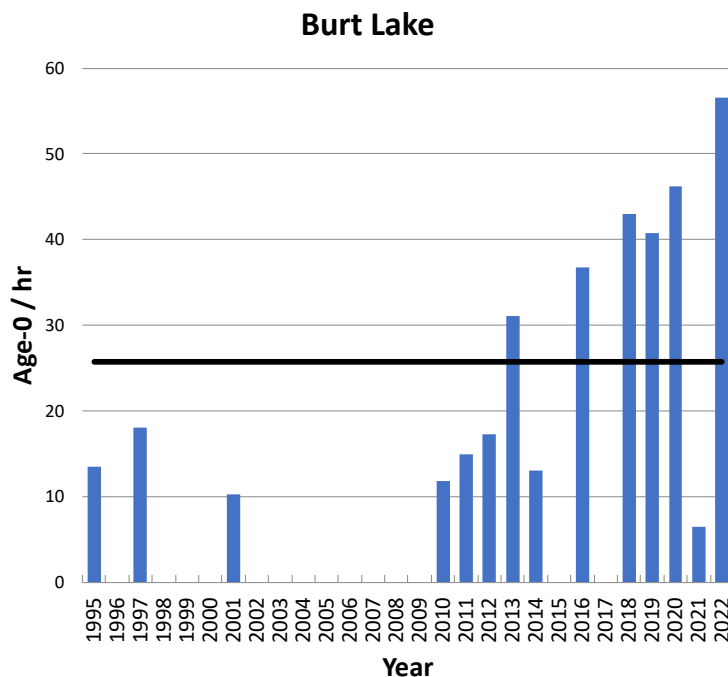
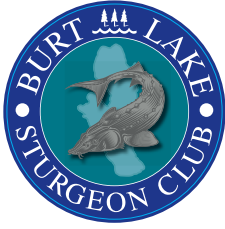


Figure 1. Catch rates (number of age-0 walleye per hour) of boat electrofishing surveys in Burt Lake, 1995-2022.



Sturgeon Club

Dave Steenstra, Sturgeon Club

Gary Michaud, biologist with the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians was conducting research in Black Lake this

Summer and captured this 33 inch Sturgeon. It had pit-tag identification. This Sturgeon, Armour, was part of Sturgeon in the classroom and was raised by Jenny Vandaele’s class at Inland Lakes Schools. This fish was released back into the Black River in 2018. How exciting to see this fish once again after 5 years in “the wild”. Thanks Jenny! You are a real champion for the Sturgeon initiative!

WOW! WHAT A YEAR THIS HAS BEEN.

We recorded the best Sturgeon spawning season report yet – thanks to so many of you. Over 150 Sturgeon were spotted in the Indian River, Sturgeon River, and along the reefs on Burt Lake. One of our watchful eye members, Jenni Steele, was able to record what looked like an “orgy” on the rocks in front of her home. How exciting to see a huge group of giant fish engaging in the spawning ritual, and get it on video. Thank you for notifying the BLPA office. Your active involvement is priceless.

As an academic, I have done a lot of statistical research. But I also have my own “dirty hands” statistical model that is based on common sense. It drives my detailed statistical friends nuts. They love data, and only data. I love data balanced with common sense. So here is my model, for what it is worth, and all of you statisticians are welcome to take a swipe at me.



If we recorded over 150 adult spawning Sturgeon this spring, how many did we NOT see? Let’s assume we did not see even half (conservative). That means there were over 300 spawning adults. They don’t spawn



until they are about 25 years old – so I will assert that these Sturgeon were all born naturally before we started planting efforts 15 years ago. These are indigenous Sturgeon.

Sturgeon only spawn every 4 years, with some variations and exceptions. So if there were 300 adult Sturgeon this year, and they spawn every 4 years, we may have an adult population in Burt Lake of around 1,200. That’s a decent population. About 1 Sturgeon per each 15 acres. That seems pretty reasonable. That could be enough to sustain the species.

Please continue to report all Sturgeon sightings to the BLPA office. And if you catch one and happen to get a photo before you gently releasing it, please send us the photo. We will be happy to post it on our web or put it in a future newsletter.

Travis Jarman fought this monster for nearly 3 hours before releasing it to swim free.





The Coalition to Protect Michigan Resources

Dave Steenstra

For the past two decades, BLPA has been part of a very important group: The Coalition to Protect Michigan Resources, or CPMR for short. This group is an advocate for the rights of sports fishermen all over Michigan. Some of our members include MUCC, Michigan Steel Headers Association, Hammond Bay Anglers, Great Lakes Sports Fisherman’s Association, Trout Unlimited, and many more associations – including BLPA. The treaty of 1836 stipulated for tribal fishing and hunting rights. The agreement was not clearly specified. In 1973 Judge Noel Fox ruled that the tribes have rights in great lakes waters. Every 20 years a

revised consent decree is negotiated that identifies further the rights of the tribes and the sports fishermen. Fish populations, sustainability, harvest limits, and territories are just a few of the specific discussion points.

The most recent iteration of the consent decree was just determined this summer. It is less favorable to sport fishermen than previous agreements. The State was less consistent this time, not protecting the public resources as we would prefer. While most of the discussion centers on the Great Lakes, there are important implications for the inland lakes. BLPA will continue to represent our members in these discussions, and we will share developments as they happen. Some specific details may be unavailable due to confidentiality agreements. We will share what we are permitted to share.

BLPA Update on the Burt Lake Watershed Implementation Grant

By Noah Jansen, Restoration Manager, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council

In the last issue of A Look at the Lake, my coworker Anna Watson shared the results of the Burt Lake shoreline survey conducted by Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council in 2022. To read our full report or find your personal shoreline results, visit our website (<https://watershedcouncil.org/waterbody/burt/>).

The shoreline survey was one part of a larger project aimed at protecting water quality in Burt Lake and the

larger watershed. This project has been funded in large part by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy's (EGLE's) Nonpoint Source Program by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. I would like to share with you some of the other work that is currently being done. First, I am happy to report that the shoreline restoration work done at Camp Pet-o-sega on Pickerel Lake last October held up well over the winter. The native plants installed to stabilize the shoreline have had high survival rates and are looking great! Because bioengineering methods were used, this stretch of shoreline will become more stable over time, as the roots systems of the native plants continue to expand and anchor more of the soil in place.

Another part of this project has been working to stabilize the shorelines of private landowners through greenbelts – bands of native trees, shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers that grow naturally or are planted along the shoreline. A Greenbelt Workshop for homeowners was held on June 22, also at Camp Pet-o-sega. The participants learned all about how to create their own shoreline greenbelt and about the many benefits they provide, including filtering pollutants from runoff before they reach the lake, preventing shoreline erosion, beautifying your lakefront, and providing habitat for birds, pollinators and other wildlife. Participants also learned about our greenbelt cost share program which provides funding assistance (also through the aforementioned grant from EGLE) for homeowners who want to install a greenbelt. We have had 20 applicants so far, and have been busy doing site visits with homeowners throughout September to evaluate each site and prioritize applicants for funding. While we are not currently taking applications, stay tuned because there may be another opportunity to apply next spring.





Tragedy of the Commons

David Steenstra

The tragedy of the commons is a metaphoric concept that extends back to classical antiquity and was even discussed by Aristotle. The basic premise is that over-exploitation of the common resource is often inevitable. That which is common to the greatest number gets the least amount of care. People pay most attention to what is their own. They care less for that which is common.

Economist William Lloyd introduced a hypothetical example of over-use of a common resource. Cattle herders were sharing a common parcel of land on which they were entitled to let their cows graze, as was often the custom. If a herder put more than his allotted number of cattle on the common, overgrazing could result. For each additional animal, a herder could receive additional benefits, while the whole group shared the resulting damage to the commons. If all herders made this individually rational economic decision, the common could be depleted or even destroyed, to the detriment of all.

BURT LAKE

Burt Lake Preservation Association is committed to preserving and protecting Burt Lake for use by generations to come. That is our goal. That is our unrelenting mission. As you may have already assumed, Burt Lake is the “commons” in this story. So what is the tragedy? What is the over-use? What is the exploitation? Abuse?

Most hunting and fishing regulations take into consideration natural reproduction time periods so the species can be sustained. This is common practice, and common sense. For instance, deer get into the rut around November 1, breed during the first two weeks in November, and deer season opens on November 15. Most of the does are pregnant by then, and the species is sustained. Common sense. The favorite table fare from Burt Lake is Walleye. Fishing season closes on March 15 and re-opens the last Saturday in April, about a six week period so the Walleye can reproduce and the species can be sustained. Common sense.

THE INEVITABLE TRAGEDY

One of the species of fish in our lake is Bass. Smallmouth Bass, in particular. The Bass season opens on June 1 in our lake. Interestingly enough, Bass season opens on June 15 in downstate waters.

By June 15, the Bass have concluded their spawning period. But the season opens on June 1 on our lake, before the Bass have finished reproducing. But here is another dimension to this inevitable tragedy. The Michigan DNR has allowed Bass tournaments to be conducted on our lake in May. This past May, there were nearly 100 Bass fishermen on our lake prior to the established season opener. BLPA has objected to early season fishing at the peril of the species. The DNR continues to respond to our objections by saying there is no evidence that this is hurting the Bass population. They only want data, not common sense.

Here is some common sense, anecdotal evidence. We live on the Eastern shoreline. Lots of rocks and desirable Bass spawning territory. For years there were a few dozen Bass nests between our house and my neighbors. The Bass began around May 15, cleaning their nest areas of sand and sediments, using their tails to sweep these undesirable elements away. Then the female laid her eggs, the male applied fertilizer, and remained on the nest until the eggs hatched and the fry can somewhat fend for themselves and leave the nest. This is around the first week of June – maybe a little later.

In the past few years there have been massive Bass tournaments in May. The Bass nests are easy to spot. The guarding parent is tormented by the fishermen until they finally pull him off the nest. The DNR thinks this is fine because it is catch and release. Most of these fish are released at the tournament headquarters on the Indian River, about five miles from our house. Experts think the Bass make it back to the nest eventually.

This Spring, there were only two nests on our shoreline. They were both right on the opposite ends of our dock. The nest was prepared around the 20th of May. The female laid her eggs, the males fertilized, and then began guarding the nests. A couple days later, we had a massive Bass tournament. Boat after boat came to these nests, tormenting the guarding parent until he finally took the bait.

Now for the rest of the story. I was able to see these nests clearly. I even took pictures of the parent, the newly hatched fry, and about 20 Gobies surrounding the nest. When the parents were hauled off the nest, it was less than 30 seconds,

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and the Gobies had devoured every last fry. Even if the fishermen caught and immediately released, it would be too late. Taking the fish to tournament headquarters and releasing hours later is just plain futile. How long can the species sustain under these conditions? When will this become a permanent tragedy?

A REMEDY

There is a reasonable solution. Leave the Bass alone until they complete the reproduction time period. Bass fishermen have every right to fish in Burt Lake. Let's ask for a June 15 opener rather than yanking the fish off their beds. A looming catastrophe awaits us at some

point in the future. Let's use common sense and prevent this disaster before it happens.

ACTION

We can all engage in this cause. BLPA will continue to have dialog with the DNR and the Natural Resource Commission. They will likely continue to tell us there is no evidence. We will also ask the other lake associations in our area to join forces. Please voice your concerns to your representatives. The solution could be painless. Set the season opener for June 15 and no Bass fishing before this date. Everyone can still enjoy the commons without experiencing the tragedy.

2023 Cheboygan County Sheriff Marine Patrol Summary

By: Sgt. Earl Manuel, Cheboygan County Sheriff Recreation Division Commander

The Cheboygan County Marine Patrol had a very busy and successful boating season this year. The main focus of the Marine Patrol has always been safety and education. This is accomplished by being proactive and visible to the many boaters who are enjoying our beautiful inland waterway. The Marine Patrol made hundreds of stops and conducted many safety inspections on the Indian River and Burt Lake over the course of the summer.

Reasons vessels may have been stopped include violation of slow no wake, bow riding, showing expired registration, reckless operation, not displaying navigation lights between sunset and sunrise, operating within 100' of docks and swim areas at wake speed, after hours operation of a PWC and more. A vast majority of these contacts end with the vessel operator being educated on the boating laws.

The Marine Patrol also issued citations to some boaters this summer for violations including: exceeding slow no wake, expired registration, allowing underage operation of a PWC, towing person without an observer, no boaters safety certificate, insufficient PFD's and for children under 6 not wearing a USCG approved type I or II PFD.

Reminder: A Boating Safety Certificate (BSC) is required to operate a personal watercraft (PWC) for all persons born after December 31, 1978, and to operate a vessel powered by more than 6hp for all persons born after July 1, 1996. All operators required to obtain a BSC must also have it in their possession while operating a

vessel. The Cheboygan County Sheriff's Department recommends all vessel operators take the course, either online or through the Sheriff's Department. Several courses are offered by the department during the spring and summer free of charge.

In addition to a Boating Safety Certificate, age requirements may also apply.

Burt Lake by the Numbers:

- Patrol Time: 167.5
- Safety Inspections: 205
- Verbal Warnings: 195
- Citations: 14

Indian River by the Numbers:

- Patrol time: 464.25
- Safety Inspections: 345
- Verbal Warnings: 688
- Citations: 23

The Cheboygan County Sheriff's Department would like to thank the Burt Lake Preservation Association for their continued support and partnership to protect our waterways for all to enjoy.





Lakeside Pest Management Considerations

Best practices for pest management strategies near lakefront properties on Burt Lake

By: John Steenstra, A.C.E Rose Pest Solutions, BLPA member

Since I was a young boy, I have been blessed with the gifts Burt Lake has to offer - beautiful scenery, nature, great fishing, swimming, boating, and too many more blessings to mention. With blessings come responsibility and a duty to preserve what is cherished. As we all know, living near lakes and woodlands can also bring us face-to-face with some of nature's unwanted pests. We must consider responsible pest management practices to preserve the gifts Burt Lake continuously provides.

The Old-School Pest Management Strategy:

Back in the day, little consideration was given to pesticide applications as they pertain to environmental impacts. It was a "kill them all" philosophy that for obvious reasons realized today, wasn't focused on protecting the environment. This Old-School approach has since changed drastically with most Pest Control Operators and Homeowners alike. Education, advancements in science and technology, and public awareness of environmental sensitivities have helped push conventional pesticide applications to a more environmentally sound approach.



Pictured above: DDT Applications at a public beach with children running towards the applicator vehicle.

However, there is more to learn, and our responsibility of protecting the environment is an ongoing process. The decisions we make today will affect the state of the environment tomorrow. So, what can we do as lakeside homeowners and guests to continue the push for environmentally sound pest management? Consider implementing Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies as part of your pest control program.

What is Integrated Pest Management (IPM)? IPM takes a multi-facet approach to pest control solutions. Think of IPM as pieces of a puzzle with each piece offering a solution or strategy. Let's look at a couple examples that will help explain IPM.



Above: Key IPM strategies, each strategy represents a piece in the pest solution puzzle

First Scenario: A homeowner is frustrated because insects are flying into their home, especially at night. The non-IPM approach would be to treat the entire exterior of the home with a chosen pesticide. What would be the result? Most likely, the flying insects would still gain access into the home as most pesticides labeled for general applications to exteriors of homes are slower acting residuals. This means it may take hours or even a couple of days to cause mortality of the target pest. When exterior lights to a home are turned on (especially at dusk) new populations of insects will be attracted to the home each night. If the residual application takes time to kill the insect, simply opening a door near the light will draw the pests in and the expected results will not be realized.

IPM strategies for this scenario:

- Choose lights that are less attractive to insects. Warm LED lights with a yellow hue are far less attractive than traditional incandescent bulbs that throw a white or blue hue

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- Turn off non-essential exterior lighting
- Limit travel in and out of main entries especially near lights during night-time hours
- Ensure screens are in good repair to exclude pest entry
- Run a fan with air current blowing insects away from the entry to home

Unintended side effects of a non-IPM pest management program:

Overapplication of pesticide past the “point of run-off” can cause pesticides to translocate or travel to unintended areas. General applications are often non-selective and may kill beneficial insects such as pollinators (Honeybees, Bumble Bees) and aquatic hatching insects.

Second scenario: Every fall a homeowner notices Deer Mice getting into their pantry. With the non-IMP approach, the homeowner buys rodenticide and scatters it throughout their property hoping to kill all the mice before they enter the home. This strategy does not reach the root of the “problem” as mice may consume the bait and still gain entry into the home. At this point, mice may die in wall voids or other hard-to-access areas and create odor or secondary pest issues. Other issues with this strategy are that mice continuously attempt to gain access into the home and misuse of Rodenticides may lead to non-target exposure.

IPM strategies for this scenario:

- Perform an exterior survey of the home, look for areas the mice may be entering and exclude those access points. Anything smaller than the width of a pencil is an area mice can squeeze through. Copper mesh, door sweeps, concrete patch, and other permanent sealants will exclude the mice from gaining entry.
- Removing low growth ground cover will limit hiding and harborage areas near the home.
- Cutting bushes back away from sides of home so rodents can’t use the branches as “ladders or passageways”.
- Leave a gravel or small stone “buffer zone” around perimeter of home. This will make the perimeter of your home less attractive to rodents and other pests.
- Check the seals on the bottom corners of garage doors. These areas often get compromised by

rodents gnawing the corners of doors to gain access inside and eventually into the home. There are metal based covers that can be installed to bottom corners of garage doors that mice cannot gnaw through.

- The above IPM approaches may make routine Rodenticide applications unnecessary. IPM strategies are often a more effective long term pest control method.

Unintended side effects of a non-IPM pest management program:

Homeowner irresponsibly places rodenticide out where non-target species can access. Rodents die in wall void causing odor and Dermestid Beetle issues inside the home.

As explained in the above scenarios, it is clear to see that IPM is likely the best long-term approach to pest management.

Here are some key IPM strategies that will benefit your home:

Exclusion: This is the effort to seal your home and make it impossible for pests to gain access. Caulking around gaps in siding may prevent Paper Wasps, Ants, and other insects from taking advantage of these areas or gaining access to your home. Sealing bottoms of doors with door sweeps will help prevent rodents from entering. Stuffing corner caps and small holes in foundation will prevent rodents from traveling and getting inside.

Mechanical control: Removing low growing ground cover next to the home will limit pest harborage and reduces the likelihood of rodents and other pests entering your home. Replacing mulch with small stone will limit many crawling pest varieties. Monitoring water use on the property will help limit pest populations as overwatering may lead to pest issues such as Pill bugs, Centipedes, Millipedes, and Earwigs.

Education: Take the time to learn about the insects you are encountering. There is a good chance they may be beneficial or seasonal in nature. Often, pesticide applications are not necessary depending on the insect, and may even be harmful to the overall health of the environment. Burt Lake has many aquatic hatching insects that help the overall quality of the lake, and a variety of wildlife that depend on the seasonal hatch of insects.

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Above: Honey Bees and Mayflies are beneficial Insects and should be protected. Not all insects should be controlled or treated in the same manner.

Sanitation: Rinsing beverage cans and placing them in air-tight containers and/or removing in a timely manner will prevent a variety of insect pressures. Cleaning the pantry and storing flour or starched based items in air-tight containers will prevent many stored product pest issues. Vacuuming up crumbs spilled from dinner on the patio will limit attracting Ants into the home. Limiting food and water availability will help limit pest attraction.

Pesticide Applications: Pesticide applications near lakefront homes may require additional considerations before choosing an application strategy.

- Small precise applications in combination with IPM strategies is the name of the game when it comes to responsible Lakefront Pest Management programs.
- Run-off is when pesticides are applied to the extent that the application carries enough volume to “run-off” the intended surface applied. When applying near lakes, care should be taken to avoid over-application past the point of run-off.
- Another consideration when applying anywhere, especially near flowering plants and water sources is “Drift”. Drift is when pesticide is moved from intended application sites to “off-site” locations by wind currents. Applications should be made with low pressure and precise placement techniques.
- Spot or Crack and Crevice treatments to the actual structure of home compared to “General or Broadcast” treatments are preferred. Remember, more is absolutely not better when it comes to pesticide treatments. To exemplify this, if there were to be a wasp nest under the awning of a front porch and the pesticide treatment was applied to the entire lawn, would that treatment be effective for the wasp nest? It would do nothing at all to remedy the wasp nest.
- Determine if the insect is beneficial or not.

- If the insect is beneficial, what can I do to co-exist with the insect?

■ For instance, if there are Honeybees near a flower pot or hanging basket simply moving the flowering plants away from main travel areas to limit any encounters with the Bees.

- If the insect/pest is not beneficial, what is the most effective control strategy with the least amount of environmental impact?

■ Often, a precise application of pesticide combined with other IPM strategies will offer fantastic long-term control. One good example would be Carpenter Ants living in water damaged boards on a back porch. Locating the nest, treating the Ants with a point specific pesticide treatment, and replacing the damaged wood would solve the problem long-term.

- Keeping wood well sealed and in sound condition is one of the most important things a homeowner can do to limit pest activity. Lakes tend to wear out wood painted surfaces very fast and untreated wood surfaces are a favorite to Carpenter Bees, Carpenter Ants, and a host of other pests. Choose a pesticide labeled for the target insect and apply using a method least impactful for the environment.

Inspection: Surveying the home for pest entry-points looking for conditions that may be conducive to pest pressures, signs of active pests (droppings, gnawing, insect frass), and other pest related findings or improvements that could benefit the property. This is where a licensed and well-trained Pest Control Operator (PCO) comes in handy. Choose a reputable pest control company that can demonstrate responsible pest control strategies and knowledge of IPM.

When choosing a pest control service make sure to interview your technician first. Ask if they practice IPM or are aware of pollinator protection laws. Make sure to get a copy of the service report and request an inspection of the property. Request that your Pest Management Professional (PMP) document pest conducive conditions on the report. The real value of having a PMP inspect your home is their expertise and recommendations on how to implement IPM strategies for long term control and prevention of pests. Ensure your PMP is using materials labeled for use in the intended situation and request a copy of the label.

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The old saying “more is better” is not accurate when it comes to effective or responsible pest management.

A few sidenotes and helpful tools for the homeowner. Electric leaf blowers are excellent to have around during Mayfly hatches. Since Mayflies die soon after emerging from the lake and are a beneficial part of the ecosystem, treatment is unnecessary and in-effective. Simply blowing them off siding and porches is all that is often needed. Extension web dusters are also excellent tools to have in the shed. Telescoping spider web brushes can reach around high light fixtures; by simply removing webs you will make your home sparkle and discourage future generations of spiders from taking residence. Store firewood away from the home and only take it indoors when ready to burn. Leaving firewood inside may introduce unwanted pests. Damaged wood is a favorite of many pest species, keep all of the home’s wood surfaces (siding, deck boards) painted, stained, or sealed. Welcome beneficial insects, do not treat flowering plants and enjoy what the lake and nature have to offer. Burt Lake is home to many less-than-common insect species and we should do what we can to preserve their existence.

The ultimate goal of lakeside IPM is to achieve desired results while making the least impact on surrounding environments. Remember, the lake is home to many species of aquatic insects and the surrounding forests host rare and fragile insect species. Learn about the visitors you are spotting on your property as most of what you will find are a benefit to nature and pose no threat. The ecosystem is vast and complex. As responsible stewards of Burt Lake, it is our duty to do what we can to tread lightly and leave the blessing of Burt Lake unchanged or even better for future generations.

John Steenstra is an Associate Certified Entomologist and regional Quality Assurance Supervisor with Rose Pest Solutions based in Troy, MI. Rose Pest Solutions services 5 states and has been in business since 1860. For information on Rose Pest Solutions and pest management services offered visit www.rosepestsolutions.com



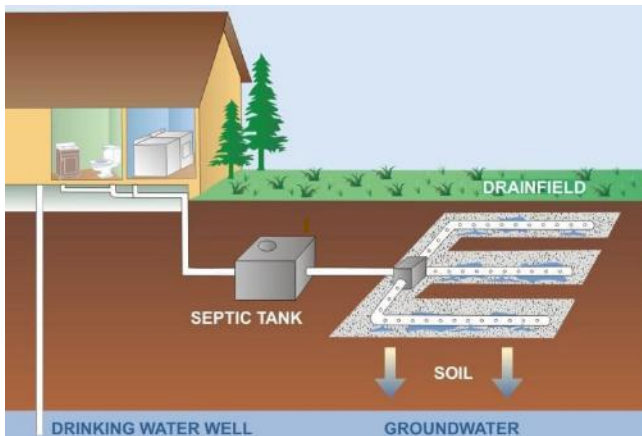


Septic Update

By: Dawn Webb, Septic Committee

Protecting our Lakes, Rivers, Streams and Health: The newly formed Septic Committee of BLPA is moving forward in presenting to our members information that will help improve the efficiency of your septic system.

The committee met with District 4 Department of Health leaders to discuss emerging changes in septic system design as well as how to handle outdated nonfunctioning systems. With the increased real estate sales and short-term rentals in the Burt Lake watershed, the committee is working with other lake associations to develop educational programs for property owners about proper use and maintenance of septic systems.



What's a septic system? Most homes in our area use septic systems and wells versus municipal or city sewer and water systems. The water you use in your home comes from a well that pulls water from underground rivers (aquifers) deep under the surface of the ground. A properly functioning septic system treats household wastewater just below the surface of the ground in a drain-field bed so the water that seeps through becomes purified.

Do you know where your septic system is? Your County Health Department may have a record of the permit that was granted for the installation of your septic system that will provide details about what and where your system is located. Older homes may require a certified inspector to come to your home and locate it for you.

What can cause a septic system to fail? Septic systems fail with age and failing means that contaminated wastewater can and does seep into our aquifers so pollutes the water we use in our homes as well as our lakes, rivers and streams. They can also fail due to lack of maintenance.

Leaks caused by crushed pipes, cracked concrete, rusted steel tanks or separated drain field tiles that in many cases are the result of parking vehicles or driving heavy equipment over the system. Heavy vegetation and tree roots growing on top of a system can also cause failures. Tree roots can enter the tank through even a very small hole or gap causing larger cracks because the tree thrives on the nutrients in the tank. Tree roots also clog the drain-field tiles preventing the wastewater from flowing through the system properly.

Leaks are not the only problem. Running excessive water through a septic system happens when there are more people in a home than the system was designed to accommodate for extended periods of time. For example, septic systems in Cheboygan County are designed based on the number of people per bedroom (typically two per bedroom) in the home. Additionally, allowing runoff from roofs, driveways and sidewalks to reach the drain field may also cause the soil in the field to become saturated. This can result in wastewater rising to the surface or even backing up into the house, and last proper maintenance is essential. Septic tanks can accumulate solids or sludge, reduce capacity causing systems to function improperly. EGLE (Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy) recommends systems be inspected every three years and pumped when necessary.

Signs of a failing septic system: Unpleasant odors, soggy soil anywhere near the system, including the drain field, visible wastewater above ground, as well as excessive growth of algae and weeds at the water's edge of lakes, rivers and streams.

The seriousness of failing septic systems cannot be overemphasized. The harmful bacteria, parasites and viruses as well various types of fungi that are present in untreated wastewater can cause a variety of diseases. If you swim in a lake or drink water that has been contaminated by wastewater runoff, you run the risk of contact with bacteria, viruses and parasites, some that can cause life threatening diseases.

IF YOU SUSPECT THAT YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM IS FAILING... call the Health Department of Northwest Michigan (231) 547-6523 for advice and referrals to septic system professionals.



75th Top O' Michigan Marathon Nationals August 12 and 13

By: David Steenstra

One of the highlights of each August in Indian River is the Top O' Michigan Outboard Marathon Boat Race. For those of you who have never witnessed this race, it is quite a spectacle. Imagine over a hundred small boats racing down the Indian River into Mullett Lake, down the Cheboygan River all the way to the locks, turning around and head back to the starting line at Devoe Beach. The race boats are going "lickity split", passing by hundreds and hundreds of spectators and even spraying water on some as the racers maneuver tight turns.

The following day, the racers leave Devoe Beach, follow the South shoreline of Burt Lake, turn up the Western shoreline, into the Crooked River, through the locks in Alanson – obviously open for the racers on both sides of the lock – into Crooked Lake, all the way to Conway, and then return on a reverse route back to Devoe park.

This event brings thousands of visitors to Indian River for several days. It has a huge, positive impact on our local economy. Participants come from dozens of states, including California, Washington, Florida, and New Jersey, just to name a few. There are also participants from Canada and Nova Scotia.

All the local law enforcement agencies are positioned in the water and ready to respond to emergencies. So is Burt Lake Preservation. We position an observation boat near the Y camp on the Western shoreline. For



the third straight year, we rescued a stranded racer that experienced unanticipated mechanical problems. Here is a photo of Jim Burke towing Michael McKenzie from Nova Scotia. Michael's boat broke down close to where Jim was parked. Within minutes, Michael was being safely towed back to Devoe park. We dropped off Michael just as the Topinabee Fire Rescue was dropping off another stranded boater. The fire rescue boat was donated by BLPA to the Fire Department for water rescues. To date, they have performed 11 rescues on our lake.

BLPA will continue to keep a watchful eye on our lake to ensure safety for our community.





Just Flip the Switch

By: Bob Holt

Silver shoals of minnows streaming under the dock... Big perch lazing in the shade under the boat hoist... Clams, native crayfish, shorebirds, bats... Bugs, especially fireflies, moths and butterflies... Frogs, toads and snakes... A dark horizon around Burt Lake... And our home galaxy, the Milky Way, as a frequent, magnificent ceiling to the night sky.

I've only been watching the world around Burt Lake since the mid-50s. But even in that relative blink of time, all these things, once common, have diminished. There are many causes; loss of habitat, pesticides, invasives (round goby, zebra and quagga mussels), disease (white nose fungus, bird flu) and wildfire smoke all come to mind. One factor, however, connects many of them, worsening the pressures on plants and animals and steadily erasing the stars: Light Pollution.

Most living things – us included – evolved to function with light in the day and dark in the night. Humans are supposed to be daytime creatures, but 30% of all vertebrates and more than 60% of invertebrates are nocturnal. We need dark at night to sleep and make hormones like melatonin – important to avoid many diseases, including cancer. Many insects and animals need dark at night to feed and breed. Many creatures are attuned to a lunar cycle, which needs a night sky with only one really bright object. When we lose night-reliant insects, we lose the plants they pollinate and the fish and other creatures that eat them.

Since the advent of the electric light, the night has been disappearing. It's estimated that 80% of all people now live under sky glow, and it's getting worse by 10% per year. In the US, 99% of us can't experience a natural, truly dark night. 40% of Americans now live in areas so light at night that their eyes never transition to night vision. We still have some fairly dark nights at Burt Lake, but Petoskey and Mackinac now glow on the horizon.

Webster's defines pollution as "something (such as man-made waste) that makes an environment unsuitable or unsafe for use." It's easy to see how artificial light at night can be pollution. Glare is excessive brightness that can cause visual discomfort and impair our eyesight. Sky glow – the brightening of the night sky over inhabited areas – blots out the stars, confuses wildlife, and affects sleep. Light trespass – light falling where it is not intended or needed – impacts health and quality of life for humans, animals and plants. Clutter, the groupings of light sources, can confuse and annoy. And light pollution is a waste of energy and resources.

The good news is that we can all do something about light pollution, quickly and easily. If you don't need the light to see something outdoors, turn it off. If it's not on a switch, use a timer or motion sensor. If the light is getting out of the house from inside, and especially if it's getting off the property or shining where wild things live, pull the shade.

The Illuminating Engineering Society suggests five principles for responsible outdoor lighting. All lighting should be USEFUL. Use lighting only where needed for a clear purpose.

Examples of Acceptable / Unacceptable Lighting Fixtures



Consider how the light will impact the area including wildlife and their habitats. Remember that fish are attracted by light. Any light should be TARGETED – directed and shielded so that it only points downward and does not spill beyond where it's needed. Outdoor lighting should be LOW LEVEL – no brighter than required for the clear purpose. Night lighting should be CONTROLLED with timers or motion detectors to ensure that light is on only when it's needed, dimmed when possible, and turned off when not needed. Outdoor lighting should be WARM-COLORED (<2700° Kelvin). Avoid using blue and blue-white "daylight" lights. They most impact living things and cause the worst light scatter.

Individually, we can't fully restore the night. But we can improve its quality on each of our properties and in each of our neighborhoods. We can save a few insects and maybe avoid misdirecting a few birds or fish. We can make the night sky a little better for stargazers and astronomers. And we can do it tonight.

This article grew out of curiosity about how the increasing light levels on and around Burt Lake might affect wildlife. I contacted the University of Michigan Biological Station – a great local resource – and received assistance and guidance from Associate Director (and BLPA Board member) Karie Slavik, astronomy professor Dr. Sally Oey, and several U of M scientists and students. Thank you all for sharing your knowledge and time. There is a lot of information and research available on the importance of the night and the increasing urgency of protecting it. Websites include darksky.org, darkskymichigan.org and sites.lsa.umich.edu/darkskies. Two comprehensive and readable books are Paul Bogard, *The End of Night* and Johan Eklof, *The Darkness Manifesto*.



Welcome New Members 2023

Thanks for joining the team dedicated to preserving and protecting Burt Lake

Asman, Jeff & Kathy - Cincinnati, OH
Bakeman, James and Char - Midland, MI
Barrett, Pam - Indian River, MI
Bennett, Bing & Kris Berg - Brutus, MI
Beresford, Molly - Bloomfield Hills, MI
Berg, Helmut - Seattle, WA
Bergmann, Todd & Lanae - Canton, MI
Bogenschutz, Martin & Cheryl - Cincinnati, OH
Borovich, Ken & Maryellen - Bingham Farms, MI
Bowman, Dave - Burt Lake, MI
Burt View Association - Indian River, MI
Carr, Elizabeth - Aurora, OH
Conniff, Tony - Northville, MI
Curth, Kelly & Dane - Alanson, MI
Drelles, Chris - Mattawan, MI
Duffey, Becky & John - Ft. Myers Beach, FL
Dunn, Joseph & Sheila - New Hudson, MI
East Burt Lake Association Inc. - Indian River, MI
Evans, John - Orchard Lake, MI
Fujimori, Maureen - Shrewsbury, MA
Furman, Doug & Judy - Indian River, MI
Garber, Janet & Ralph - West Alexandria, OH
Gorzelski, Chris & Donna - Indian River, MI
Haas, James & Rosemary - Cincinnati, OH
Halberg, Rene - St Ignace, MI
Hall, Gayle - Indian River, MI
Henderson, Beth - Indian River, MI
Hendrickson, Samuel - Jenison, MI
Hettich, Sean & Jackie - Lafayette, LA
Hill, Karen & Dave - Indian River, MI
Hoellrich, Jennifer - Sylvania, OH
Howd, Ray & Karyn - Indian River, MI
Hull, Jim - Indian River, MI
Jennings, Dave & Jennifer - Bingham, MI
Kemper, Brian & Heather - Indianapolis, IN
LaChapelle, Margaret & Michael - Glenmont, NY
LaFond, Jan - West Branch, MI
Leary, John & Gloria - New Orleans, LA
Lillis, Suzanne & Michael - Huntington Woods, MI
Maentz, Tom & Joann - Bloomfield Village, MI
Magill, Carol & Bob - Dexter, MI
Man, K. Ching & M. Eileen McCormick - Alanson, MI
McCormack, Laura & Jordan - Niles, MI
McCready, Penny & Jim - Indian River, MI
McCullough, Mike & Karen - Shelbyville, MI
McGuire, Jalene & Albert - Indian River, MI
Mellema, Jim & Sue - Brutus, MI
Meyer, Jonathan & Megan - Petoskey, MI
Meyer, David & Kathy - Petoskey, MI
Meyers, Dave & Amanda - Ada, MI
Morrison, Scott - Bay Harbor, MI
Neely, Mary - Midland, MI
NMI Technology, Sandy Maves - Indian River, MI
Nordstrom, Ann - Indian River, MI
Peterson, Madeleine - Mullett Lake, MI
Plath's Meats Inc., John Plath - Rogers City, MI
Porter, Robert & Julie - Brutus, MI 49716
Reed's on the River, Don & Joleen Reed - Indian River, MI
Rentschler, Ed & Tammy - Belvedere, IL
Shapland, Robert & Whitney - Bloomfield Hills, MI
Sheehy, Patrick & Moana - Louisville, KY
Shelby, Barbara - Sinclair, WY
Stefano, Bob - Houston, TX
Voth, James & Patricia - Indian River, MI
Wahl, Annette & Darren - Berkley, MI
Walker, Joe & Sandy - Glenview, IL
Watkins, Barbara & Scott - Suttons Bay, MI
Weatherwax, Tom & Mary - Dublin, OH
Whitelaw, Anne - Bingham Farms, MI
Wilfong, Sharon - Liberty Township, OH
Williams, Karen - Towson, MD
Wilson, Cheryl & Bob - Bloomfield Hills, MI
Zech, Richard & Joan - Wolverine, MI



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