

BLAKE LAKE BUGLE

Save the Dates!

- May 16: Spring Meeting, 9am
- June 6 and 13: CBCW season kickoff training
- June 13: Pontoon Classroom
- July 4: Pontoon Parade, 4pm
- August 15: Annual Meeting, 9am

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Current dam image

UPDATE: Blake Lake Dam Reconstruction

We are actively working on the dam reconstruction project and making progress. Working with the DNR and the Sherrard Family/estate, extra time has been needed to finalize legal agreements to get the project into reconstruction. We are moving as fast as we can while being mindful of the real estate issues inherent with the Sherrard family's recent loss. That being said, we are making progress.

We have been fielding questions in the past couple of weeks regarding the dam project. Yes - there are lots of discussions and rumors flying around, too. Our goal is to bring you up to date on our progress and answer some of the questions you may have. We will have more updates during the **Spring Meeting on Saturday, May 16, 9am.**

Questions & Answers

Q: How will the costs for the dam reconstruction at \$100,000-\$150,000 be assessed to members?

A: After careful consideration of the will of the District members who weighed in at the 2014 Annual Meeting, the value of the Sherrard Family deeded land to reconstruct the dam, and the loan terms offered by the BCPL State Trust Fund Loan Program, the Board has resolved that the dam may be assessed as follows:

\$100,000 Dam reconstruction cost @ 3% interest rate*

Riparians: \$111.50 per year x 5 yrs = \$557.50
Non-Riparians: \$57.10 per year x 5 yrs = 285.50

\$150,000 Dam reconstruction cost @ 3% interest rate*

Riparians: \$167.25 per year x 5 yrs = \$836.25
Non-Riparians: \$85.60 per year x 5 yrs = \$428

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BLPR District Leadership

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The *Blake Lake Bugle* is a publication of the Big Blake Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District. The *Bugle* is published seasonally for friends and members of the district. To receive lake news, send your email address to Peggy at plauritsen@pldg.com or mail to the address below.



Lake Management Plan Update

By Sam Rivers Weber

Ice out on April 2nd, 2015, kicked-off our final year of significant data collection, which will inform our Aquatic Plant Management (APM) plan slated to be developed in late 2015 to early 2016 through the efforts of our district members forming an APM committee to look at all the results of the biological reports, core sample findings, the data collected by our Citizen Lake Monitors, our District-wide sociological survey results, and our CBCW data.

As you plan your seasonal activities, please consider becoming a part of these salient ventures designed to educate our members, protect our lake and what we value most about it, and prevent permanent and future damage from destroying this beauty, this goodness, this sanctuary of relaxation, recreation, and precious memories.

For more information, attend our Spring Meeting on May 16 and our Annual meeting on August 15 where some of the experts will present the findings of our grant-sponsored projects. Also, our first ever Pontoon Classroom will be held June 13; a wonderful opportunity to educate yourselves and your family members, and to become supportive stewards of Big Blake Lake.

Blake Lake: We Live It, We Love It, We Mean It!

Two District Board Positions Open, Fall 2015

Two current board members will be completing their term of office this year, Jim Filkins and Tom Borden. We will be electing new board members at our Annual Meeting on Saturday, August 15. Now is the time to think about serving on the board. For more information contact Sam Rivers Weber at 2cherokeerivers@gmail.com or (715) 554-1054.

Contacts

Waterfront Property, Polk Co., WI

Alterations to shoreline? Cutting Trees? Building, remodeling, boathouses, driveways, garages, fire numbers?

Polk County Zoning:
(715) 485-9111
<http://www.co.polk.wi.us/>

**Burning permits and restrictions?
WDNR or town, village or city:**

1-888-947-2876
<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/forestfire/restrictions.html>

More resources at:

Polk County Association of Lakes
and Rivers (PCALR)
<http://pcalr.org/our-lakes-and-rivers/>

*Dam Reconstruction Update, cont.***Q: How are you managing the dam project?**

A: After conferring with other lake districts and the DNR, we have hired a highly recommended engineer to oversee all aspects of the dam reconstruction project. He is working on all aspects of the project from surveying the property, helping secure all necessary agreements, creating the plan and submitting to the DNR as well as being responsible for the construction phase. It is our intent that this will allow us to complete the project in the most effective way possible.

Q: What is the current status of the dam project and what is the estimated timeline?

A: We have been working diligently on the dam reconstruction project and are currently working on all needed land transfer and easement agreements. Once complete, this will allow us to finalize our plans that will then be submitted to the DNR for final approval. We do not fully control these agreements or the DNR approval process so it is difficult right now to estimate the date when the dam reconstructed will be complete. While we are hopeful that everything will be completed in 2015, there are no assurances that this will be the case.

Q: How long will it take to reconstruct the dam once the plan is approved.

A: The actual construction of the dam is expected to take days and weeks, not months.

Q: What are the anticipated water levels this Summer before the reconstructed dam is complete?

A: Because Big Blake Lake is on a flowage, the water levels can fluctuate based on many factors, including Spring run-offs, overall precipitation and other factors. At the end of last Summer, the water levels were manageable with the existing dam. We are working closely with the DNR to do what we can to maintain the existing water levels until the dam project is complete.

Q: Should I be putting in our docks and boats this Spring, or wait until the dam project is complete?

A: As mentioned above, the water levels can fluctuate, especially with the current state of the dam. While we do not anticipate water levels dropping to levels that may impact your dock and boat placement, your decision is personal preference and may depend on the shoreline water depth near your property.

Q: If I am selling my property, what do I need to disclose to a potential buyer?

A: Please consult your realtor or real estate professional about what you need to disclose. The Board is doing our best to be transparent and update all members about the costs, the timelines, risks and process as we move forward.

Q: How long will it take to reconstruct the dam once the plan is approved.

A: The actual construction of the dam is expected to take days and weeks, not months.

Q: When the old dam is removed, will lake levels drop significantly?

A: The engineers have told us that this is not the expectation. The plan calls for placing the new dam West of the old dam and then to remove the old dam after placement of the new dam.

Q: Will there be a bridge over the new dam and will this be accessible by Big Blake Lake residents?

A: The current plan calls for a foot bridge to go over the dam that can be accessed by residents. The final bridge design is not yet complete.

Q: Will maintenance be required on the new dam?

A: Yes. Periodic inspections will be required and we will have secured the necessary easements and rights to inspect, maintain and repair (if necessary) the dam. We do not anticipate significant incremental costs to perform inspection, maintenance and repairs. We are anticipating any incremental costs to be covered in our annual budget.

Q: Is it possible that the new dam could also fail?

A: While this is certainly always a possibility, the new dam will have all of the latest technology and engineering that our 100 year old dam did not have. The DNR is requiring us to build a dam that is appropriate for a lake of our size and configuration. ¶

Respectfully,

Adam Elliott, Sam Weber, Tom Borden, Jim Filkins
and Peggy Lauritsen | *Board Members, BBLPRD*

* Our interest rate is not locked in yet, so assessments may vary slightly from these numbers. This answer is intended to give you the best information we have at this time from the BCPL Loan Program. Our rate will be locked in upon our loan approval, which is anticipated to take place by mid/end-of May 2015. All loan documents have been filed and are pending final approval. Dam costs have not been determined yet.

June is Invasive Species Awareness Month/WDNR!

Get Involved! Lake Monitoring

The **Citizen Lake Monitoring Network** is a 1000+ citizen volunteers statewide who gather and monitor lake data, supported by the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership. Volunteers provide their time, expertise, energy, and a willingness to share information with their fellow lake residents or other lake users. The information gathered by these monitoring programs is used by WDNR and university biologists and researchers, UW-Extension, and other interested individuals.

Clean Boats, Clean Waters, is a statewide program. Volunteers are trained to organize and conduct boater education in their community. Adults and youth teams educate boaters on how and where invasive species are most likely to hitch a ride into lakes. Volunteers perform boat and trailer checks for invasives, distribute brochures and collect and report any new lake infestations.



Join Us! To volunteer on Blake Lake, contact Peggy Lauritsen at plauritsen@pldg.com or 612-940-2006.

NEW Volunteers and Veteran Volunteers Welcome! Join us again this year!

There will be training on two Saturday mornings to refresh CBCW volunteers in June as part of the **WDNR "Drain Campaign" June 12-14**, a statewide initiative to make sure anglers know about Wisconsin's invasive species laws. Campaign posters, ice packs and flyers will be available for volunteers to give anglers at the landings again this year. Photos will be taken on all three dates for local media.

Clean Boats, Clean Waters - refresher basics and training at the landing

Saturday, June 6, 10am to noon

Blake Lake, east landing/north end of lake /Bystrom Lane

Come have a cup of coffee and kick off the boating season by volunteering with other CBCW volunteers. All new volunteers will be paired up with veteran volunteers this year. We will go over the basics of boat inspections and what is needed to educate the public about invasives. Supplies and t-shirts will be available for all volunteers. Coffee, tea and treats provided.

Clean Boats, Clean Waters - refresher basics and training at the landing

Saturday, June 13, 10am to noon

Blake Lake, east landing/north end of lake /Bystrom Lane

Come have a cup of coffee and kick off the boating season by volunteering with other CBCW volunteers. All new volunteers will be paired up with veteran volunteers this year. Training will be done by Katelin Holmes, Water Quality Specialist, Polk County Land and Water Resources Department. We will go over the basics of boat inspections and what is needed to educate the public about invasives. Supplies and t-shirts will be available for all volunteers. Coffee, tea and treats provided.

New! Pontoon Classroom

Saturday, June 13, Noon to 2pm

Blake Lake, east landing/north end of lake /Bystrom Lane

Join the Polk County Land and Water Resources Department for an on the water experience to learn how water samples, algae samples, and sediment samples are collected and analyzed on Big Blake Lake. This is your opportunity to learn how to find wild rice, how water samples work, learn more about Big Blake Lake and ask any questions you have regarding the lake. There is no cost to attend the classroom, but please RSVP to Katelin Holm at katelin.holm@co.polk.wi.us or (715) 485-8637. Kids over 7 years are welcome, everyone bring a life jacket.

What's needed to be a CBCW volunteer?

Requires: 2 hours of reading orientation material, watch a 7 minute video about boat inspections, perform first boat inspection with a veteran volunteer, and do up to 4 hours per month alone or with others monthly (June, July, Aug., Sept.).

New CBCW Coordinator wanted for 2016

At the end of this season, Peggy Lauritsen will complete her fourth year and retire as CBCW Coordinator. We are looking for a new volunteer to step up and train this Summer to take her place next year. Could that be you? Let's talk. Contact Peggy at plauritsen@pldg.com or call 612-940-2006.

Contacts & Resources

Polk County Assoc. of Lakes and Rivers (PCALR)

Manage, promote, protect and preserve our lakes, rivers and streams

PCALR provides a forum for county lake and river groups to share information, ideas and resources for managing, protecting and restoring their lake, river or stream. The organization works in concert with Polk County Land and Water Resources Department to provide information and education to the public on rules, regulations and ways to help preserve the vitality of our waters.

Here are just a few reasons to visit their website resources: <http://pcalr.org/management-protection/frequently-asked-questions/>

- Lake protection plans, who benefits?
- Maintaining your lake lot, FAQs great questions!
- Shoreline ordinances you need to know

Library resources (just a sampling):

<http://pcalr.org/library/>

- Lake science basics
- Land use and watershed impact
- Blue-green algae effects on humans and pets
- Free tools for owners to self-assess habitat on your lakeshore
- Lakeshore property values and water quality

UW-Extension Lakes, College of Natural Resources

<http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Pages/default.aspx>

A sampling of what you will find on their site:

- Wisconsin Lake Organizations
- Clean Boats Clean Waters
- Citizen Lake Monitoring Network
- Lake Leaders

Wisconsin Lakes Partnership

Since the early 1970s, the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership has been recognized as a national model of collaboration. Three groups form the core of this team:

1. UW- Extension Lakes (UWEX-Lakes), builds connections among stakeholders and provides supporting educational materials and programs;
2. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) supplies the technical expertise and regulatory authority;
3. Local lake people make up the third group, represented by Wisconsin Lakes. Citizen volunteers from around the state — lake organizations, property owners, and local governments — provide the political will and hard work to accomplish watershed restoration and lake protection goals.

We are all concerned with the future of our lakes and have joined together in active cooperation and conscientious planning for lake protection. Partnership activities include citizen volunteer monitoring, research, youth and adult training and education, aquatic plant protection, pollution prevention, invasive species education, water recreation planning, land and water regulation, and community assistance grants.

Source: UW-Extension Lakes <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Pages/default.aspx>

Subscribe to a **FREE Lake Tides** newsletter for people interested in Wisconsin lakes

<http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/UWEXLakes/Pages/resources/newsletter/default.aspx>

Amended Annual Meeting Minutes | August 16, 2014

Big Blake Lake Protection And Rehabilitation District

Note: to follow are amended minutes from the annual meeting on 8-16-14, that add detail to the minutes published previously. For a complete set of annual meeting minutes, see the September 2014 issue of the Bugle newsletter.

Annual Business

DAM Discussion

The preliminary figure we've been given by the engineer is between \$100k-150k.

Therefore, the board is seeking approval from the District to reconstruct the Dam, to assess the District for the costs of this project, and to borrow funds to get things rolling on this with a cap of \$175k. If Dam costs go above \$175k, the District will hold a special meeting to discuss the project costs and seek approval for additional funding. We do not anticipate this happening, and feel comfortable with the \$175k borrowing approval at this time.

VOTE: Funding for Dam Reconstruction: Approved

Motion approving the Dam Reconstruction project by Sue Ogren/Ford Elliott. Motion carried unanimously.

VOTE: Borrowing Funds for Dam Reconstruction:

Treasurer Filkins explained how BBLPRD can apply to the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands in order to borrow money and establish a line of credit for a District such as ours. General obligation moneys can be borrowed with interest, which will vary but today's rates are 1-2 yrs 2.5%; 3-5 yrs 3%; or 6-10 3.5%.

We would be looking at 60-90 days to get the public application approved. This will result in an assessment that will appear on our property tax statement, which will be financed over a number of years so people will have options to break up the payment plus interest over time. Also, the assessment will appear on your tax statement so that Polk Co Treasurer can track the transactions and payments from each property.

Common Acronyms:

APM:	Aquatic Plant Management
AIS:	Aquatic Invasive Species
BBLP&RD:	Big Blake Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District
CBCW:	Clean Boats Clean Waters
CLMN:	Citizen's Lake Monitoring Network
EPP:	Education, Prevention, & Planning
LWRD:	Polk Co. Land & Water Resources Department
PCALR:	Polk Co. Association of Lakes and Rivers
SWIMS:	Surface Water Integrated Monitoring System
WAL:	Wisconsin Area Lakes (now: WI Lakes Partnership)
WDNR:	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Monitoring Opportunities: 2015 loon population survey

Northland College is looking for volunteers to assist with a one-day loon survey that has been conducted every five years since 1985 to estimate the state's loon population. 250 lakes across Wisconsin have been pre-selected, and many lakes still need a volunteer for this event. The survey takes place on **July 18 this year, from 5:00-10:00am**. Read more about this fun opportunity at <http://www.northland.edu/loon-population-survey.htm>



Spring Meeting Agenda | May 16, 2015

9:00am | Georgetown Town Hall, 1847 100th St. County Rd. H,
Balsam Lake, WI 54810

Approval of minutes

Treasurer's report

Guest Presentation

2014 Member Survey results and Pontoon Classroom; by
Katelin Holm, Polk County Land & Water Resources Dept.
and Adam Elliott

Old Business

- 1) Dam Update: (Tom Borden and Adam Elliott)
- 2) Slow-no-wake Zone (Tom Borden)

Committee Reports

- 1) Clean Boats Clean Waters (Peggy Lauritsen)
- 2) APM Harvey Report (Jim Maxwell)
- 3) EPP Grant Update (Sam Weber)
- 4) WAL Conference report (Peggy Lauritsen)

New Business

Announcements

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| August 15 | Annual Meeting (3rd Saturday in August) |
| July 4 | Boat Parade 4pm |



Save — the — Dates!

Spring Meeting,
Saturday, May 16, 9am,
Georgetown Town Hall

July 4: Boat Parade (4:00 pm)

August 15: Annual Meeting

What can you do to improve water quality?

Restore your shore. Maintain a strip of native trees, shrubs, wildflowers, grasses and sedges 35 ft. wide back from the ordinary high water mark. Shoreland buffers help protect our lake from nutrients, pollutants and sediments in runoff from the land. Deep-rooted native plants can limit erosion while offering a place for wildlife.

Don't use products containing phosphorus. If you use fertilizer, the middle number in the formula on the package must be zero. Also, choose phosphorus-free soaps for laundry, dish washing and household cleaning.

Verify your septic system is working properly. Bacteria as well as nutrients can enter the water from improperly functioning septic systems.

Think about your role as shoreland owner. The way you manage your property affects the entire lake ecosystem.

Reprinted from: *Who's Who...Contacts for Your Waterfront Property*, published by PCALR.



SAVE THESE DATES

Spring Meeting: May 16 (3rd Saturday in May)
Annual Meeting: August 15 (3rd Saturday in August)
Pontoon Parade: July 4, 4:00 p.m.



1988 S. Baker Road
Balsam Lake, WI 54810

