



A LOOK AT THE LAKE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BURT LAKE PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION
SPRING 2021

The Value of a Good Barbershop

Jim Burke, President

I love this town! Back in October while I was getting a haircut at Dave's Barbershop, Mike Ridley stopped in for the morning's scuttlebutt – it's important to understand that the barbershop is the center of the Indian River universe. Nothing goes on in Indian River that isn't known here. Anyway, Mike started talking about a conversation he had with Tom Moran of Moran Ironworks in Onaway. Tom told Mike that the 32' sturgeon sculpture that he crafted several years ago was for sale for twenty grand. I had seen it before at a couple of Sturgeon for Tomorrow banquets and knew how awesome it is. People would gather around it to have their picture taken with it.

So, Mike says "Wouldn't it be cool to buy it and put it at the corner of M68 and Straits Highway? The DDA is already planning to make that corner into a pocket park."

Just then, Dave Steenstra walks in for the next haircut. (You can't make this stuff up, folks) Anybody who knows Dave understands his passion for rehabilitating the sturgeon population in the Inland Waterway. He's also the chair of the Burt Lake Sturgeon Club.

So the four of us: Dave Driskill, Mike Ridley, Dave Steenstra and me – spend the next half hour (While Dave's getting his hair cut) discussing the benefits of

acquiring the sturgeon sculpture and creating a park around it at the busiest corner in Indian River.

That's how it all started, folks. We were confident that BLPA members would support the initiative so we extended the invitation to all members and the community at large to help fund the purchase of the sculpture. We never expected to raise the full \$20K, but we knew that you would help significantly.

Fast forward to late April. The Downtown Development Authority, who owns the corner park project, approves of the sculpture idea. The Tuscarora Township approves of the idea. MDOT grants a permit. The corner has been surveyed and staked. There's a concept site plan. More people are coming together to help fund security lighting and hardscape. The township is moving dirt. And guess what – This community helped significantly. Thanks to over 100 contributors we raised the full \$20,000.

As soon as the foundation is set, Moran Iron Works will place the sculpture. By the time you read this it'll be bolted down and the rest of the corner park project will be in full swing.

It takes a community to see the opportunities and bring ideas like this to fruition.

I love this town! Thank you.



Tom Prout



Sturgeon Club Report

David Steenstra

On Thursday, February 18, Jim Burke, Gina Burke, and Dave Steenstra attended a Sturgeon Advisory Council Meeting by way of Zoom. There are 45 members of this group and includes representatives from the inland lakes, DNR, Conservation Officers, The U.S. Coast Guard, The Tribes, a variety of non-profit organizations, and Sturgeons For Tomorrow. The members are from all parts of Northern Michigan, the U.P., Saginaw Bay area, Hammond Bay area, Traverse City, Manistee, and Lansing.

Topics included The Black Lake 2021 harvest. 7 Sturgeon were taken by recreational anglers, and 7 Sturgeon were allocated to the tribes. This represents about 1.2% of the estimated adult population in Black Lake. We also discussed various Sturgeon research projects, assessment plans, and stocking plans. Larvae collection and hatchery operations will be in full swing in late April, early May. Law enforcement officials also talked to the group about poaching and Sturgeon guarding programs. A number of educational outreach programs were also reviewed, including Sturgeon in the classroom, The Indian River Sturgeon Sculpture project, and the new Marina Park Crooked Tree Sturgeon monument.

It is very gratifying to see so many talented and passionate people from all over Michigan, gladly giving their time, talents, and treasures all for the cause of rehabilitating and protecting Lake Sturgeon in our watershed. Burt Lake is truly blessed to have an estimated 900 adult Lake Sturgeon calling our lake "home".

Please Catch and Release

More and more anglers here on Burt Lake are accidentally catching Lake Sturgeon, usually when fishing for Walleyes. Actually, this is a great problem. It indicates that the Sturgeon population is increasing. At this time, there is no season on Sturgeon, so after you take your photo, please carefully release these gentle giants so they can live perhaps another 100 years and maybe naturally reproduce. A self-sustaining naturally reproducing, core population is the ultimate objective of the Burt Lake Sturgeon Club.

Brenda Archambo, President of Sturgeon For Tomorrow and also affectionately known as "The Sturgeon General", shared some sage advice that we are passing on to you in case you are fortunate enough to catch a Sturgeon. Thank you Brenda.

DNR Guidelines for handling and releasing sturgeon

- Before you bring a big sturgeon into your boat, make sure fishing rods, tackle box-es, and other loose objects are out of the way.
- Do not drop the fish on the bottom of the boat when bringing the fish aboard.
- Always support sturgeon horizontally. Do Not hold sturgeon in a vertical position by their head, gills, or tails.
- Never touch the fish's eyes or gills. Minimize the time the sturgeon is out of the water.



- Gently return the fish to the water and use two people for large fish.
- Revive the fish by supporting it in the water until it is ready to swim off on its own power this could take a few minutes or more than half an hour).
- Visit www.michigan.gov/sturgeon for more information.



Argonaut Club PostCard

Lisbet Bryan



Now that's a dock! The Argonaut Hunting and Fishing Club, later shortened to The Argonaut Club, was founded in 1889 on Burt Lake. There are other sources that state later dates but I'll stick with the 4/14/1914 Pittsburgh Daily Post announcement on the celebration of their 25th Anniversary on the lake. It's the oldest structure on Burt Lake; the only survivor of the 50 resort hotels on the lake in the 1900's

The Club originated out of Pittsburg, Pa. and is located on Pittsburg Landing, hence the name, near Burt Lake State Park and Indian River. Many men's hunting and fishing clubs were formed across America and Canada around the turn of the 19th & 20th century. This movement seems to coincide with the back to nature, conservation and preservation awareness in America called the Progressive Era from the 1890's – early 1920's.

Who were the Argonauts? On Burt Lake they originally were the wealthy who came for recreation, socializing, and of course, to hunt and fish. The Argonaut club owned two steamers, The Pittsburg (1896 – 1905) and the Argonaut Bell (1898-?). The boats were mainly used for transportation of people and for pleasure cruising. A favorite destination was to visit the Indian Village (Odawa Burt Lake Band) on Colonial Point to purchase hand crafted goods and especially baskets.

The original Argonauts were from the Greek tale of Jason and the Argonauts in search of the Golden Fleece; a band of sailing hero's on a quest. Later the term meant those on any quest. So no matter what your quest is for the beautiful Burt Lake and surrounding area, even if you're just seeking rest, you too can be an Argonaut.

From the postcard collection of William Bryan

Rescue Boat Ready to Help

Chris Kindsvatter, Community Affairs

The Burt Lake Preservation Association (BLPA) supported last year \$13,000 to the Topinabee Fire Department (TFD) to purchase a rescue boat for water/boating rescues on Burt Lake. The boat was placed in the water on Monday 4-5-21. Brian Wallace (TFD Lieutenant), and others put in the boat lift and boat in the water to be available for first responders. It is moored on a BLPA member's dock in the geographic center on the East side and will remain on the lake from now when ice has melted until ice forms on Burt Lake. This came about as a result of at least eight incidents per year on the lake with many of those occurring before docks/boats are in the water requiring precious time of first responders searching for a boat and motor to be used in a rescue. Let's be safe on the water this year. The best would be it would not be used at all.





Up North

Michael and Peg Supernault

As I begin to write this, my eyes and mind are drawn to the Sturgeon River below me. Yes, it is late April; yes, it is snowing—but still I reflect on how fortunate we are to be in such a wondrous place. To visit is great, but to live here is truly a blessing.

A pair of Common Mergansers and a pair of Wood Ducks move around on the river. Although they are out of sight now, the pair of Mallards are seen daily, and we assume the Canada Geese are nesting just upstream, since they are also seen frequently. A Bald Eagle made one of its frequent flyovers, probably from its nest just south of us. The eggs must have hatched, since we see an adult “hunting” several times a day.



Since January, we have observed Beaver, Mink, Porcupines, Otter, Coyotes, Deer, and squirrels (far too many squirrels!) through these windows. Although the stage appearance is quite similar day-to-day, the actors show up randomly, and are unpredictable. Some move with great purpose, some are sauntering through the countryside. These windows have offered a grand escape during the last eighteen months. We have not always been able to enjoy the out-of-doors by being “in it” so the view from our windows has kept us observant and appreciative. Whether you are gazing through windows at a lake, river, forest, or field—there is always something in the surrounding environment to experience, enjoy and learn.

From our window, we watched rafts ply the Sturgeon and sleds hit the trail in January. A variety of birds were hanging out at feeders, and mallards and mergansers floated past on the river. Animal sign was



everywhere—tracks and scat. Squirrel tracks were omni-present punctuated occasionally by those of mink, coyote, porcupine, and fox. There were multiple places in the yard where deer scraped away snow cover to find acorns. A Rough-legged Hawk was seen on a drive down Wildwood Road.

In mid-January, freezing drizzle and fog coated everything. Travel was difficult, and schools were closed. The weather produced some visible beauty, however, with “ice diamonds” decorating everything. We had huge flocks of birds congregating at our feeders—35 Mourning Doves, and 25 Blue Jays, along with twelve other species. Later, the Blue Jay population would exceed 50, possibly caused by having a reliable food source, thus negating the need for migration. A bit later in the month, our view looked totally perfect. Newly fallen snow supplied a soft background for the birds at the feeders and made the animal tracks clearly visible. The contrast between the pearly snow and the obsidian river was remarkable.

One never can predict what will appear next in the natural world—a mink sliding in and out of the river looking for his lunch, eight deer at the sandbar for a pre-bedtime drink, or a pair of Bald Eagles flirting in mid-air. Coyotes trot along the bank toward Moyer Swamp, where they will probably den up. In early February, a Cooper’s Hawk reduced our red squirrel population as he dove into a small conifer and found lunch. Fresh otter tracks and a small “slide” were visible across the river. A beaver finally felled a birch that he (she?) had been working on for some months. Such skill and precision! The tree went into the river with the tender branches and buds submerged and easily accessible to the beaver. Although they do



occasionally fell trees on land and drag branches to the water, they move awkwardly on land, and are much more at home in water.

Weather changes happen quickly here. On March 7th we had a beautiful hoarfrost and a temperature of 5 degrees. At 7:30 a.m. on March 8th, it was clear and 42 degrees. Standing outdoors in a light jacket, we could hear the call of the newly arrived Red-wing Blackbirds, "Conck-ca-ree". Several days later we saw a turtle sunning itself on a log—possibly an early record.

By late March, competition at the feeders between "winter birds" and "summer birds" which had just arrived increased tremendously. Dark-eyed Juncos, Common Redpolls and Tree Sparrows were challenged by jays, grackles, and Red-wings. The thermometer stretched toward 60 degrees, and we were able to enjoy sitting on the deck, listening to the spring birds. The thin calls of Sandhill Cranes from high overhead mingled with the raucous sounds of Pileated Woodpeckers. The male Goldfinches rapidly changed from drab green to their bright summer yellow. The majority of Redpolls have begun their trek to their Arctic nesting grounds. A pair of Belted Kingfishers have been "shopping" for a nesting site nearby. They make a hole in a riverbank or a lake bluff, and nest there. We have watched them investigate an eroded bank just below us on the Sturgeon. Life is good.

The benefit of some things in the natural world is not always apparent at first glance. Sometimes the invisible world provokes the imagination—who may be hibernating in or under a fallen log? Which standing dead tree will provide a safe space for cavity-nesters? Some are the usual suspects—titmice, chickadees, nuthatches or one of the seven resident species of woodpeckers. Some are unexpected—Wood Ducks, Mergansers and flying squirrels.

Thinking about dead trees—both standing and fallen—reminds us of our fun days at "Bug Camp," with students thrilled by finding slugs, salamanders, centipedes and millipedes under fallen logs. Snakes love this environment, too—especially in warm dry summers. Our students found several snake species—garter, smooth green, red-bellied and brown. The names are not imaginative, but they are descriptive! Possibly the best reptilian find was a northern ringneck snake, discovered by the grandson of a long-time friend.

Soon, likely by the time you read this, watercraft will be seen on the lake, and kayaks and canoes will appear on the rivers. Grills and outdoor adventures await. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, Baltimore Orioles, warblers, and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks will replace our winter

species. Flowers will bloom, and friendships will be renewed. As all this happens, take time to ponder and preserve the ecosystems around us. So many actions are simple to do.

First, observe and wonder. Get to know the native species around you. Through time, there will be gradual changes to notice. Over the decades, we have seen a decrease in warblers and thrushes. Many places have seen a decrease in Whip-Poor-Wills. In general, there are now three billion fewer birds in North America than there were in 1970. Some populations have increased—Red-bellied Woodpecker certainly is one. Michael banded one in the early '70's, then saw none for years. Now they are commonly seen. The same is true for Tufted Titmouse.



Another easy 'fix' is to reduce outdoor lighting, particularly security lights. Quite similar to the loss of bird population is the loss of insect numbers. Many insects are nocturnal, and are highly attracted to lights, as we all know. These bright lights are disorienting to various insects, and prevent them from finding mates. Think of fireflies. Outdoor lights at night are also a deterrent for migratory birds, which mostly fly at night. We have a yard light, but we turn it off from late February through October.

Chemical pollution, pesticides and light pollution have contributed to the loss of insects which are a vital food source for many songbirds. Another insect which is critically affected by these negative factors is the honeybee, a prime pollinator of many of our fruit and vegetable crops.

Get to know your neighbors in nature, and help maintain their good health. A healthy environment is beneficial for all. We hope you will be able to spend a good deal of time in the natural world of the Burt Lake watershed, and enjoy this wonderful area. Have a safe, joyful and productive summer!



Burt Lake Backyard Bird Book

Jess Miller



One of the greatest joys of being at Burt Lake is watching and listening to the many varieties of birds that frequent our shoreline, our forests, and our feeders. Local photographer, Jess Miller, has created a beautiful guidebook to help identify almost any bird that visits your Burt Lake property. Instead of having to sort through thousands of extraneous birds in one of the national bird guides, this book contains only the birds you are likely to see on Burt Lake. This makes it much easier to identify almost any Burt Lake bird in a matter of seconds.

In addition to being useful, the Burt Lake Backyard Bird Book is very artistic. All of the photographs were chosen not only to help identify the birds, but also for their aesthetic beauty. This is a 9x12 hard-bound, cloth-covered, coffee-table book containing 22 pages of full color photographs, all of which were taken along the shores of Burt Lake.

So how does one decide to take on a project like this? Pam Miller (Jess' wife) has been attracting birds to their Burt Lake property since they moved there in 1977. Jess chuckled, "I am not only an avid photographer, I have also perfected the task of hauling tons of bird food over the years, so that Pam can continue to fill the many feeders surrounding our home."

A few years ago, Pam noticed that Jess was occasionally taking pictures of the birds at the feeder. She asked him to consider trying to photograph as many different birds as possible. She thought, why not put together a photo album of the birds that come to our feeder?

She asked Jess to take on this project, and put in a request for a personalized Christmas gift that would be a photo album of their Burt Lake Backyard Birds.

Jess is seldom one to turn down a challenge, so he spent much of the summer of 2019 photographing every bird at or near their property, including the many water fowl that visit them regularly. The more Jess photographed the birds, the more he became interested in identifying birds. Fortunately, Steve Baker, a local retired veterinarian and bird enthusiast, was able to lend a helping hand to make sure that every bird was accurately identified.

The first copy of the Burt Lake Backyard Bird Book was delivered from Jess to Pam on time for Christmas 2019. Pam liked it so much, she insisted that Jess order more copies as Christmas presents for some of their closest friends.

During the following Spring, Jess realized that the first edition of the book was far from complete. He had totally missed the migrating birds that visited Burt Lake in the early Spring. The excitement of discovering more and more species was palpable. "I had no idea that the common merganser male and female looked like two different kinds of ducks; and I had no idea of the incredible beauty of the hooded merganser and red-breasted merganser". There was obviously much more work to be done, and the book began to grow.

The Burt Lake Backyard Bird Book is now in its 4th edition, with 39 species represented, often including photos of both the male and the female and the babies. Over one hundred Burt Lake households currently have a copy of this fascinating book on their coffee table.

Jess sells his photographic books just slightly above the cost of producing them. The price is \$25 for any of his books. "I don't make much money on the books, but I do love sharing my photography with those who appreciate it. That is the greatest fulfillment of all." Jess sells his books basically through word of mouth. If you would like to view them, contact Jess Miller at 231-268-9349.





Sheriff Promotes New Recreation Division Sergeant

Thank you for allowing me to introduce myself to the members of the Burt Lake Preservation Association. My name is Earl Manuel, a lifelong resident of Cheboygan County. My interest in law enforcement gained traction while I was attending Lake Superior State University and working the summers as a Marine Deputy with the Cheboygan County Sheriff's Department. After receiving my bachelor's degree and graduating from the police academy in 2010 Sheriff Clarmont hired me full time. My first duty was as a Correction's Deputy in the jail. After a year at that position I was promoted to Road Patrol Deputy where for the next nine years I gained vast experience in law enforcement.

With the retirement of Sgt. Kelsey Kennedy this past January, I was promoted to Recreation Division Sergeant. This full time certified position was created by Sheriff Clarmont in 2014 to ensure marine, snowmobile and ORV patrols continue to meet the needs of the citizens of Cheboygan County.

It is a great privilege to be able to work with the residents around our beautiful local lakes, as well as the citizens of Cheboygan County. My hope is to get to know each of you, and continue to build on the strong relationship of collaboration that has been in place for many years. The Sheriff and I thank you for your continued support.



*Michigan DNR CO Officer Tim Rosochacki
Cheboygan County Marine Sheriff
Sergeant Earl Manuel*

Walleye Management Plan

A healthy, abundant walleye population is a big part of Michigan's fisheries. These native fish provide exciting opportunities for world-class recreational fishing and play an important ecological role as a top predator.. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has drafted the first statewide walleye plan focused on inland waters. Learn more about the walleye species and management plan at Michigan.gov/Walleye.



BLPA Annual meeting update

We want to get an update out about some changes to the BLPA annual meeting. The most important thing is that the meeting date has been moved to **August 21, 2021**. This is a change from the July 10th date that is published in the directory. The venue at the Indian River Golf Club and starting time of 9:00 A.M. will remain the same. This will be a reservation only meeting and there will be more news to follow.



Kayak/Bike Biathlon

Jess Miller

If it's Sunday morning of SummerFest in Indian River, there's only one place to be....at the Kayak Bike Biathlon. This is perhaps the only event of its kind in the entire country. There

is no running and no swimming (unless you capsize). The event combines two of northern Michigan's favorite pastimes, kayaking and bicycling, in order to showcase our beautiful waterways and trails.

This year, the 14th Annual Kayak Bike Biathlon will take place Sunday July 18th from 9AM to 11AM. The event is limited to the first 100 registered participants. Registration takes place on-line only at Active.com.

On the day of the race, check-in begins at 8AM at DeVoe Public Beach in Indian River. Each Participant will bring their kayak, paddle, and life jacket to the beach, along with their bike and helmet. (Both bikes and kayaks are available for rental by local businesses.).

The course begins with 2.24 miles of kayaking on the beautiful and historic Inland Waterway (Burt Lake and the Indian River). The course continues with 11.68 miles of bicycling on the scenic North Central State Trail.

Some of the best places for spectators to view the event is at DeVoe Public Beach, the Bridge over the Indian River, Indian River Marina Park, or the Topinabee public park. The Finish Line is located just south of the Indian River Chamber Building on the North Central Trail.



The registration fee includes a t-shirt, refreshments, and a chance to win one of many beautiful wood carved plaques to be awarded to top finishers in several age/gender categories. There is also a raffle for over a \$1000 in donated prizes from our generous local businesses.

This event is a fundraiser. 100% of the proceeds are donated to build and maintain quality trails in our local area. The cost is \$50 by June 10, \$60 by June 30, and \$70 by July 16.

The Kayak Bike Biathlon is held in cooperation with the Indian River SummerFest and Top of Michigan Trails Council. The event is coordinated by Jess Miller with support from Margie Reh and over 25 volunteers. If you are interested in participating or volunteering, please contact Jess at (231) 268-9349 or Margie at (517) 896-1209.



Dress up for the summer

Check out the BLPA merchandise at
www.blpa.org/membership/merchandise





University of Michigan Biological Station: Summer 2021 Happenings

Jenny Kalejs, UMBS Communications Coordinator

Although the UMBS campus is still closed to outside visitors, we look forward to welcoming a limited number of students and researchers to camp this summer in accordance with evolving public health guidelines. Undergraduate courses include Forest Ecosystems, General Ecology, Ethnobotany, Field Mammalogy, and more.

As for events: We are hosting another virtual Summer Lecture Series. The exact dates are pending, but we plan to stream three endowed lectures in ornithology, plant and fungal ecology, and natural history between late June to early August. We especially hope that local lake associations, environmental agencies, and the broader northern Michigan community will tune in and learn about the important work of our nationally recognized lecturers. Keep an eye on the UMBS website for forthcoming dates and details: <https://lsa.umich.edu/umbs/news-events/all-events/summer-lecture-series.html>

In other news, we are pleased to share the story of a cherished northern Michigan shorebird, and a special UMBS researcher who has dedicated her career to protecting them.

In a surprise move, Frontier Airlines opted to name their new fuel-efficient Airbus A320neo “Francie the Piping Plover” in honor of longtime UMBS researcher Dr. Francie Cuthbert, who leads the Great Lakes Piping Plover Research Team.

UMBS has long been Francie’s base of operations and site of an acclaimed captive rearing facility where trained zookeepers hatch and raise plover chicks that were otherwise abandoned due to severe weather or predation. The Piping Plover was close to extinction in the mid-1980s when the species was placed on the endangered list. The work of Dr. Cuthbert and others is helping to restore the species’ population.

“Without UMBS, all of the plover work would not have been accomplished,” says Cuthbert. “The Station has been the research home for me, my grad and

undergrad students plus captive rearing since I first started research on the Great Lakes population in the mid-1980s. So this is a big honor for UMBS too.”



Photo credit: Frontier Airlines



Photo credit: Frontier Airlines

As always, UMBS thanks you for your support and friendship. See you around the neighborhood.

Questions or comments? Email UMBS Communications Coordinator Jenny Kalejs:

jennkale@umich.edu.



Burt Lake Trail Phase III

Katie Parker, Community Affairs

The Burt Lake Trail committee is gearing up for construction of Phase III this coming summer, now that our MDOT/ TAP and DNR grants for Phase III have been approved. Now we are applying for a DALMAC grant to cover part of approximately \$50K of unfunded engineering costs and related expenses. (We could still use some more donations from the neighborhood in the vicinity of Phase III.) DALMAC requires that we provide letters of support for the project from community groups such as BLPA. The following letter to Gene Hodulik, Burt Lake Trail Committee Chairman should help fill that bill, as well as summarize the value of the Trail to our community.

Dear Gene

April 11, 2021:

On behalf of Burt Lake Preservation Association (BLPA) and its membership of 900+ families and businesses, we support the planned construction of Burt Lake Trail Phase III during the summer of 2021. To date, BLPA has donated a total of \$61,000.00 to help with the costs of Phase I, Phase II and Phase III of this project. Recently completed Phase II of the Trail, a paved section on the South side of Riggsville Road, was used steadily by cyclists, runners and walkers last summer and fall, as a safe and scenic alternative to roads.

Phase III of the trail picks up where Phase II ended, near the intersection of Riggsville and East Burt Lake Roads, continuing mostly off-road through University of Michigan Biological Station forests, and eventually onto locally owned property. Easements have been generously granted by the University and several neighboring land owners. Farther on, Phase III will link with 5 foot wide paved shoulders on East Burt Lake, thereby completing 10 miles of continuous non-motorized trail encircling the northern half of Burt Lake.

The trail offers several points of access to Burt Lake, including the Colonial Point Preserve, the UMBS Gorge area, and the public boat launch near Hoppies restaurant. The trail offers an opportunity to expand the public's appreciation for the natural beauty of Northern Michigan, and the importance of protecting Burt Lake waters and shoreline.

BLPA strongly supports the endeavors of the Top of Michigan Trails and the Burt Lake Trail Committee to enhance opportunities for people to experience the outdoors.

Respectfully,

Jim Burke, President, Burt Lake Preservation Association

Memorials and Honorariums

The following memorials were received during 2020. The Burt Lake Preservation Association is a community of members and friends. As an organization we are united by the common theme of preservation and protection of Burt Lake and its watershed. As a community we are also united by common attitudes and interests, celebrations, and sorrows. Thank you to the following donors who chose to remember neighbors, friends and family through a donation to the Burt Lake Preservation Association.

In Memory of:

Joe Berger
Ron & Helen Bales

Irv Bieser
Doc & Carolyn Liles

Jim Fraser
Jeane Mummert

David Friend
Judy Colburn

Jenny Geldine
Donald & Joy Claus
Shirley & Ed Reimann
Lynn Geldine
Dale & Cheryl Dotski

Susie Jontz
Jontz Family-Jon & Sue,
Jane & Tom, Kay & Bill,
& Jay

Nancy Kozacki

Christopher Rutt &
Cheryl Bye

Judy Bye

Joan Hoffman

Patricia & Jeffrey Rinvelt

Northern Trust -
(Bonnie Kopp)

The Straders-Greg,
Melissa, Meghan & Liana

Walt & Jean Lindsay

Timothy &
Deborah Rowlett

Jontz Family-Jon &
Sue, Jane & Tom, Kay
& Bill and Jay

Kerry Seaver-Block &
Joe Block

Thomas North

Frank & Norma Kestler

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Diane Niermeyer-Marco

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Esther Summers

John W Herbert

Anna & Jason Dunn

Donald Reh

Mike & Peg Supernault

Fred Schwab

Jontz Family-Jon & Sue,
Jane & Tom, Kay & Bill, & Jay

In Honor Of:

Gina Burke on her Birthday
Mike and Peg Supernault

Ron & Kim Klee

Lindsay Klee

Neil & Anne Paulson

Anonymous Donor

Michael & Maggie Wilps
on the birth of their son
Dave Hoppe, Nan & Roy



Burt Lake
Preservation
Association

P.O. Box 632
Indian River, MI 49749
(231) 238-2177

April 7, 2021

Re: Tuscarora Township Septic to Sewer Expansion and Modernization Project

To whom it may concern:

On behalf of Burt Lake Preservation Association (BLPA) and its membership of 900+ families and businesses, we support the Tuscarora Township Septic to Sewer Expansion and Modernization Project. This project is consistent with our mission. In fact, BLPA paid for the initial study and engineering report by donating \$8,000.00 to the township.

The Burt Lake Preservation Association's goal is the preservation and improvement of Burt Lake and its watershed for quality use by future generations. To do this we will unify the lake community to confront the key issues involving the lake and its watershed. Working in cooperation with federal, state, and local government entities, educational institutions, foundations, conservancies, and other resources, the Burt Lake Preservation Association (BLPA) will contribute financial and human resources to fulfill this goal. While supporting and participating in an array of activities, we assume responsibility for the following: The vision of the Burt Lake Preservation Association is to be the leader of preservation and improvement of Burt Lake including its watershed and community.

In a letter written by District Health Department #4 to Tuscarora Township, they strongly support the municipal sewer expansion. The letter included the following statements: *"The expanded service area that encompasses the region due west of the Downtown corridor, between the Indian River to the north and the Sturgeon River to the south, is an area previously highlighted by District Health Department No. 4 (DHD4), as a problem area for onsite sewage disposal due to a high seasonal groundwater table and very small lots. These issues created lack of isolation for onsite sewage disposal systems from onsite water wells, property lines and surface water and in some cases, critically undersized sewage disposal systems. The expanded sewer system in the area mentioned above would resolve some of these public health concerns and issues, help improve surface water quality and improve environmental conditions in the residential area."*

BLPA therefore strongly supports the Tuscarora Township Septic to Sewer Expansion and Modernization Project.

Respectfully,

Jim Burke, President
Burt Lake Preservation Association

Preserving the Waves of the Future.



Burt Lake Preservation Association
P.O. Box 632
Indian River, MI 49749

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INSIDE:

Sturgeon Report

Biathlon

Backyard Bird Book

Rescue Boat

Trail Phase III



Visit www.blpa.org or facebook.com/burtlakepreservation association.

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