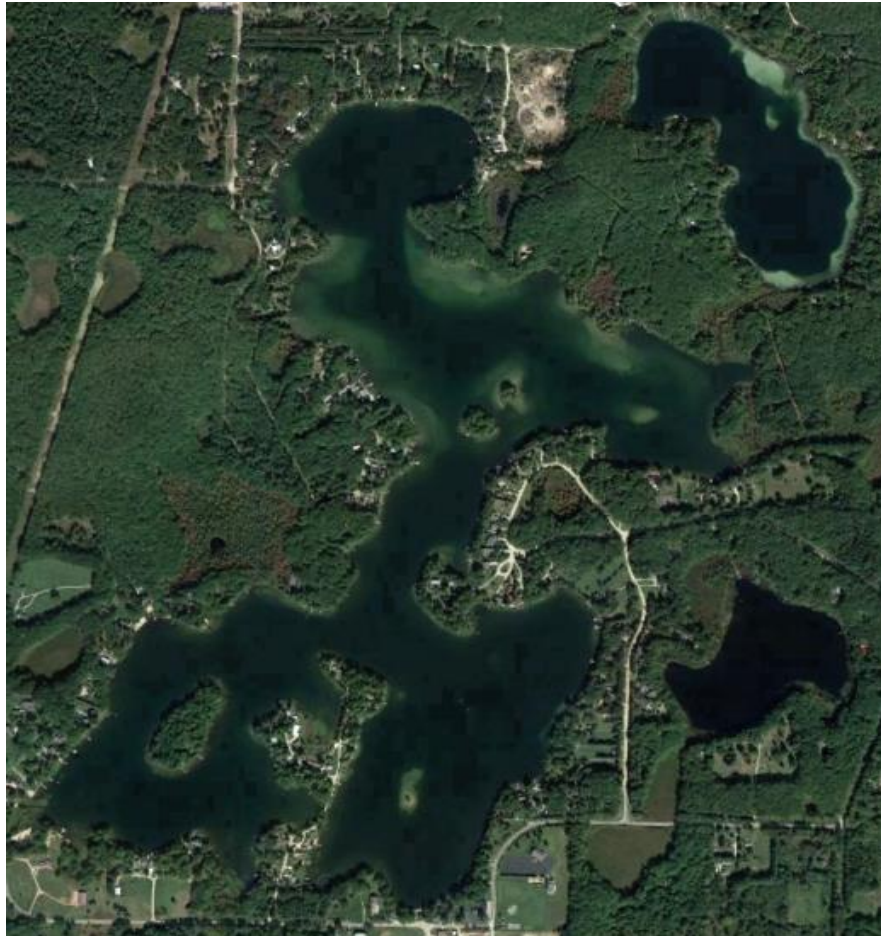


Bass Lakes Area Environmental Partnership

2022 Annual Report



Bass
Lakes
Area
Environmental
Partnership
A 501(c)3 nonprofit organization



Our Mission:

Our mission is to promote public awareness, forge partnerships among citizens, scientists, and professionals, and foster the protection of the lakes' ecosystems for today and for generations to come.

About Us:

The Bass Lakes Area Environmental Partnership was created in 2021 by riparians from Big Bass and Little Bass Lakes in Irons, Michigan committed to education and the control and prevention of aquatic invasive species through innovation and cutting-edge science. Designation as a 501(c)3 organization enables us to apply for grants and solicit donations for financial resources to meet our mission. We are starting out small, but hope to expand in the future to include other waters within our watershed.

The founding principles of the Bass Lakes Area Environmental Partnership are:

- Providing education about the lake and shoreline ecosystems
- Preventing and combatting the spread of invasive species in the lake and shoreline ecosystems
- Soliciting grants and donations in order to take actions to prevent the spread of invasive species and to pay for educational program
- Other charitable efforts related to lake and shoreline ecosystem health in the area

Board of Directors:

President: Lisa Adams

Vice President: Tom Shear

Secretary: Heidi Haskins

Treasurer: Heidi Haskins (interim)

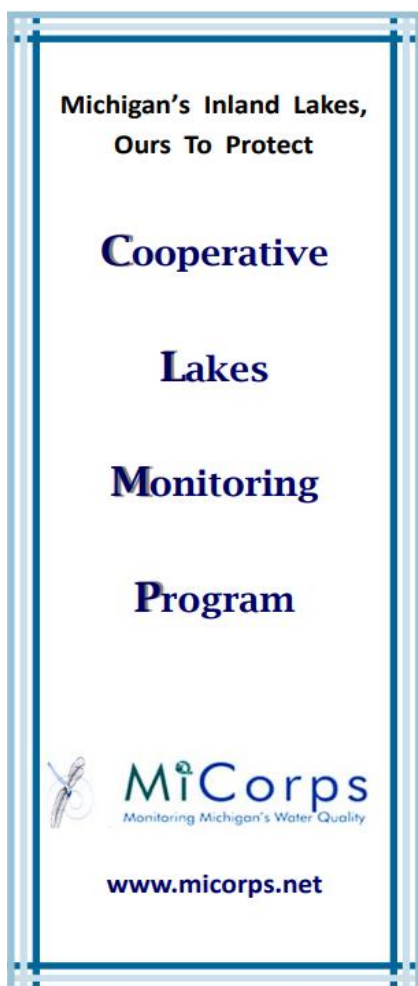
Directors: Jeanne Kavanagh and Linda Irmscher

(Many thanks to exiting Treasurer Ruthanne Gilbert for her service to our 501(c)3 organization!)

Committees:

Fishing and Fish Habitat Improvement: Tom Stinson

*If you would like to receive timely updates on our activities, please send your
name and email address to:
president.basslakes.aep@gmail.com*

May – September: CLMP for BBL and LBL**PLEASE DONATE!**

Your tax-deductible donations to the Bass Lakes Area Environmental Partnership organization pay for this annual monitoring program to help protect and preserve the beauty of our lakes.

We need your generous support to continue with this important program!

Donate securely and safely via PayPal at our website:

DONATE

Or mail a check to:
Bass Lakes AEP
PO Box 15
Irons, MI 49644

[Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program \(CLMP\) Program Overview](#)

As more and more people use inland lakes, the potential for pollution- and erosion-related problems and impairment dramatically increases. As the beneficiaries of Michigan's inland lake resources, citizens must take an active role in obtaining vital information and managing their inland lakes.

Parameters Tested in 2021:

- Spring & Summer Total Phosphorus (water pollution, mainly from lawn fertilizer)
- Secchi Disk (water clarity)
- Dissolved Oxygen & Temperature (oxygen is needed to support fish populations)
- Chlorophyll-a (amount of algae in the water)
- Aquatic Invasive Species Watch (milfoil and other invasive species)
- Score the Shore (lakeshore habitat assessment)

These parameters are used to determine the overall health of the lakes.

Summary Results: Big Bass Lake

BBL is becoming less clear and experiencing more algae growth. Transparency has decreased every year since 2019, when collection of transparency measurements started. The lake keeps some dissolved oxygen in the bottom waters through mid-summer, but by late summer the bottom water is devoid of oxygen. Lack of dissolved oxygen due to pollutants in the water may be affecting fish populations.

The only aquatic invasive species detected was milfoil (Eurasian Watermilfoil). This is excellent news! Please keep practicing Clean, Drain, Dry activities to keep our lake free from other invasive species. Share this information with friends and family that might launch a boat in other waters.

The lakeshore habitat survey, Score the Shore, was performed by CLMP volunteers in 2022. Overall, the lakeshore habitat of Big Bass Lake scored a bit better than could be expected when compared to other lakes in the program with similar amount of development. However, there is plenty of room for improvement. The best way to improve would be to concentrate on planting native vegetation on areas that are currently mowed lawns and keeping native plants and woody debris in the shallows. You can get plenty of ideas for improving shoreline health from the Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership (<https://www.shorelinepartnership.org/>).

Here is the [full report for Big Bass Lake](#).

Summary Results: Little Bass Lake

Although suffering from extensive growth of the aquatic invasive species, Eurasian watermilfoil (milfoil), LBL is a very healthy lake. This lake does not stratify like a typical Michigan lake; it does develop anoxic waters on the bottom but the oxygen in the thermocline (about at a depth of 20) gets very high, possibly due to bands of algae conducting photosynthesis in this section of the lake.

The only aquatic invasive species detected was milfoil (Eurasian Watermilfoil). This is excellent news! Please keep practicing Clean, Drain, Dry activities to keep our lake free from other invasive species. Share this information with friends and family that might launch a boat in other waters.

The lakeshore habitat survey, Score the Shore, was performed by CLMP volunteers in 2022. Overall, the lakeshore habitat of Little Bass Lake scored above average when compared to other lakes in the program with similar amount of development, but an overall slight degradation of habitat across the lake was detected. There are several things residents can do to improve habitat. For example, keep native plants and woody debris in the shallows and allow unmowed areas to grow on the shoreline. You can get plenty of ideas for improving shoreline health from the Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership (<https://www.shorelinepartnership.org/>).

Here is the [full report for Little Bass Lake](#).

A HUGE THANKS TO ALL OF OUR CLMP VOLUNTEERS!

Bert Merriman
Deb Truszkowski
Heidi Haskins
Jeanne Kavanagh
Laura McKay
Linda Irmscher
Lisa Adams
Ruthanne Gilbert
Tom Irmscher
Tom Shear



May - September: Family Bass Fishing Contest

We are getting the "Big Bass" into Big Bass Lake again! Bass Lakes AEP hosted several fish outings for Bass Lakes families and guests. The purpose of the fish outings was to harvest stunted bass and get families out fishing.

Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's Outdoor Fund chose to fund our management plan and gave us \$2000 worth of prizes that were awarded this summer 2022! We awarded prizes Memorial weekend through Labor Day weekend.

This event was sponsored by Bass Lakes Area Environmental Partnership through the Fishing & Fish Habitat Committee, chaired by Tom Stinson.

All prizes are provided through a grant from **Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's Outdoor Fund**.

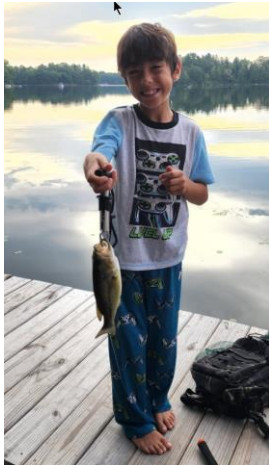
Administration of the grant was conducted by awarding approximately 20% of the fishing equipment purchased with the \$2000 after each event. All items purchased with the grant were awarded. Here are some items awarded to the winners.



A BIG thank you to **Tom Stinson** for obtaining the grant and running the contest!



Here are some of the photos submitted by 2022 event participants:



July: AIS Blitz and MSU Mobile Boat Wash / Clean Boats, Clean Waters

The AIS Blitz was held at the BBL Boat Launch on July 2nd this year.

Boaters and other recreators learn about the risks of spreading aquatic invasive species (AIS) at public and private boating access sites across the Great Lakes region every summer. The Great Lakes AIS “Landing Blitz” events take place over a two-week period, emphasizing the need to **Clean, Drain, Dry** boats whenever they come out of the water, and **Dispose** of any unwanted bait in the trash.

Local volunteers partnered with state and provincial agencies to deliver consistent messaging about preventing the introduction and spread of AIS from the movement of watercraft and equipment between water bodies.

The MSU Mobile Boat Wash was also at the BBL Boat Launch on July 2nd this summer.

The MSU Mobile Boat Wash program provides a trailer-mounted washing unit, two staff that operate the unit and talk with boaters about the importance of “**Clean, Drain, and Dry**” to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. The trailer-mounted boat cleaning system uses heated high-pressure water that is effective in cleaning most invasive species from boats and trailers. A containment mat prevents runoff back into lakes and rivers. Local volunteers assist during the event.

[MSU Mobile Boat Wash](#)



A big THANK YOU to our volunteers!

Heidi Haskins
Tom Shear
Linda Irmscher
Bert Merriman
Jeanne Kavanagh

Our Generous Donors:

GRANT	LAKE LEADERS (>\$1000)	CONSERVATION SUSTAINERS (\$1 - \$999)	MEMORIALS
Great Lake Energy Community Grant		Lisa Adams	
Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's Outdoor Fund		George & Ruthanne Gilbert	
		Heidi Haskins	
		Bert Merriman	
		Tom Shear	