

***Bass Lakes Area  
Environmental Partnership  
June 2023 Newsletter***

Bass  
Lakes  
Area  
Environmental  
Partnership

*A 501(c)3 nonprofit organization*



Greetings to all Big and Little Bass Lakes Neighbors!

As I am writing this newsletter, I am looking forward to another fun summer on the lakes! Bass Lakes Area Environmental Partnership (Bass Lakes AEP), our 501c3 organization has accomplished many things to enhance and protect our beautiful lakes. Please see our [2022 Annual Report](#) for details.

This newsletter is chock full of information so hold on to your copy!

Mark your calendars:

- July 1<sup>st</sup> , Aquatic Invasive Species Blitz, BBL Boat Launch, 10:00AM-4:00PM
- Labor Day weekend: Family Bass Fishing Outing Contest

Educational information:

- This is the Summer of Hand-pulling Milfoil! Erick Elgin from MSU Extension was a special guest at our June 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Public Meeting. His discussion focused on long-term lake health, the importance of natural shorelines and what you can do to protect the near-shore habitat. Erick did a demonstration of how to hand-pull milfoil in front of your own house. He also identified lots of native aquatic plants that were present. See his [demonstration here](#).
- Continue to watch our website, your email and the Friends of BB/LB Lakes Facebook page for more educational information

DASH Boat Campaign Kick-off:

- The June 10<sup>th</sup> Bass Lakes AEP Annual Public Meeting was the official kick-off of the Diver Assisted Suction Harvest (DASH) Boat campaign
- **To date, we have raised \$17,255!**

- This includes money from your generous donations and the GLE \$7000 grant we received last year
- The fundraising goal is \$60,000 and will cover procurement of the boat, required ancillary equipment, training, and initial operating cost. Long-term operating costs are not included in the initial fundraising goal of \$60,000.
- You can still **DONATE** to the DASH Boat Campaign! Checks can be mailed to: Bass Lakes AEP, PO Box 15, Irons, MI 49644

Why we have selected [DASH as a method for Aquatic Invasive Species \(AIS\) control?](#)

- Bass Lakes AEP performed a 2-part pilot study to determine the effectiveness of DASH in BBL during the summers of 2020 and 2021. In summary, the results are:
  - DASH is a **non-chemical**, highly selective method of removing milfoil
  - It removes the plant roots and reduces biomass (the stuff that makes muck)
  - It is a highly effective method of milfoil control when performed continuously over time and in conjunction with re-vegetation of native plants
    - Remember, milfoil cannot be eradicated...only mitigated
    - Proper lake management plan is key
  - It can also be very effective at reducing the amount of herbicide put in BBL
  - Other non-chemical methods of milfoil control were investigated, but not considered feasible:
    - Weevils are difficult to find to purchase, expensive, bluegills eat them
    - At this time, EGLE will not permit the use of benthic mats (also known as weed mats or bottom screens) installed at the lake bottom to prevent/inhibit weed growth
- At this time, the only AIS detected in BBL and LBL is [Eurasian Watermilfoil \(milfoil\)](#)
- At least one other AIS, [Starry Stonewort](#) (SSW), has been found in Harper Lake

- SSW is a macro-algae that does not respond well to herbicides
- It can form dense mats at the water's surface that inhibit water recreationists
- SSW overtakes habitat and outcompetes native aquatic plants, potentially lowering diversity
- It provides unsuitable shelter, food, and nesting habitat for native animals
- Preliminary data suggest DASH is a method

Other activities performed and funded by Bass Lakes AEP:

- Continuation of lake monitoring through the Cooperative Lake Monitoring Program (CLMP) in both [Big Bass Lake](#) and [Little Bass Lake](#)
  - Vigilant monitoring for new invasive species
    - Exotic Plant Watch
  - Detailed characterization of the shorelines
    - Score the Shore
  - Water quality tests for health of fish, turtles, etc. and control of algae growth
    - Total phosphorus
    - Dissolved oxygen and temperature
    - Secchi disk
    - Chlorophyll
- Continuing educational opportunities
  - Conference attendance
  - Distribution of educational materials
  - Guest speakers at public meetings

## **Bass Lakes Area Environmental Partnership Board of Directors - 2023**

### **President:**

Lisa Adams  
president.basslakes.aep@gmail.com

### **Vice President:**

Tom Shear  
tashear2@aol.com

### **Treasurer:**

Barb Seiler  
basslakesaep@gmail.com

### **Secretary:**

Heidi Haskins  
secretary.basslakesaep@gmail.com

### **Directors:**

Jeanne Kavanagh  
jeannekav@gmail.com

Linda Irmischer  
Lgirm46@hotmail.com

### **Fishing and Fish Habitat Improvement Committee:**

Tom Stinson  
stinsonproducts@gmail.com

We hope that you are as excited about the Bass Lakes Area Environmental Partnership nonprofit organization as we are! We continue to look for ways to decrease the use of chemicals in our lakes, while preventing the introduction of new aquatic invasive species. Preservation and rehabilitation of our shorelines will lead to better fishing and more sustainable lake ecosystems. We truly want to keep our lakes beautiful for generations to come!

Warm regards,

Lisa Adams, Bass Lakes Area Environmental Partnership President  
president.basslakes.aep@gmail.com

<https://basslakesaep.wixsite.com/501c3>