

July 2012

# Bear Lake Township Improvement Association



## BOARD MEMBERS

*Jeff Shull, President*

*Paul Nelson, Vice-President*

*Erika Sharpe, Secretary*

*Barb Lopinski, Treasurer*

*Sue Allen, Member*

*Tom Millington, Member*

*Marian Navarro, member*

*Cindi Sargent, Member*

## **51<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting**

**Saturday, August 4  
Community Center**

**9am** Coffee and Doughnuts  
**10am** Meeting

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### **Speaker:**

**Bill Rapai**

**Author of "The Kirtland's Warbler:  
The Story of a Bird's Fight Against  
Extinction and The People Who  
Saved It"**

*BLTIA 2011-2012 Initiatives*

1. Bear Lake
  - a. Payment for Michigan Lakes & Streams Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program
  - b. Cleanup of Lake Bottom - Scuba Diving
  
2. Cub Lake
  - a. Payment for Michigan Lakes & Streams Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program
  - b. Payment for Extensive Study of Lake by PLM
  - d. Lakefront Septic Testing Supplies
  
3. Manistee River
  - a. Port-a-John Sponsorship
  - b. Support Upper Manistee River Association
  
4. Township Cleanup
  - a. Forests
  - b. Highway
  
5. Support Fire Department
  
6. Communication
  - a. Newsletter
  - b. E-mails
  - c. Information Resource Handout
  
7. Educational Scholarship Program

### BEAR LAKE

The Michigan DNRE in March of 2012 planted 7900 wild rose brown trout with an average length of 6.82 inches and 7900 Sturgeon River brown trout with an average length of 5.2 inches. There were no rainbow trout planted this year.

The Bear Lake Association was successful in establishing a Special Assessment District for the purpose of funding water management and invasive species control on Bear Lake. A special fee has been added to each lake property owner's winter tax bill. Treatments have taken place for milfoil and phragmites.

The Kalkaska County Sheriff's office and the Michigan DNR have reaffirmed that high speed boating hours will remain 11 A.M. – 7:30 P.M. on Bear Lake.

### CUB LAKE

The BLTIA agreed to pay for an extensive study of Cub Lake to determine the lake's composition and assess the presence of invasive species. This study was completed last summer and provided many recommendations. Over the Winter, Cub Lake property owners formed the Cub Lake Property Owner's Association. Their plan is to create a Special Assessment District and implement the study's recommendations.

### PROTECTING THE MANISTEE RIVER

The Bear Lake Township Improvement Association is again partnering with the Upper Manistee River Association to protect this valuable resource. Projects include erosion control structures, maintenance of in-stream structures, sediment traps, repairing riverbank damage, and portable toilet installation at key locations. Our improvement association will support the Upper Manistee River Association by providing funding for a portable toilet.

### SUPPORTING OUR FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Bear Lake Township Improvement Association supported the Fire Department by recently providing bottled water and snacks for fire runs and pizza for fire department meetings.

### ADOPT A HIGHWAY CLEANUP

The BLTIA volunteers to clean up trash along a two mile stretch of M-72 between Sunset Trail and Lake Valley Road. The project is coordinated by Paul Nelson along with others that clean up in April, July and September. We **welcome** volunteers!

Please contact Paul Nelson at 231-258-4310 to volunteer.

## STATE FOREST CLEANUP

In partnership with Michigan's Adopt-A-Forest program, again volunteers from the BLTIA cleaned up several trash sites on state forest land in Bear Lake Township. Our efforts have put Bear Lake Township among the top townships in the state for clean and natural state forest lands.

JEFF SHULL  
CONTACT  
INFORMATION

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## A LETTER FROM THE BOARD

We hope you can attend our 51st Annual Meeting on Saturday, August 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 A.M. We will hear from Bill Rapai, author of the book, "The Kirtland's Warbler: The Story of a Bird's Fight Against Extinction and The People Who Saved It". We will also discuss our recent accomplishments and outline our upcoming initiatives.

The board members of the BLTIA have been meeting on the first Thursday of the month at 7 P.M. since May to work on important objectives to ensure our township remains an enjoyable place to live and vacation.

### **We look forward to seeing you August 4th!**

Please note that beginning in 2013, our newsletter will only be sent to members that have paid annual membership fees.

**Thank you for your support!**

## ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION...

The Bear Lake Township Improvement Association is a volunteer, non-profit organization formed to protect and improve our township lakes, rivers, forests and people.

Membership is \$15.00 per year. A membership card is enclosed. You may mail your card and payment or bring them to the Annual Meeting.