



Bay Lake Improvement Association
P.O. Box 461 • Deerwood, MN 56444-0461

Fall President's Letter:

Water Quality Focus in 2019

We all have much to celebrate after another great summer at the lake. Thanks to all who volunteered, participated, or otherwise helped make for another great season.

In 2019, BLIA will again sponsor and/or support these activities: Shoreline Enhancement/Plant Giveaway, Small Northern Pike Contest, Music on the Lake, Fireworks, Runtilla, Amazing Race, Second Annual Block Party and Picnic on Church Island, Trivia Night, and New Year's Fireworks (see dates on the website). Each of these events is produced by a cadre of Bay Lake volunteers, too many to list. Thanks to each of you for helping create and continue the Bay Lake experience.

We also intend to focus on water quality next year and are currently working with the Crow Wing Soil and Water District looking at ways to improve the quality of Bay Lake waters. Projects under consideration include helping Bay property owners develop natural shorelines to reduce and prevent runoff, identifying and mitigating other lake inflows, and developing of easements to maintain natural habitat.

Yes, Zebra Mussels were found in Bay Lake earlier this summer. A handful of other destructive invasives are infesting Midwest lakes and we will continue our efforts to prevent their introduction into Bay. In September, the Board authorized a \$10,000 donation to the Minnesota AIS Research Center (MAISRC), located on the UofM campus. This donation represents less than 1.5% of our reserves and will be targeted at research on Zebra Mussel control and management.

MAISRC funding comes from various sources; DNR, the state legislature, and 45 other lake associations. The Center was formed in 2013 to find practical solutions to the Zebra Mussel infestation, now affecting almost 200 MN lakes. For further information, see www.maisrc.umn.edu or contact me.

2020 will mark the 50th anniversary of the Bay Lake Improvement Association. A small committee has been meeting to decide how to celebrate the successes of those 50 years with announcements coming in the spring.

Have a safe and warmish winter.

Phil Rollins, President