

May, 2007

Fellow Bay Lakers:

As the new President of the Bay Lake Improvement Association (BLIA), I want to acknowledge the leadership of Mark Roloff, and thank him for his past three-year's of service as BLIA's President. We invite his advice and counsel in the coming years.

For those who don't know me, this will be my forty-second year at Bay Lake, and my family's forty-seventh—a virtual newcomer by some standards, an old timer by others.

Some things have changed in 42 years. In the late 60's and early 70's, a trip to the dump meant a short trip down Katrine, just past The Lonesome Pine. There, we threw everything from potato peels to paint cans—seems inconceivable today with our increased awareness of the harm waste can cause the lake. Milfoil didn't arrive until 1992. Zebra mussels and other exotic species, and the topic of lakeshore preservation, weren't on the radar. Those were seemingly simple summer days catching Sunfish off the dock, skiing, and walking to Hansen's for an ice cream cone.

While things have changed a bit, there is still one common thread. Bay Lake is a unique lake community, which, year after year, has chosen en masse to be part of one of the strongest lake associations in the state. The strength of our membership empowers voices like David Devins, who has the challenge of keeping milfoil at bay (no pun intended), and representing our concerns regularly with local and state legislators, and DNR officials.

David's commitment ensures Bay Lake's interests are forefront with the individuals who set policy for Bay Lake and the 10,000 other MN lakes. Beyond David, you have an all-volunteer board, which is responsible for managing membership, finances, social events, fundraising, acquiring and distributing trees and plants, water quality, membership communication, community-building events, and more. As we guide BLIA from one year to the next, we are aware of the membership we serve and the lake we all love.

Representing a lake with approximately 400 properties can make some days more interesting than others. We don't dump garbage in that landfill anymore, but the lake continues to be challenged by existing exotic species and those looming on the horizon. You may find it interesting to note that of 650 boats inspected at the landing last summer (*estimated to be about one-sixth of all the boats that entered the lake*), more than 10% had just come from lakes infected with Zebra mussels.

This sampling illustrates the fact that the water quality of Bay Lake faces real threats from neighboring lakes and beyond. While the threat is real, there is far from universal agreement as to the best solutions to maintain a healthy lake environment. Your BLIA board is also of diverse opinion when it comes to discussing the highly-charged topics of exotic species, “environmentally friendly” lakeshore development and/or preservation, and the effects of climate change.

Consider that the board is no more than a sampling of Bay Lake residents. We are comprised of some who have been on the lake for a few years, some for decades. Some have new cabins, some have the original cabin-stead. Some like to fish, some would rather ski. Board meetings are a microcosm of the conversations taking place regularly around the lake.

So what? The topic of lakeshore, and all that goes with it, is evolving at a much more rapid pace than when my family arrived at Bay Lake. To keep step, BLIA will need to continue to evolve. We will keep the pulse on discussions happening at the local, state and national levels. We will try to educate and empower our membership rather than dictate solutions. We will try to advocate on behalf of our members, while recognizing the diversity of opinions. The extent to which BLIA thrives is directly dependent on our members’ input and participation.

In my brief tenure, I’ve received numerous ideas and suggestions. Topics range from stands on issues we should or should not take, to the content of the Breezes, the Annual Meeting, and a web site, to properly recording memorial contributions made to the Environmental Fund, and many more. If you have ideas, time, desire to preserve the lake for future generations—we welcome your input:

- Attend a monthly Board Meeting—9:00 am; 5/19 (Woodland Beach); 6/16, 7/21, 8/18, 9/15 (Ruttger’s)
- Attend the **Annual Meeting—July 7, 9:00 am, Ruttger’s**
- Call me at (612) 801.9364
- Call David Devins (612) 237.1827 to volunteer for Access Monitoring

Perhaps you believe as I do that the world belongs to those who show up, and ideas are only realized through action. Praise the Lake.

Respectfully,



Patricia Jespersen
President