



Bay Lake Breezes



From Bay Lake
Improvement Association Inc.

Spring 2002

'Lakescaping' offers yard beauty, lake protection

From BLIA Water Quality
Committee

Look around the lake, and you will see different approaches to landscaping.

Some people favor a natural look, with lots of trees and with natural vegetation extending to the water's edge. In these yards, animal life flourishes, the shade keeps the cabin cool and there's virtually no time spent mowing, but the view can be limited.

Others favor a more open setting and, believe it or not, some folks actually "like" to mow.

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder, so it's logical that these differences exist.

Having said this, it is in our best interest to identify what is best for Bay Lake and whether there is a way to achieve it without limiting our freedom to landscape and maintain our property.

What's best for Bay Lake?
Undoubtedly the lake would have been better off if we hadn't developed the property around it. Trees, native plants and aquatic vegetation are vitally important to the health of a lake. Conversely, removing trees and laying sod down to the shoreline is detrimental. This is particularly true if fertilizer is applied because a substantial portion drains into the lake, where it stimulates weed growth.

Is there a way to protect the lake and have the openness that some people want? Yes!

It's called "lakescaping" — a logical approach to lakeshore landscaping that is becoming increasingly

popular. In fact, there are many good examples right on Bay Lake.

Officially, the term *lakescaping* was coined when a DNR (Department of Natural Resources) employee named Carrol Henderson wrote a terrific book on the subject. Since then video and CD-ROM programs have been produced and pilot sites have been developed.



Lakescaping can incorporate aquatic vegetation, shoreline buffer zones, trees that don't adversely affect the view and even grass. It doesn't have to be expensive. It's attractive. It's easy. It's even fun. Plus, runoff is filtered by the plants along the shoreline...and

fertilizer isn't needed!

Changing our approach to shoreline landscaping and maintenance is an important part of BLIA's water quality strategy, so we're pleased to see that *lakescaping* has appeal for just about everybody.

To get started, come to the BLIA Annual Meeting on Saturday, July 6. *Lakescaping* will be a featured topic. If you can't wait,

Lakescaping, cont. on Page 3

Project to slow runoff into Bay Lake

by Mark Roloff
Water Quality

If you travel on County Hwy. 10 past Ruttger's this spring, you will note some road construction. This is part of BLIA's effort to slow sediment and chemical runoff into Bay Lake.

In past issues of the "Breezes," I have mentioned a multi-year research project in

which we identified locations where nutrients and sediments entered the lake. This spring we are beginning to tackle one of these places along Hwy. 10.

A number of years ago in this stretch of highway, curbs and drains were installed according

Runoff, cont. on Page 3

From our president

Bay Lake: more than a place to ski

by Paul Erickson

Back in 1963, my folks purchased a cabin on Bay Lake. I didn't care where it was, what the community was like or even about the water quality. As long as we got a boat and I could ski, I was happy.

Little did I know how that cabin would affect my life. I spent my college summers working at Birkeland's Resort and then married my sweetheart from

across the lake. After many years away from Bay Lake, we purchased our own cabin in 1990. Last summer we moved lock, stock and barrel to the lake, and now our older daughter is marrying *her* sweetheart from across the lake. Over the years, Bay Lake became more than a place to ski...it became "home."

We're not unique. Cabins

become homes. Memories are created. Traditions are established. Relationships are started. Multiple generations are involved. And it's just as true for seasonal residents as it is for full-timers. We lived in five cities in two countries, but our "home" has always been Bay Lake. This continuity, combined with organizations like BLIA and "gathering places" (our village greens) like Hansen's Store, Ruttger's, Lonesome Pine, White Hawk and Church Island, help shape the nature of our community.

But it's the people, what they care about and what they are willing to do, that make a place special. Looking back, I can remember clumps of algae floating by as I waited to yell "hit it!" I can also remember the "old folks" talking about organizing to deal with water quality problems. I realize now that while I was skiing, others were laying a foundation for our community by creating the Bay Lake Improvement Association.

Our lake community is, and will be, what we make it. We have miles of diverse shoreline, but the residents of our community can, and must, have a common focus. Please support and get involved in BLIA. Attend the Annual Meeting. Meet your neighbors at the Summer Picnic. Excite your kids and grandkids at Minnow Camp. Contribute to the Environmental Fund. Join a committee or "pitch in" on a water quality project. And, be sure to meet your Beach Captain!

As Bay Lakers, we've inherited an environmental and societal legacy, and now it's OUR TURN to protect and enhance it...and to ensure Bay Lake continues to be more than "a place to ski."

Bay Lake Improvement Association

Officers

President.....Paul Erickson
Vice President.....Mark Roloff
Secretary.....Open
Co-Treasurers.....Sylvia Graff, Nick Johnson

Directors

Paul Erickson, Don Hales, Bobbie Keller, Don Knutson, Dan Mulheran, Rita Pappas, Mark Roloff, Chris Ruttger, Joanne Sebek, Steve Souder, Frank Tonnemaker

Committee Chairs

Aquatic nuisance control.....David Devins
Audit.....Paul Erickson, John Parrish
Beach captains.....Paul Erickson
Breezes.....Bobbie Keller
Church camp liaisons.....Gary & Carol Malek
Conservation.....Chuck Albertson
Continuity.....Ruth Hansen
Env. Protection Fund.....Don Knutson, Rita Pappas
Fireworks.....Gregg Orwoll
Fishing contests.....Joel Kraft
Fishing resources.....Gary Malek
Government.....Jerry Poland
Legal advisor.....Mike Kelly
Membership.....Betty Marquardt
Nominations.....David Devins
Programs/social.....Rita Pappas
Runtilla.....Jim Bye
Security.....Don Hales
Tax.....Mark Anderson
Water quality.....Mark Roloff
Water safety.....Kevin Krueger

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Web site: www.baylake.org

Editor.....Bobbie Keller

Be sure to meet your Beach Captain

by Paul Erickson

Our Beach Captains accomplished a lot last year.

Many residents were contacted or given introduction letters in an attempt to get member input and to establish a local linkage with BLIA. Beach Captains are responsible for the shoreline near their own cabin, so they're your neighbors. Please make an effort to meet with them.



Many cabins have changed ownership, and new street names and numbers have been issued, so a special effort was made to update our database. Besides facilitating member communications, our database is now a vitally important part of our Eurasian watermilfoil management process.

Orientation packages were delivered to more than 100 potential new members. Increasing our membership and ensuring we have members from all areas of our community are primary goals.

All of our Beach Captains deserve credit, but it's particularly noteworthy that Don and Darlene Borgaro helped achieve a 100 percent sign-up at the Oaks. And Jim and Myrna Nelson have made a terrific effort to reestablish BLIA with the residents of Knieff's Shore Acres.

Our Beach Captains have volunteered because working directly with our members is key to ensuring we have a healthy association...and, because they have a genuine interest in their shoreline.

Runoff, cont. from Page 1

to traffic flow patterns around Ruttger's. Unfortunately, the design allowed for storm water runoff to flow directly by culvert, unfiltered, into the lake. Over the years, anything lying on the roadbed — oils, chemicals, nutrients and sediments — had a good chance of being flushed into the lake.

Early last fall, BLIA was approached by the Crow Wing Soil and Water District and the Crow Wing County Highway Department to participate in a project to help correct this problem. With a grant from the Soil and Water District and in-kind payment from BLIA, the County Highway Department will handle the necessary construction on the project.

Based on a plan submitted by A. W. Research of Brainerd, the project will be done in two phases. First, a number of drains will be routed to a holding pond on the north side of the highway. There,

any sediment, chemicals, etc., will be allowed to settle to the bottom of the pond. In the event of extended runoff, an overflow venting system would allow only the cleanest water to be discharged into the lake.

The other phase of the project would be the eventual installation of filters directly into the drain not connected to the holding pond.

In addition, more rock has been placed near the lakeside opening of the culvert to enable additional settling of storm water runoff. Lastly, through a grant from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, we will

transplant native vegetation from the south end of Bay Lake to act as a final nutrient buffer to any storm water runoff that may flow into the lake.

With the completion of this Hwy. 10 project, we will look at additional sites and keep you informed as planning takes place. Thank you for your continued support of the activities of your board as we continue to address environmental issues on Bay Lake.



Q: Why join the Bay Lake Improvement Association?

A: Why do we even have to ask the question?

BLIA seeks to:

- Preserve the quality of the lake.
- Promote the Bay Lake community.
- Prevent the spread of Eurasian watermilfoil.

That pretty much says it all. The rest is up to you.

Thanks for joining us.

Lakescaping, cont. from Page 1

check out <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/restoreyourshore/> or contact Minnesota's Bookstore at (651) 297-3000 or (800) 657-3757 or <http://www.minnesotabookstore.com>. Alternatively contact the DNR

Information Center at (651) 296-6157 or (888) 646-6367.

Over the long term Bay Lake will benefit by this approach...and, in the meantime, the attractiveness of your home will be enhanced.

Don't forget BLIA Fishing Contest

Ah, summer: the time when many an angler's fancy turns to — fishing.

If your idea of a good time is cruising in a fishing boat or relaxing on a dock with rod and reel in hand, your catch could win you a trophy.

Between Memorial Day Weekend and Labor Day, anglers are invited to take their prize catches to Hansen's Store to be

measured and entered in BLIA's annual Fishing Contest. If your usual practice is catch-and-release, keep a disposable camera handy in the boat or take the fish home for some brief family photography before returning it to the lake. A picture of the fish next to a ruler will be accepted as an eligible entry.

Congratulations to the Summer 2001 winners:

Children's Division

Largemouth Bass — Christopher Stark, 10, 18 1/2 inches

Sunfish — three tied at 8 inches:

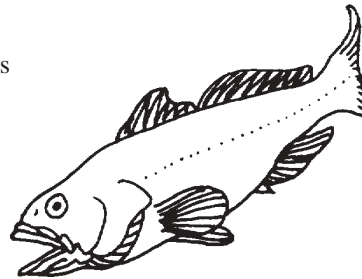
Mathew Broman, 7, Justine Charles, 5, Josh Elmer, 5

Adult Division

Crappie — Bill Goolsbee, 11 1/2 inches

Largemouth Bass — Mike Ruddy, 17 1/2 inches

Northern Pike — Chris Gondeck, 33 inches



DNR working to improve fishing

by Gary Malek

A number of things are happening that could impact long-term fishing on Bay Lake:

1) In late May, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will do one night of electro shocking to evaluate the bass population.

2) In mid-June, the DNR will do its every-five-year netting. This is

a major sampling that determines the DNR's future game plan for Bay Lake. I will work with the DNR during this netting.

3) Signage to have anglers keep northerns less than

24 inches long will be posted sometime this summer at public landings and local stores.

4) The DNR will be working with lakes to improve aquascaping (shoreline vegetation) to improve fish populations. This is a goal of our association, so we will actively pursue it.

If you have input, please contact me at (218) 678-3712.

Come to Church Island this summer

by Carol and Gary Malek
Bay Lake Camp

Greetings from First Lutheran Bay Lake Camp (BLC). As we enter our 76th year of camping, we now have a conceptual plan for the renovation of our camp. Stop over and see our plans for the future. The difficult part will begin soon with the raising of funds to keep BLC viable for years to come. We will keep you posted.

We want Church Island to be a part of the community and welcome you to share in its uniqueness. Come for worship, walk the trails, enjoy the new children's playground or just take in the island's solitude. (Parental supervision is required.) Please dock your boats on the south side of the island and respect our campers when camp is in session.

We welcome you to our Sunday Worship Services at 10 a.m. Memorial Weekend through Labor Day. Come by boat or catch the shuttle from the camp landing on Brighton Point, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Stay for coffee, treats and fellowship after the service. We have an exciting summer planned, and you can see the details on the Bay Lake Web site.

The primary mission of BLC is to provide a camping experience to inner city youth and families. Many of you have helped sponsor campers in the past, and we again welcome your contributions. The cost is \$150 per camper per week. Send your check to Bay Lake Camp, 16257

Brighton Point Rd., Deerwood, MN 56444 and indicate it is for camperships.

Another opportunity to help out is on Saturday, May 25, at 9 a.m., when we look for volunteers to help install docks and ready the outdoor chapel for the summer. Questions — call Carol or Gary at (218) 678-3712.

Hope to see you soon.

Your signature authorizing chemical treatment on your shoreline will be needed this spring. Without your signature we will not be able to treat your shoreline should it be necessary. If you have not responded, please do so ASAP by sending the signature form in the stamped envelope provided in the mailing or completing and sending this form:

Attn. BLIA,

Yes, you have our permission to chemically treat along our shore for Eurasian watermilfoil. Please provide all the information listed below.

Print Name _____ Fire Number _____

Bay Lake Street Address _____

Bay Lake Phone Number _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Eurasian watermilfoil under control; your help will make it stay that way

by David Devins
Aquatic Nuisance Control

Once again we will continue our fight against Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) in Bay Lake. This is our 11th season of addressing the EWM problem. While the weed is widespread in Bay Lake, we believe that it is under control, in that there are no large nuisance areas.

Working with Buddy Diving Service and Lake Restoration Inc. as we have for several years, we will do surface surveys in late May and early June, with treatment planned for the second or third week in June. We will repeat our program in September.

We ask that you keep looking for EWM on your shoreline.

There were several situations last year where your involvement made a difference and helped identify areas to treat.

Please continue to support our program by donating to the Environmental Protection Fund again this year. This program has worked and will continue to work with your contributions.

Thanks.

Ruttger's has a new mailing address:

Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge
P.O. Box 400
Deerwood, MN 56444

Bay Lake Area and Deerwood Lake Lions to host tour of homes

A tour of elegant homes will be presented on both Aug. 2 and 3 to benefit the Lions Mobility Bus, which provides daily transportation service to the elderly and handicapped in the Cuyuna Range area.

Refreshments and parking will be available at 8 a.m. at the Lions facility across from Zigs. Patrons will enjoy a tour of several unique homes in the Bay Lake area, followed by a buffet lunch at Ruttger's Lodge and a symmetrical "Doll House Village."

Tour cost is \$35, which is tax-deductible. Registration forms are available at Hansen's Store and several other area businesses.

For further information, contact Sylvia Graff at (218) 678-2543.

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

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Bay Lake Bulletin Board

*BLIA Annual Meeting
Saturday, July 6
9:30-11 a.m.
Ruttger's
Come early for coffee and
conversation with friends.*

*Get in shape for
Runtilla July 27*

*BLIA Family Picnic
Saturday, Aug. 10
5 p.m., dinner 6:30
Rita Pappas' cabin*

*Fireworks
Friday, July 5
10 p.m.
off Malkerson
Island*

*Minnow Camp
(Children's Party)
Saturday, June 29
10 a.m. to noon
Church Island*

*Get trees
May 25*