



Bay Lake Breezes

Bay Lake
Improvement Association Inc.

www.baylake.org

Fall/Winter 2014-2015

Another season Zebra-Free

On Oct. 8, as this is being written, as the wind howls down the channel and the temperature refuses to move above 40 degrees, I am guardedly optimistic that Bay Lake remains free of zebra mussels. So far, no sign of them has been found. The evidence: In early September, we purchased and installed six zebra mussel detection devices around the lake. Bay Lakers were unlikely to notice the small, stacked Masonite plates hanging below the surface from docks at Hansen's, Bay Lake Marine and the Lonesome Pine, and four private docks. I retrieved the plates in mid-October and found no zebra mussels. Even more encouraging, in late September, a DNR dive team searched our lake for zebra mussels and discovered none.

Unfortunately though, zebra mussels were found in two additional Crow Wing County lakes, North Long and Gilbert. This brings to about 40 the number of lakes in Crow Wing County that are infected, 20 percent of the roughly 200 recreational lakes in the county.

Access Inspection Update

BLIA expanded the public access inspection program in 2014, using paid, DNR-trained inspectors

during most daylight hours. They monitored boats entering and leaving Bay Lake's public access ramp every day, generally from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on some days for even longer hours, from mid-May through early October. Coverage totaled roughly 1,600 hours.

Our association was pleasantly surprised in June when the state legislature approved \$4.5 million to support local aquatic invasive

species programs. With one of the most robust inspection programs in the state, Bay Lake received support for 700 inspector hours, the equivalent of about \$10,000 from the \$202,000 in state funds allocated to Crow Wing County.

The state has committed to double its funding to battle invasive species in 2015, and BLIA expects to receive about \$25,000 in state funds next year.

Monitoring, continued on Page 9



A record number of Bay Lakers came to either participate or cheer on the runners in the 30th annual Runtilla. Even "bananas" got in on the fun. This year's event raised more than \$16,000 for the Bay Lake Environmental Protection Fund. Story and more pictures on Page 5.

Three cheers, thunderous applause and a HUGE thank you!

Once again you Bay Lakers stepped up and supported BLIA. For the second year in a row more than 500 people sent in their 2014 membership dues. There is no way to fully let you

know how much you are all appreciated. We have a great organization, and it's all due to people who are willing to be part of the Bay Lake Improvement Association! Thank you all.

If for some strange reason you have not yet sent in your \$30 for this year, please know that it is NEVER too late to do so. Also, when you do join, be sure to support the fireworks, the greatest show on the lake. We are so fortunate to have this display every 4th of July holiday.

You can mail in your contribution to BLIA, Box 461, Deerwood, MN 56444, or contribute online at www.baylake.org.

Again, thanks to all of you!

Betty Marquardt
Membership
(218) 678-2417
(651) 730-1045
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Remembering

This summer and early fall, we lost several longtime Bay Lakers and former Bay Lakers. Our sympathy to the families and friends of:

Bill Aye
Sally Bye
Doris Danielson
Joe Husbands
Greg Lofquist
Mike Mickelson
Patricia O'Brien
Lawrence Rush
Robert Severson

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Website: www.baylake.org

Editor.....Bobbie Keller

Bay Lake water quality good; we can make it even better

Thanks to the efforts of the BLIA and volunteers, we are fortunate to have many years of water quality data that allow us to monitor long-term trends in Bay Lake. As of this writing I'm still awaiting the lab results from the 2014 summer water quality monitoring program, but I don't anticipate any big surprises — the water quality in the lake appeared to be good last summer and has remained fairly steady over time with a slightly improving trend. According to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), Bay Lake is safe for recreational uses like swimming and wading, with good clarity and low algae levels. However, like most lakes in the state, Bay Lake is considered "impaired" due to elevated levels of mercury in fish tissue samples. The Minnesota Department of Health has posted guidance regarding fish consumption on its website.

I'm sure every BLIA member would like our lake to be even cleaner and clearer than it already is today. There is little we can do about the mercury issue, but we can impact water clarity. Water clarity is an excellent indicator of water quality, and clearer water is both healthier for the ecology and aesthetically pleasing.

Furthermore, improving water clarity indirectly helps our efforts to reduce Eurasian watermilfoil growth and prevent infestation by zebra mussels. These exotic species need nutrients to thrive, the same nutrients that adversely impact water clarity.

Here are some simple things we can do as property owners to help our lake:

- **Don't apply fertilizer on areas that drain to the lake.**
- **Don't dump leaves or grass clippings on areas that drain to the lake.**
- **Leave a plant buffer along your lakeshore to filter and catch pollutants from yard runoff.**
- **Maintain your septic systems with regular pumping and inspections.**

I recently attended a meeting where MPCA Commissioner John Linc Stine talked about his agency's efforts to improve water quality in Minnesota lakes and streams. Currently, only 64 percent of the lakes in the Upper Mississippi River basin (which includes Bay Lake) meet acceptable standards. The story for rivers and streams in the watershed is worse — only 39 percent meet acceptable standards. The agency's goal is to increase the number of lakes in the watershed with a

passing grade to 74 percent and the number of rivers and streams to 45 percent by 2034, when the Clean Water Legacy Act expires. Commissioner Stine noted that even with added Legacy Act funding, his agency does not have the resources to achieve these goals without the help of organizations like BLIA.

Terry Coss
Water Quality

Thinking ahead to next summer

If you need help creating — or enhancing — a plant buffer along your lakeshore, consider visiting the annual BLIA Tree and Plant Giveaway at Lonesome Pine, from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, May 23, 2015. Red (Norway) pine and white spruce trees will be available, along with a variety of appropriate plants, all ready to put into the ground.

Mark your calendar and join us at the Giveaway. Improving your property with more greenery is a great way to start the summer!

Bay Lakers enjoy annual golf tourney, picnic to support BLIA Environmental Protection Fund

The weather was great, the Ruttger's Golf Course was beautiful and 19 teams came on Aug. 9 to tee off for the 8th annual Bay Lake Golf Scramble and Picnic. Following the golf tournament, another 45 adults and children joined them for a picnic in the golf cart building to support the Bay Lake Environmental Protection Fund.

We are so grateful to Jack, Ann and Chris Ruttger for the use of their great facilities! A huge thanks goes to David Sadlowsky, golf professional, and his staff for their support and assistance in setting up the tournament! And a very special thanks to **everyone** who attended to make this a special event, raising approximately \$3,800 for the Bay Lake Environmental Protection Fund. Great job, everyone!

Two teams tied with a score of 30 (six under par!), so golf professional David Sadlowsky used the hole handicap rating system to determine the winners.

Golf Scramble Team prizes were awarded to the following:

First Place Team — Score 30 (6 under par!): Brandon and Tyler Billman, Bryan Holte, Mike Vanda

Second Place Team — Score 30 (6 under par!): Heidi and Jim Bye, Diane and Peter Donnino

Third Place Team — Score 31 (5 under par!): Corky, Charlie and Wesley Carlson, Barb and John McCabe



Jim Pierce, right, 2014 Bay Lake Scramble Master Putter winner, stands with George Reynolds, Golf Scramble and Picnic co-chair.

Team closest to Pin #7: Heidi and Jim Bye, Diane and Peter Donnino

Team closest to Pin #9: Dominic Ciresi, Josh Goolsby, Phil Malkerson, Joe Roloff

A putting contest was included again this year. Fifteen people qualified for the putting finale, which was worth \$100. Jim Pierce was this year's winner. 2013 winner Pete Mulheran presented Jim with the Bay Lake Scramble Master Putter green jacket. The \$100 check from Sunshine Golf (George and LaDonna Reynolds) was presented by George. Congratulations, Jim!

A special thanks to Josh and the Lonesome Pine Restaurant for the delicious meatballs and shrimp served on the course and for sponsoring the Hole-in-One event

there. Unfortunately, no one won this year.

Donations to the Environmental Fund and door prizes were awarded at the picnic, thanks to the generosity of the following individuals and businesses: Ruttger's Resort, Lonesome Pine Restaurant, Mills Fleet Farm, Sunshine Golf, Hansen Sports, Ace Hardware, Knollwood Wine and Spirits, and Norson Builders. We appreciate all the support and interest from so many in keeping Bay Lake environmentally clean for everyone! Thank you!

Looking ahead to the 9th annual Golf Scramble and Picnic event, please mark the second Saturday in August 2015 on your calendar. Plan to bring your family, friends and guests to support a great cause! ALL are WELCOME!!

Thanks to EVERYONE for a great day!

George and LaDonna Reynolds
Co-chairs

30th annual Runtilla draws record participation

A record 600-plus men, women, children, dogs — and even “bananas” — joined in the fun of the 30th annual Runtilla Aug. 2.

Many ran, walked, biked or skated the 5K course, while family members and friends cheered them on.

“We had amazing participation this year,” said Jim Bye, Runtilla coordinator.

For the second year in a row, Henry Jessen was the overall winner, besting his last year’s time by nearly 50 seconds. This year he crossed the finish line in 16 minutes, 54 seconds. Lily Campbell, who last year was third fastest in the women’s division, this year won the women’s division with a time of 21 minutes, 2 seconds.

Campbell, 14, also designed the Runtilla t-shirt for the second year in a row.

This year a colorful overhead banner marked the race finish line, and Bay Lakers could enjoy refreshments from a Bloody Mary stand.



Jim Bye, left, Runtilla coordinator, congratulates Henry Jessen, right, overall winner for the second year in a row.

After the race a record number stayed for the picnic, which has become tradition in the last few years. Bye thanked “Charlie” and Jackie Charles and family, traditional picnic hosts, and Josh Goolsbee, who provided the Bloody Mary stand and donated bottled water. Half of the Bloody Mary stand proceeds went to

support the Runtilla and the Environmental Protection Fund.

Bye also thanked the almost 60 Runtilla sponsors, who donated a total of more than \$16,000 this year to bring the 30-year total to \$226,100 in Environmental Protection Fund contributions. More than 25 were “Special Sponsors,” who contributed \$250 or more, including a record six at the \$1,000 level and one \$2,500 donor.

“Most of our sponsors give year after year,” said Bye. “We appreciate any size gift and are so thankful for the generous support from our Bay Lake community.”

Bye also thanked Goolsbee, Brent Sauder and Brad Hansen, who constructed the overhead banner with help from others, and the 29 volunteers who keep the Runtilla running smoothly. “The Runtilla wouldn’t be what it is without their input and help,” said Bye. “We’ve had so much success with the Runtilla in the last 30 years. Now we’re looking forward to the next 30 years.”



Runners cross the finish line under the new overhead banner.

Bay Lake Camp celebrates 88 years of touching lives



Every Sunday, Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day Weekend, Bay Lakers gather for an outdoor service on the island.

Holiday Greetings from Bay Lake Camp! 2014 marked our 88th year of providing a camping experience to more than 3,000 campers on Bay Lake's beautiful Church Island. First Lutheran Church of St. Paul thanks you for your ongoing support, especially during this important time of transition, as we seek a partner or partners to assist us in continuing our unique mission.

Lives are touched, lives are changed forever after a camping experience. Our clients come from a wide variety of Christian and civic settings, including Boy Scouts, 4-H, Boys and Girls Club of America, public schools, colleges, theater groups and church groups. The young, the old and families all enjoy. The Red Cedar Lodge is perfect for family reunions, church retreats, weddings and other celebrations. Come on over and check us out.

6

Thank you to all who helped make our summer worship services a success. Each Sunday, Memorial Day through Labor Day, we continue to hold worship, rain or shine! It was a challenge this past summer...one rainy Sunday after another, many with 20 people there...but those were special Sundays, when each one of us connected on a personal level. On the other extreme, we had more than 350 people attend on a perfect Sunday later in the summer! Plan on making it part of your Bay Lake tradition next summer.

Our annual pie and ice cream social and auction on Labor Day Sunday was again a success, raising funds for campers. Thank you to all who supported by donating items and bidding. What a fun way to help kids come to camp!

If you are here over the New Year's Holiday, come join us on Thursday, Jan. 1, at noon for our annual New Year's Day service, when we gather around the campfire at the outdoor chapel, weather and ice conditions permitting. It is a great way to begin the New Year!

We also thank all of you who helped raise funds to Send a Kid to Camp by supporting or participating in the second annual Bridge Tournament and our annual Big Swim in July. Once again both events were led by Bay Lakers like you, who care deeply about providing a camp experience for ALL! We look forward to hosting more fun times like these in 2015, so please watch the spring issue of the Breezes for details.

In closing, remember a donation to Bay Lake Camp helps continue the work and ministry of Bay Lake Camp. Donations can be sent to First Lutheran Church, 463 Maria, St. Paul, MN 55106 marked "for Bay Lake Camperships."

Wishing you a safe and Blessed Holiday Season. See you on the island,

Brenda Olson, Camp Director
651-247-0360

Carol and Gary Malek
218-820-3329



Campers on their way to new experiences.

16 teams compete to beat the clock in 3rd annual Amazing Race

The 3rd annual Bay Lake Amazing Race was another huge success!

Sixteen teams of four signed up for the events/challenges.

After meeting at Church Island, teams dispersed to 10 different spots on Bay Lake to complete the events. About 25 people volunteered to time and conduct the challenges, which ranged from volleying a ball at Sandy Beach, to croquet at Eaglewood, to identifying places on the lake and paddleboarding at Ruttgers.

Every team was VERY competitive. Teams ranged from 7/8 year olds to grandparents. Such good sports!

The Maus/Martin Family took honors, taking a total of 448.8 seconds...or 7.48 minutes...to do the challenges! The total time to compete was approximately two hours on the lake.



“Barbie” and “Ken” join the Maus/Martin Family, who took top honors, completing all the challenges in under 8 minutes.

Tons of thanks again to Josh and The Lonesome Pine for supplying pizzas and a place for the award ceremony with more than 100 people in attendance!

The event raised a total of \$2,121.05 for the BLIA

Environmental Protection Fund.

Be sure to check the 2015 BLIA calendar for the date of next year’s BAY LAKE AMAZING RACE!

Here are the individual challenge team winners:

- Map Challenge - Joas Family
- Canoe Challenge - Maus/Martin Family
- Stilts Challenge - Schumacher Family
- Fish Challenge - Ennis Family
- Croquet Challenge - Maus/Martin Family
- Paddleboard Challenge - Maus/Martin Family
- Ball Toss Challenge - Paul Power
- Minnow Challenge - Kursch Friends
- Volleyball Challenge - Team Ciresi

Map Challenge volunteers gather at the challenge site, the Goolsbee family cabin.



Bruce Johnson, left, prepares to fire the starting gun while Steve Souder checks out his timer. They are among the 29 volunteers whose contributions make the Runtilla a success each year.



Jim Bye, Runtilla coordinator, congratulates winners in the 11-to-15 age group. First-place Lily Campbell, right, also was first in the Women's Division and designer of the Runtilla t-shirt for the second year in a row. She joins fellow winners Marit Swenson, second from right, and Hope Malecha.

2014 Runtilla winners (Story and pictures on Page 5)

Age 0 to 10

- 1 - Kendall Stadden, 9, 25:13
- 2 - Andrea Simeone, 6, 31:00
- 3 - Maggie Olson, 10, 34:21
- 1 - Bjorn Swenson, 10, 22:59
- 2 - Flynn Mason, 10, 25:42
- 3 - Lags Simeone, 10, 27:03

Age 11 to 15

- 1 - Lily Campbell, 14, 21:02
- 2 - Marit Swenson, 12, 26:20
- 3 - Hope Malecha, 12, 31:28
- 1 - Joe Swenson, 15, 20:02
- 2 - David Birkeland, 14, 20:10
- 3 - Luke Jessen, 13, 22:32

Age 16 to 20

- 1 - Gracia Bonesho, 20, 22:39
- 2 - Touria Techam, 18, 25:32
- 3 - Emily Rose, 17, 24:36
- 1 - Henry Jessen, 18, 16:54
- 2 - Charlie Hayes, 20, 20:58
- 3 - Noah Burson, 19, 21:17

Age 21 to 30

- 1 - Sarah Bingea, 21:37
- 2 - Kim Carroll, 22:36
- 3 - Jackie Sorensen, 22:51
- 1 - Max Hanson, 19:36
- 2 - David Cherney, 20:57
- 3 - Darius Montazeni, 21:10

Age 31 to 40

- 1 - Tina Hochstaetter, 25:19
- 2 - Casey Ritchie, 26:02
- 3 - Jenny Snyder, 27:44
- 1 - Kyle Snyder, 17:42
- 2 - Joe Cotes, 21:53
- 3 - Todd Masin, 24:00

Age 41 to 50

- 1 - Jennifer Swenson, 24:58
- 2 - Kim Coughlin, 25:27
- 3 - Patricia Thomsen, 26:03
- 1 - Jimmy Smooth, 22:18
- 2 - Ja B. Holge, 22:49
- 3 - Mike Ross, 23:04

Age 51 to 60

- 1 - Kitty Croston, 24:59
- 2 - Sherry Anderson, 29:35
- 3 - Verdino, 29:37
- 1 - Dean Hansen, 20:56
- 2 - Mark Jessen, 23:49
- 3 - John Ushr, 23:49
- 3 - Jeff Peters, 23:50

Age 61 to 70

- 1 - Paula Snyder, 30:43
- 2 - Kathy Stark, 37:46
- 3 - Jen Peterson, 43:51
- 1 - Marcus Johnson, 22:39
- 2 - Bob Maus, 23:50
- 3 - Robert Anderson, 25:11

Age 71 to 100

- 1 - Mary Maus, 29:45
- 2 - Joanne Renquist, 40:10
- 3 - Darla Fischer, 45:00
- 1 - Sherm Malkerson, 27:41
- 2 - Bur Callary, 28:40
- 3 - Dale Peterson, 37:03

Monitoring, continued from Page 1

Expansion to Crooked Lake

Our “upstream” waters flow from the Crooked/Portage Lake system into Hunter’s Bay. In recent years, we have encouraged the Crooked/Portage Lake association to initiate an inspector program similar to ours on their primary public access ramp, to no avail. Because the BLIA Board felt it was important to protect the waters upstream from us, this past spring the Crooked/Portage Lake association agreed to allow us to organize and pay for Friday, Saturday and Sunday inspectors on the Crooked Lake access. In July, state funding became available for that program, too, and helps pay for its operation.

Diverse Opinions

There continue to be strong opinions about our inspection program. Some believe we will see zebra mussels in Bay Lake in the foreseeable future and that there is nothing we can do to stop them. Others, me included, believe that our efforts have greatly reduced the likelihood of a zebra mussel infestation, and may perhaps even prevent their introduction. So far, with no zebra mussel sightings from lakeshore owners, lake service providers removing docks and lifts, divers or evidence on detection devices, just may be

we have dodged the zebra mussel pests for another year.

Once again, our sincere thanks to the many Bay Lakers who support the BLIA Environmental Protection Fund, which finances much of our invasive species efforts. Although we expect to receive significant funding from the state in 2015, there are no assurances for 2016 and beyond. Therefore it remains critical for

Weather, treatments keep EWM growth down

We continued our plan to treat Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) in Bay Lake this year as in the past.

We did a lakewide survey this past spring, and with the late winter and ice-out, found very little EWM, treating 10 acres compared to eight in 2013. Heavy snow cover and late ice-out, as well as high water and a cool early summer, kept EWM growth to a minimum.

We conducted another survey in early September and found, then treated, about 40 acres in early October, compared to 50 acres in 2013. It turned out to be a fairly average year for EWM, with acreage being treated down some from previous years. We expect the fall treatments to be very successful. The sites were mostly small and scattered, which is a result of successful prior treatments.

We continue to see very effective control of EWM, and the native vegetation is holding

us to continue to build our reserves. We depend upon you.

The BLIA will continue to address current threats and to be prepared for those yet to arrive on our shores.

Phillip Rollins
Public Access Inspection
Coordinator
(415) 497-2838 or
philfishing@gmail.com

its own very nicely. In most areas of the lake the native plant species are very healthy, pushing back against the EWM, preventing it from taking over. Our spot treatments over the years have worked very well to this end.

Thank you for responding with your postcards or e-mails to our shoreline inspection request in the September mailing. Once again my apologies for the tardiness in asking for your help identifying EWM problem areas. Again there was an excellent response, which was helpful in planning treatment areas.

Thank you for your continued support. We will keep controlling EWM in Bay Lake and not allow it to destroy the lake as we know it.

Thank you again for your incredible support.

David Devins
Aquatic plant management

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Celebrate the Holiday Season with your Bay Lake friends

Join us at the 2014 BLIA Holiday Party

Sunday, Dec. 7
Ruby's Room at Ruttger's

Social hour starts at 4 p.m., traditional holiday buffet at 5:15.

You should have received reservation material in the mail.
For more information, call Sylvia Graff, 218-678-2543.

See you there!

