



Bay Lake Breezes

Bay Lake Improvement Association Inc.

www.baylake.org

Spring/Summer 2015

Bay Lake's AIS prevention, detection program grows

Bay Lake's AIS (aquatic invasive species) prevention program becomes more complicated each year. Our 2015 plan has several new components, including additional testing and development of a rapid response plan should we become infested with new invasive species. Here's a rundown for this summer.

Public Access Inspection Program

We will again pay for DNR (Department of Natural Resources)-trained inspectors on the public access ramp during daylight hours, seven days a week. The program started on May 1 and will continue until at least the end of September. The state provides some funding, but less than in 2014. Even with the state support, the BLIA has budgeted to spend up to \$27,000 for inspectors.

DNR schedules one of their portable decontamination units on our access, as often as twice a month. In addition, the county has purchased two decon units, one of which will be stationed nearby on Farm Island Lake.

About eight years ago, we purchased the iLids camera device, which records every launch and retrieval on our access. It also vocally alerts



boaters to follow DNR AIS regulations. If you use the public access, you will see (and should hear) the silver steel iLids canister to the left of the ramp near the water.

Testing and Detection

This summer, we will continue a program to help us better understand the chemical makeup of the lake and how hospitable it would be to new invasive species such as zebra mussels. As part of this effort, the county is implementing a new lake testing program. We will mail water samples to a lab for evaluation. Results will help us develop an AIS rapid response plan, to be used if we find new invasives in our waters.

Late last year we installed six zebra mussel detection devices, small wooden structures that hang in the water from the ends

of docks. We will expand this program in 2015, hanging as many as 10 devices at different points around the lake.

Each year, additional Crow Wing County lakes become infested with zebra mussels. This year, the state has committed about \$10 million to an AIS program, with the county receiving about \$400,000. Those funds are helping many county lakes with new inspection programs. Due to these new programs, our county support has decreased. However, due to the generosity of so many Bay Lakers, our reserves are strong, giving us the financial resources to pay for the various AIS activities. We are blessed with a great community, thanks to all of you who support it.

Phil Rollins
AIS Prevention Coordinator

BLIA membership: an important part of summer preparations

The water is blue, as is the sky.
The docks are in, as are the buoys. Trees are green, and the usual weeds have shown up on our lawns. The weather has finally turned warmer, and many of us are emptying the nurseries

of their flowers. Guess we're all set for the summer. Oh, wait! There is one other very important thing to take care of!

Included in the president's spring letter is a membership form for you to fill in and return

to the Bay Lake Improvement Association (BLIA). So many of you have been extremely diligent in the past in renewing your membership each year, and all of us on the BLIA Board are sincerely grateful for your continuing support. The dues are still \$30. What a bargain! And, don't forget our 4th of July fireworks on the lake! They seem to get better every year. That needs our support, too.

We have such a wonderful lake, and a great Bay Lake community. We are very fortunate that we've been able to keep the quality of the lake as good as it is, and it's thanks to all of you who support BLIA and its activities.

To pay your dues, please mail your check, payable to BLIA, to BLIA, P.O. Box 461, Deerwood, MN 56444, or go online to www.baylake.org. We'd love it if you would include a generous contribution to the fireworks.

Thanks!!!

See you on the lake!

Betty Marquardt
Membership
(218) 678-2417
(651) 730-1045
mbmarquardt@msn.com

Share your shelter

As we head into summer, the possibility of severe storms is always with us. Many cabins on Bay Lake are strictly summer residences, meaning they likely don't have basements. If you have a storm shelter and you're willing to share that protection with your neighbors, please let them know. You'll be helping everyone stay safe.

Officers

President.....Dominic Ciresi
Vice President.....Bruce Johnson
Secretary.....Tamara Johnson
Co-Treasurers.....Chris Gondeck, Sylvia Graff

Directors

Rick Bale, Dominic Ciresi, David Devins, Chris Gondeck, Josh Goolsbee, Bruce Johnson, Tamara Johnson, Bobbie Keller, Phil Rollins, Chris Ruttger, Steve Souder

Committee Chairs

AIS prevention.....Phil Rollins
Aquatic plant management.....David Devins
Beach captains.....Josh Goolsbee
Breezes.....Bobbie Keller
Church camp liaisons.....Gary & Carol Malek
Conservation.....Tamara Johnson, Steve Souder
Continuity.....Ruth Hansen
Env. Protection Fund.....Dominic Ciresi
Facebook Page.....Scott Shekels, Kristine Erickson
Fireworks.....Kent Orwoll
Fishing resources.....Gary Malek
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Runtilla.....Jim Bye, Steve Souder
Security.....Larry LaTourneau
Shoreline protection.....Tiffin Souder Tripp
Taxes.....Bruce Johnson
Water quality.....Terry & Debbie Coss
Water safety.....Karl Krueger
Website.....Scott Shekels, Paul & Ward Erickson

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Website: www.baylake.org

Editor.....Bobbie Keller

Little snow, lots of winter sun, low water, early ice-out may bring heavy EWM this summer; our strong program should help control it

Welcome to another season at Bay Lake. We will continue our efforts to control EWM (Eurasian watermilfoil) in Bay Lake as we have in the past. We will have a spring EWM lake-wide survey followed by chemical treatments in mid to late June.

The EWM has been very stable the last few seasons due to heavy snow cover, high water, cool temperatures, wetter than normal precipitation and less sunshine. Because we are able to keep the EWM to a minimum with our management program during these conditions, native species actually help keep the EWM in check and are more dominant than the EWM.

Well...as I have said before, the weather goes in cycles, and this season it looks like we will see conditions more favorable for EWM growth. This past winter there was virtually no snow cover, a high amount of sunshine during the winter and now in the spring, low water and early ice-out. All these conditions have shown us several times that there could be explosive EWM growth this summer.

The good news is that because we have a program in place to control EWM, we will keep working our plan, and I am certain we will manage our way through this cycle as we have before. I fully expect to see more acreage requiring treatment this fall than in recent years. We have changed our treatments to use Liquid 2,4-d with improved application equipment that is more accurate and effective at a lower cost.

Our program does work, and we will work our way through this weather cycle as in the past. Without our Environmental Protection Fund and the BLIA Aquatic Invasive Species programs, we would be in

trouble. Your donations all these years have made this work, so please keep giving to the Environmental Protection Fund.

David Devins
Aquatic plant management

Lake phosphorus levels down from 2012, chlorides rising slowly; we can help keep water quality good

Spring has arrived at Bay Lake, so this is a good time to update BLIA members on some water quality issues.

First, some cabin owners are unfortunately returning to find their lakeshore was damaged by ice ridges over the winter. Crow Wing County Land Services (CWCLS) recently issued guidance that allows ice ridges to be re-graded back to original elevation without a permit *provided* the work is done in the same calendar year the ice ridge was created. Repair of historic ice ridge damage that occurred over two or more years requires a shoreland alteration permit. Other rules can also apply, so contact CWCLS directly at (218) 824-1125 or environmental.services@crowwing.us to inquire about your own situation before starting work.

On a more positive note, we conducted water quality sampling through the ice in February 2015 as we do every few years to allow trending over time. Total Phosphorus (TP) levels are an indicator we watch closely because it is a direct measure of nutrient levels in the lake. Excess amounts of TP act like fertilizer in the lake and can lead to decreased water clarity, algae blooms in the summer and accelerated weed growth. February 2015 TP levels had dropped nearly 62 percent compared to 2012. This is really, really good news, and while a single good year does not indicate a trend, it does suggest that the efforts of the Bay Lake Improvement Association and property owners to reduce nutrient inflows to the lake are having the desired effect.

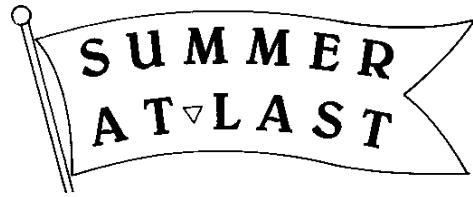
This good news on TP was somewhat tempered by results that indicate slowly increasing levels of chlorides in the lake. Chloride levels are safe, but are well above the normal range for lakes in our area. The most likely sources of chlorides are winter deicing chemicals used on roads, driveways and sidewalks, and the regeneration of water softeners that discharge into leaking septic systems. We'll be following up with the highway department to see what they can do to minimize runoff from deicing, but we should all be mindful of things we can do to help as well.

We plan to continue our annual summer monitoring program that focuses on water clarity and will report the results of that work in the fall. Thank you for your support of BLIA and for your own ongoing efforts as landowners to help keep our lake clean.

Terry Coss
Water quality



Save these dates for special fun this summer



Fireworks — July 2

**Join us for the annual
fireworks display
beginning at 10 p.m.
(dusk) Thursday, July 2,
from the east end of
Ruttger's.**



4th Annual Bay Lake Amazing Race — July 25

Once again it's time to think about summer on Bay Lake. We know it's coming!

The date for this year's Bay Lake Amazing Race has been set...it's July 25, and we're looking for teams, volunteers and of course donations to the Bay Lake Improvement Association Environmental Protection Fund.

Create a four-person team and meet at Church Island on July 25 by start time, 10 a.m. Teams will have 10 to 15 challenges at various locations on the lake. The race will last about two hours, and teams will gather afterward at Lonesome Pine for the awards ceremony. Entry fee is \$10 per person; all proceeds will go to the

BLIA Environmental Protection Fund.

Entry forms will be available online at www.baylake.org or Hansen's Sports.

Once again you have the opportunity to be an Amazing Race sponsor. Donations of \$50 or more to the BLIA Environmental Protection Fund will assure that the name of your choice appears on the back of the Amazing Race t-shirt. Deadline for sponsorships and to order a t-shirt at Hansen's will be July 15.

Volunteers at challenge sites are also needed. Please call Nancy LeTourneau at 612-240-5959 to volunteer or for more information. If you have an idea for a challenge, please let her know that, too.

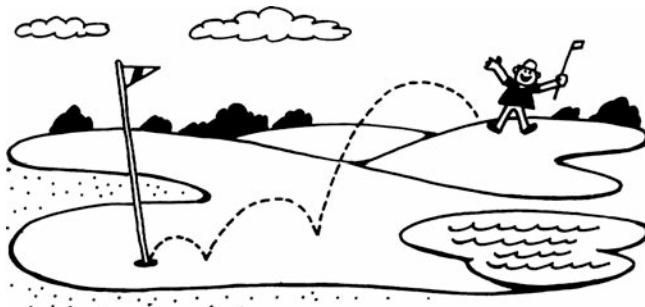
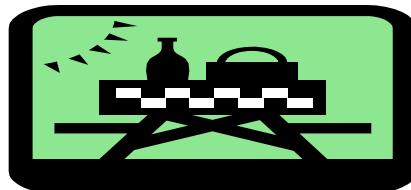
9th Annual Golf Scramble and Picnic

Saturday, Aug. 8

The ninth annual Golf Scramble and Picnic Benefit at Ruttger's is coming in August! Mark your calendars now for Saturday, Aug. 8, to enjoy a great event and support the Bay Lake Improvement Association Environmental Protection Fund.

Registration information will be available in July. Plan ahead to bring your family and friends. Everyone's welcome!

George and LaDonna Reynolds
Co-chairs



Bay Lake Camp's 89th year will bring more summer fun

Greetings from Bay Lake Camp, celebrating our 89th year of camping on Bay Lake. At this time, we continue to look for a partnership or sale of the island with a like-minded organization. Our client base is supportive and growing, so we look forward to a full summer of activities. We thank you for your support and ask you to continue to send us your business, your ideas and your hope for the future.

Just take a look at all that's happening and how you can participate:

Save the Earth...One Island at a Time! May is the time to prepare the island for summer. Come on over anytime to help out, but we especially need your help on Saturday, May 23, at 9 a.m. to help put docks in and ready the outdoor chapel for Summer Worship.

Summer Worship at 10 a.m. every Sunday, Memorial Day through Labor Day. Pontoon rides are available at 9:30 a.m. on the mainland, 16257 Brighton Point Road. Come and share in the beauty of this lakeside worship. On July 12, Churchyard Grass will be leading worship. Watch for other details about speakers and musicians as the summer progresses.

Also, the **Island Shop and Cafe** will be open Saturday and Sunday mornings with breakfast sandwiches and coffee drinks available and a number of hand selected gifts. Watch for details... check us out at www.baylakecamp.com and like us on Facebook.

Camping sessions available:

June 12-14: "If You Build It" Folkschool Weekend. Come and stay or come for the day, featuring the build of a new bread/pizza oven and a labyrinth. July 4-5: A Folkschool Sampler with a number of teachers demonstrating fiber arts and

construction. Sign up for a class or just come and see.

July 19-23: Open Jr. High Week
Aug. 3-6: Open Upper Elementary Week
Aug. 14-16: Women's Summer Island Getaway
Register or inquire at www.baylakecamp.com

Send your check to Bay Lake Camp, 16257 Brighton Point Road, Deerwood, MN 56444.

You're always welcome on the island,
Brenda Olson
Bay Lake Camp Director
(651) 247-0360



Wish List

- Riding lawnmower with snowblowing capabilities, \$2,000-\$4,000, new or used
- Finnish leveraxe at www.Vipukirves.fi, \$300
- Chainsaw, \$200-\$300
- Electric carts, new or used
- Assorted tools and craft supplies

We continue to raise funds to Help Send a Kid to Camp. Your gift can help provide a camping experience to kids whose families cannot afford the fee.

Tree/Plant Giveaway Saturday, May 23

If winter has left your yard or shoreline in need of new plantings, we can help.

Come to the annual BLIA Tree/Plant Giveaway from 10 a.m. to Noon Saturday, May 23, rain or shine, in the Lonesome Pine parking lot.

Red pine transplants will be available, along with several species each of sun, shade and in-the-water native wild flower plants.

Please bring one or more containers to carry your plants home in. Plants will be available **beginning at 10 a.m.**, no earlier.

See you there.



31st annual Runtilla to happen August 1

In what has become a longtime Bay Lake tradition, Bay Lakers of all ages will gather near White Hawk on Aug. 1 for the 31st annual Bay Lake Runtilla.

Many will run, walk, bike or skate the 5K course while family, friends and other Bay Lakers cheer them on.

With registration beginning at 8:15 a.m., the starting gun will sound at 9. Participants will go 1.55 miles down Brighton Point Road to a marker and return. Awards will go to the top male and female runners in each of nine age-group categories.

The Brighton Point Road route is a comparatively new tradition, starting in 2009 when road work forced runners off Hwy. 10. The new route proved safer and prettier, and so popular that it became the new tradition.

Now participants still on the first leg of the run can see race leaders as they head back toward the finish line, and Brighton Point Road residents get to watch the action without leaving home.

“It’s all contained in a pretty area,” said Jim Bye, Runtilla founder and coordinator. “People sit in chairs with picnic tables in their driveways and watch the race.”

After the awards ceremony Bay Lakers will again enjoy a picnic, with Dennis “Charlie” and Jackie Charles hosting the fun.

Bay Lakers age 20 and under and 70 and over are invited to submit a drawing for the front of the Runtilla t-shirt. The shirt will also carry names of Runtilla sponsors. A \$50 donation will earn a mention on the back of the shirt, \$250 will secure space on a sleeve, and \$1,000 or more will



Participants take off at the start of Runtilla's 30th anniversary run last year.

score a place on the front. All proceeds go to the BLIA Environmental Protection Fund.

Sponsorship and registration forms will be available at Hansen's and online at www.baylake.org. Completed registration forms, sponsorships and t-shirt design drawings are due at Hansen's by Saturday, July 18.

Bye thanked the sponsors, who together have contributed more than \$225,000 to the BLIA Environmental Protection Fund.

“Our sponsors are terrific and so loyal, and they come from all over the lake,” he said.

He also thanked the many volunteers and in-kind contributors who make the event happen every year, as well as the many Bay Lakers who come.

“Whether you’re participating in the race or not, it’s a fun time,” he said. “Last year was our 30th anniversary, now we’re turning the corner to the next 30 years. We’ve had gigantic turnouts, and we can’t wait to do it again.”



Two signs missing

Winter may be long gone from Bay Lake, but unfortunately so are two of four signs used to warn of thin ice this spring in the channel between the north and south ends of the lake.

The signs, made of reflective metal and wood, float. Two were recovered along the shore near the channel. The other two signs likely washed up on a nearby beach.

If you find one of the missing signs along your shoreline, please take it to 15780 Eaglewood Drive or drop it off at Hansen's. Thank you!

Learn more about BLIA this summer

Recently you should have received my last president's letter laying out the many activities BLIA has planned for this summer at the lake. I hope you can attend at least one if not all of these wonderful community building activities.

I also encourage you to come to a board meeting to learn more about what BLIA does to protect and preserve the lake while helping to build a vibrant community. If you are unable to attend a board meeting, please plan on being at the Annual Meeting at 9 a.m. Saturday, July 18, at Ruttger's.

As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

See you at the lake,

Dominic Ciresi
President
612-281-4910
dmciresi@msn.com

Thinking ahead to BLIA Holiday Party

Save the date — Sunday, Dec. 6 — and join us for the annual Bay Lake Holiday Party at Ruttger's.

Social hour begins at 4 p.m., with dinner in Ruby's Room at 5:30.

Registration materials will go out the first part of November.

We had a great party last year, in December 2014. We hope you can join us for another good time this year.

See you at Christmas!

Sylvia Graff

Help protect our lake

Being an all-volunteer organization, BLIA has very little overhead. The generous donations of our members go to protecting and preserving the lake we all love.

This year we will again have Class 1 inspectors on the public access sunup to sundown, from May 1 well into September. As we have in the past, we will treat for Eurasian watermilfoil. Also this year we plan to use new methods available to us to actively test for other aquatic invasive species, including zebra mussels.

These actions require considerable sums of money, and

it is through the kindness of our members that we are able to undertake these activities. We ask that you contribute to the Environmental Protection Fund in a way that is meaningful to you and proportionate with your love of the lake.

If you have given in the past, Thank You! Perhaps you can increase your gift this year. If you have not given before, please consider a gift. Each gift, no matter the size, goes a long way to helping all of us make Our Lake a better place.

Thank you,
The BLIA Board

Remembering

We lost several present and former Bay Lakers over the winter. Our sympathy to the families and friends of:

Bill Clark, Jr.
Mark Cullen
Rodney Danielson
Louis Ehasz, Sr.
Ron Gamer
Connie Johnson
Joyce Meyer
Jim (Donald J.) Miller
Jeanette Miner
Mrya Sharpe

Please let us know

The Bay Lake Improvement Association wants to let as many BLIA members as possible know when a past or present Bay Lake community member is deceased. Some of us do not hear about the sadness for months or years.

As a service, we are informing BLIA members of recent passings by e-mail.

Please have a family member or friend contact Lynn Hansen at (218) 678-2051, and Lynn will have Paul Erickson e-mail members. Once the information is published in the newspaper, it is public and we can publish it.

Thank you.

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

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Watch for these exciting BLIA events:

- May 23 Tree & Plant Giveaway, Lonesome Pine
10 a.m. to noon
- July 2 Fireworks, east end of Ruttger's
Dusk
- July 4 Music on the Lake, Church Island
1 p.m. (Rain Day, Sunday, July 5)
- July 11 Bay Lake Children's Party, Church Island
10 a.m. to noon
- July 18 BLIA Annual Meeting, Ruttgers
9 a.m. Continental Breakfast
9:30 a.m. Meeting
- July 25 Amazing Race, Church Island
10 a.m.
- Aug. 1 Runtilla, near White Hawk
8:15 a.m. Registration
9 a.m. Race start
- Aug. 8 BLIA Golf Outing and Picnic, Ruttger's
3:45-6 p.m. Golf
5:30-9 p.m. Picnic
- Aug. 30 Trivia Fundraiser, Ruttger's
TBD

Dec. 6 BLIA Holiday Party,
4 p.m. Ruttger's

Jan. 1, 2016 New Year's Celebration
8 p.m. & Fireworks, Ruttgers

BLIA Board Meetings

June 20, 9 a.m. Ruttger's
July 18, 11 a.m. Ruttger's
Aug. 15, 9 a.m. Ruttger's
Sept. 19, 9 a.m. Ruttger's
Dec. 5, 11 a.m. Lonesome Pine
Everyone is welcome at all BLIA
Board meetings.