



Bay Lake Breezes

Bay Lake

Improvement Association Inc.

www.baylake.org

Spring/Summer 2022

Bay Lake water quality generally good although Chloride levels high; boat-wake study results available

Greetings, BLIA members and friends of the lake. As we look forward to another fun summer in 2022, there are two news items I want to share with you.

First, we recently received the results from our biennial water quality sampling conducted through the ice in February. Through-ice testing is used for tracking long-term trends, as this method is not affected by short-term influences such as fluctuating water levels or weather. Testing results were generally good, except that Chloride levels (salts) were the highest ever measured on Bay Lake.

While Chlorides remain below levels toxic to aquatic life, concentrations are well above those of comparable lakes in our eco-region. Unfortunately, once Chlorides get into the water, there is no natural mechanism that removes them. Chlorides are introduced solely through human activity, and our consultant believes the most likely sources on Bay Lake are deicing of roads and water softener regeneration. Dissolved salts from softener regeneration migrate from septic system drain fields to the lake via groundwater.

Softening systems that use resin tanks swapped-out by a service for off-site regeneration do not contribute to this problem. If you are installing or replacing a water softener, please consider switching to a type that does not use a salt tank and/or is regenerated off-site.

Next, the University of Minnesota's Saint Anthony Falls Hydraulics Lab (SAFL) released a report this spring regarding a study of boat-generated wakes that examined the size and intensity of wakes from different boat types (wake

surf boat, ski boat, conventional runabout). The study contains information that operators of these boats should be aware of to avoid causing shoreline impacts. A summary of the study and links to the full report can be found at <https://cse.umn.edu/safl/news/umn-researchers-study-waves-created-recreational-boats>.

Thank you for supporting the environmental protection efforts of our association with your continued membership and donations.

Terry Coss
BLIA president



Your membership helps protect our lake, community

Hello, Bay Lakers. It is a new season on Bay Lake and summer is coming, which means a new summer full of Bay Lake fun. And it means it's time to join BLIA for the 2022 calendar year. Last year, under the care of our beloved Membership Chair of 30-plus

years, Betty Marquardt, we hit an all-time high with membership of 700 plus! Wow and thank you! Betty has now retired from her membership duties, and those BIG shoes are now being filled by me, Jennifer Qualen.

I have been on the lake for 10 years and a part of the board in various roles for about six years now. I hope you can make me look as successful as Betty was and get our membership this year over that 700 mark! I know we can do it! As always, the Bay Lake Improvement Association has all your favorite events on the calendar. If you have ever had the chance to attend Music on the Lake, Runtilla, the Amazing Race or either of the spectacular fireworks shows for example, you know the magnitude of events that take place on our beloved lake. Can't say I know many other lakes that provide such community as ours. Something to take pride in for sure. Your membership and donation dollars to BLIA help provide these events and the ongoing protection of our lake. So, with that said, PLEASE join BLIA; your \$30 tax deductible membership is an essential part in keeping BLIA functioning each year. This amount helps to cover costs of buoy maintenance, repairing and replacing; publication of the Breezes semi-annually; the President's Letter in the spring and informational flyers that are essential to lake residents. In addition to your membership, your contributions to the Environmental Protection Fund are of vital importance. And this year we have added a Special Events line if you wish to donate specifically to events.

So please fill out your membership card that came with the spring mailing. Each member of your household can and should

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President.....Terry Coss
 Vice President.....Amy Grady
 Secretary.....Chris Ruttger
 Treasurer.....Mark Feriancek

Directors

Terry Coss, David Devins, Josh Goolsbee, Amy Grady, Bobbie Keller, Phil Malkerson, Ally Oakes, Jennifer Qualen, Matt Qualen, Phil Rollins, Chris Ruttger, Brent Souder

Committee & Event Chairs

AIS prevention.....Phil Rollins
 Amazing Race.....Nancy LaTourneau
 Aquatic plant management.....David Devins
 Bay Lake Ambassadors.....Amy Grady
 Blasts.....Paul Erickson
 Breezes.....Bobbie Keller, Editor
 Env. Protection Fund.....Phil Rollins
 Facebook page.....Scott Shekels
 Fireworks.....Josh Goolsbee, Charlie Zajicek
 Fishing resources.....Matt Qualen
 History.....Paul Erickson
 Holiday Party.....Louise Sorenson
 Insurance & Risk Management.....Chris Gondeck
 Membership.....Jennifer Qualen
 Nominations.....Phil Rollins
 Runtilla.....Jim & Heidi Bye
 Security.....Ty LaTourneau
 Shoreline Protection/Plant Giveaway...Brent Souder
 Water quality.....Terry & Debbie Coss
 Water safety.....Chris Gondeck, Paul Trebe, Karl Krueger
 Website.....Scott Shekels, Paul & Ward Erickson

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Website: www.baylake.org

Editor.....Bobbie Keller

Membership, cont. on Page 7.

Update on BLIA aquatic invasive species programs

While Bay Lake's water quality is generally good (see story on Page 1), aquatic invasive species (AIS) continue to threaten Bay as well as other Minnesota lakes. BLIA is continually working to help Bay Lakers control zebra mussels, which have already entered our lake, and prevent other invasive species from coming. Here is an update from Phil Rollins, AIS Prevention Committee chair.

Zebra Mussels. Since our discovery of zebra mussels (ZMs) in 2018, they continue to proliferate around the lake. To survive and multiply, ZMs need hard surfaces such as rock, other mussel and clam shells, dock posts, boat lifts, boat hulls and any other hard surfaced equipment left in the water. With our late spring and cold April and

May temps, I expect water temperatures to reach prime (ZM) breeding temperatures in mid to late July. Should you find ZMs, please send me your cabin location and, on a level of 1 to 10, how you would assess your level of infestation (1=minimal, 10=overwhelming) at philfishing@gmail.com. Useful information about what the zebra mussel infestation means for lakeshore owners was mailed to all members last spring and is available at www.baylake.org.

Spiny Water Fleas. This tiny pest has infected Mille Lacs Lake and is threatening nearby lakes, although they have not been found in Bay Lake. Through our relationship with the University of Minnesota AIS Research Center, Bay Lake

has been enrolled in a pilot program to test for this invasive. In late summer or early fall, Bay Lake volunteers will conduct a surveillance program, checking for the presence of spiny.

Public Access Inspection Program. When using the DNR public lake access on Battle Point Road, you are likely to find a DNR-trained Crow Wing County AIS inspector. The inspector's job is to make sure invasive species are not attached to or in boats coming into or leaving Bay Lake. Our association coordinates closely with the county and covers much of the cost. Should you experience anything other than exceptional service from the inspectors, please let me know at philfishing@gmail.com or 415-497-2838.

Thank you for your donations to the BLIA Environmental Protection Fund, which help pay for the county inspectors and other AIS prevention and treatment programs. New donations can be made at www.baylake.org under the BLIA Online Membership and Donation link or by mailing a check to BLIA, P.O. Box 421, Brainerd, MN 56401.

Phil Rollins
AIS Prevention

Successful EWM program continues

We will continue our Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) control program again this spring. This will be our 31st season successfully controlling EWM in Bay Lake. We will conduct a survey of the lake around Memorial Day, followed by a treatment of EWM approximately the third week of June. We will repeat this process in the fall starting around Labor Day, followed by treatment the first week of October.

As a reminder, we are not required to collect authorization signatures from individual property owners to treat shorelines. We are working by exception. If someone does not want chemical treatments along their shoreline, they need to

contact us and let us know. We will send an e-mail blast notification to all about a week before we treat in June and again in September. If you don't want treatments along your shoreline or have questions, you can contact me anytime. Treatment notification will also be posted on the Bay Lake website at the same time.

We can't let our guard down. Following our same plan over the years has worked, so we will keep at it. Our goal from the beginning was to not allow EWM to dominate the lake, realizing that native vegetation was critical to the health of the lake, and it has worked very well; the native plants are healthy and diverse.

EWM, cont. on Page 7.

Protect your boat motors from zebra mussels. Keep the lower unit out of the water between uses.



Save these dates for special fun

As we're able to gather again more safely this summer, still with appropriate safety precautions, we look forward to seeing you at these Bay Lake community events.

Tree/Plant Event to happen May 28

Spring, and time to spruce up your yard and/or shoreline with some new trees or small plants. BLIA's annual Tree/Plant Event can help.

Come check us out: We'll be in the Lonesome Pine parking lot from 10 a.m. to noon, rain or shine, on Saturday, May 28. Please come no earlier than 10.

This year we will again have Norway (Red) pine and white spruce transplants, 8 to 24 inches

tall, and several species each of sun, shade and in-the-water native wildflower plants.

We will have plastic bags available for you to transport your trees. Please bring one or more containers to carry your plants home.

See you there.

Brent Souder



Fireworks! Sunday, July 3 over North Bay at dusk



The Bay Lake Bears finished second in the Amazing Race last summer. You are invited to form a team for this year's race on July 23.

Good News!

There will be Outdoor Worship at Bay Lake Camp beginning Memorial Weekend, Sunday, May 29, 10 a.m. Worship will be canceled on rainy Sunday mornings.

Come, join volunteers who want to continue this Bay Lake community tradition. Watch for details in the weekly Bay Lake Blasts.

Let's make it happen!

Carol and Gary Malek
Don Hales and Debra Flam
Diane and Greg Meyer
Mark and Barbie Huggenvik
and many more!

Save July 23 for Amazing Race

The Bay Lake Amazing Race began in 2012 and has continued annually due to all the fantastic support from the teams, volunteers and sponsors.

The race is on different bays, with most events on shore. Each team consists of four participants, although others may be on the boat/pontoon. Teams race against the clock in “minute-to-win-it” type challenges. Plan on spending approximately two hours, with a gathering afterwards on Ruttger’s deck for the awards ceremony.

Anyone interested in creating a team should notify Nancy LaTourneau (612-240-5959) for more information. Volunteers at each station are needed, so please call for more information if you’re interested. Entry forms will be available online at www.baylake.org or may be picked up at Hansen’s.

Don’t miss your opportunity to be an Amazing Race sponsor. A donation of \$50, \$100, \$250 or more to the BLIA Environmental Protection Fund will get the name of your choice on the back of the Amazing Race t-shirt. Call for more information.

Plan ahead to create a team of four for the funnest event on Bay Lake!

Runtilla: Fun for the whole family

Lace up your running shoes, bring the whole family and join your Bay Lake friends and neighbors for the 38th Annual Bay Lake Runtilla on Saturday, Aug. 6.

Participants of all ages, including those in strollers and the canine members of the family, will run, walk, bike and skate down Brighton Point road and back, cheered on by other members of the Bay Lake community gathered on the sidelines.

As always, the race starts near the former White Hawk parking lot. Runners vie for trophies in male/female age-group categories. Registration begins at 8:15 a.m., and the starting gun sounds at 9.

Josh Goolsbee and his Lonesome Pine team will be there with adult beverages for purchase, and complimentary water will be available for runners.



Boats and Crows won first place in the 2021 Amazing Race. Consider entering this year’s race July 23.

After the awards ceremony following the race, everyone is invited to stay for the traditional picnic, hosted by Dennis “Charlie” and Jackie Charles.

Sponsorships are encouraged and greatly appreciated. With a \$50 donation you’ll have the name or dedication of your choice on the back of the Runtilla t-shirt. Names of \$250 to \$1,000 donors will appear on the sleeve, and a \$1,000-plus donation will earn space on the front.

“We continue to be overwhelmed with the generosity of Bay Lakers,” said Jim Bye, Runtilla coordinator. “For the last 10 years, total contributions have continued to grow. We’re thankful for any and all contributions. No matter the size, all donations go directly to the BLIA Environmental Protection Fund.”

Artists age 20 and younger, and age 70 and older are invited to submit an original design for the t-shirt front. Advance registrations, original drawings and sponsorships are due at Hansen’s July 23. Registration forms will be available June 15 online and at Hansen’s.

“Last year we had a big turnout — more than 500 people came,” said Jim. He gave a big shout-out to Josh and his Lonesome Pine team; Amy Grady, who staffed a special BLIA 50th anniversary table; “Charlie” and Jackie, who host the picnic each year; and the more than 30 people who volunteer their time to make the Runtilla what it is every year.

Introducing new Church Island owners

In 2021, the Northern Pines Mental Health Center became part of the Bay Lake community when it purchased Church Island. Here is a brief history and overview of the organization.

In 1963 President John Kennedy signed the Community Mental Health Act. This legislation was passed as part of the “New Frontier.” The act was passed to provide federal funding for community mental health research and services. It was out of this federal legislation that Northern Pines Mental Health Center, Inc. was born on April 1, 1964. At first Northern Pines was a small, one office center providing services in Little Falls, but we’ve grown significantly over the past 57 years!

Currently Northern Pines serves six counties in central Minnesota: Aitkin, Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd and Wadena, with at least one location in each. Additionally, we are co-located in 27 school districts throughout the region. We have approximately 230 staff including a psychiatrist/Medical Director, Doctorate and Master’s Degreed therapists, Bachelor Degreed skills practitioners, licensed alcohol and drug clinicians, peer specialists, care coordinators, support staff, billing and MNSure navigators and administrators. We serve approximately 5,000 clients who live or vacation in our region through supportive mental health services, including therapy, skills, psychiatry, alcohol and drug counseling, 24/7 crisis services and care coordination.

Over many years we have grown our partnerships with the area

hospitals, law enforcement agencies, local shelters, county human services and businesses throughout the region. As a private, nonprofit organization we are funded through a combination of private insurance, Medicaid, Medicare, donations, contracts, grants and are proud to be a Safety Net Provider, which means we serve all people regardless of their financial status.

Our good work is guided by our Board of Directors and our Mission:

Northern Pines is an integrated system of services committed to individuals, families and communities. We are dedicated to providing appropriate clinical mental health care along with preventive, educational and supportive programs throughout central Minnesota.

Each and every employee believes in the value of mental wellbeing, striving always to Enhance Lives and Restore Hope!

In October 2021 Northern Pines began an intentional expansion of our Mission. The Board of Directors unanimously voted to purchase an island retreat center on Bay Lake. The Bay Lake Retreat Center will focus on mental

wellbeing by providing preventive, educational and conference services. We are in the excited planning stages and will soon have additional communications about the offerings for Summer 2022. We welcome you to participate! Please keep watch on our Facebook page or at www.NPMH.org.

I am so proud to lead this organization of joy-filled, committed individuals and invite you to contact me to learn more about our organization.

Looking forward,
Laura Vaughn
Executive Director



Membership, cont. from Page 2.

be a member. You can even include your furry friends! We now have a special place for Bay Lake Pets! Any frequent guests of Bay Lake that also enjoy the beauty of our lake and all that it has to offer, have them sign up too as A Friend of Bay Lake. If you prefer to do your membership online, go to www.baylake.org and follow the link to our online donation page. If mailing your membership and donations into BLIA, send to: BLIA, P.O. Box 421, Brainerd, MN 56401. (NOTE this is our new address.)

With all of that said, please keep in mind that anything you see happen on Bay Lake is done via volunteers. Volunteers are vital to this lake. Please consider becoming a Bay Lake Volunteer. Any help with any of the events is appreciated and needed. Be on the lookout for a new program called the Bay Lake 50. Please feel free to attend any one of the BLIA meetings on the calendar to find out what we do and what YOU can do to be a participant of anything lake related.

See you on the water!

Jennifer Qualen
Membership Chair
jqualen@gmail.com



Bay Lake anglers help fish populations stay balanced, healthy

To improve the health of Bay Lake's ecosystem and make fishing more enjoyable for Bay Lakers, BLIA has been working to restore Bay Lake's fish population to balanced and healthy levels. Bay Lake anglers are helping.

For at least 15 years, the DNR has stocked Bay Lake with tiny walleye fry. However, the unnaturally high northern pike population in Bay Lake has dominated the Bay Lake fish world by eating the young of walleye and other fish and the food other fish need to survive.

To balance fish populations and increase the survival rate of walleye, BLIA hosted a small northern pike fishing contest in 2018 and 2019, encouraging anglers to keep northern pike less than 22 inches and release walleyes. Bay Lakers documented a total of 9,000 catches of northern pike less than 22 inches.

The DNR's 2021 lake survey indicated a 50 percent reduction in the number of northern pike in Bay Lake, far beyond expectations. The DNR confirmed the reliability of the survey data and applauded BLIA for the progress toward a balanced fish population.

"Bay Lakers' tremendous effort has paid off!" said Matt Qualen, fishing resources chair. "We made a substantial impact. Although there's no contest this year, we continue to promote good fishing practices. Anglers are encouraged to continue keeping northern pike less than 22 inches. Given the

favorable survey results, BLIA has approved funds to implement an annual walleye 'fingerling' stocking program to supplement the DNR 'fry' stocking. Walleye fingerling are larger and have a higher survival rate than walleye fry. This initiative is possible because of the hard work from dedicated Bay Lakers."

EWM, cont. from Page 3.

In August there will be an e-mail blast with photos and aquatic invasive species information asking residents to inspect their shoreline for EWM, zebra mussels and starry stonewort and report back with findings.

Our EWM control program has been successful because of your support! Please keep giving to the Environmental Protection Fund.

Thank you.

David Devins,
davidd953@msn.com
612-237-1827

Remembering

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

Barry Anderson
Chuck Bard
Vasco Bernardi
Sue Duval
Arnie Graff
Ron Gray
Bob Kallestad
Pat Meyers
Esther Olson
Jon Wefald
Don Weidenbach

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Bay Lake Improvement Association
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2022 Bay Lake Events

May 28 **Tree/Plant Giveaway**, Lonesome Pine
10 a.m.

June 25 **BLIA Annual Meeting**, Ruttger's
9 a.m. Continental Breakfast
9:30 a.m. Meeting

July 2 **Music on the Lake**, Church Island
1 p.m.

July 3 **Fireworks**, over North Bay
Dusk

July 23 **Amazing Race**, Church Island
10 a.m.

Aug. 6 **Runtilla**, Brighton Pt. Rd. & Co. Rd. 10
8:15 a.m. Registration
9 a.m. Race start

Dec. 3 **BLIA Holiday Party**, Ruttger's
4 p.m.

Dec. 31 **New Year's Fireworks**, Lonesome Pine
TBD Shoreline

BLIA Board Meetings

June 25 Ruttger's
After Annual Meeting

July 16, 9 a.m. Ruttger's

Aug. 20, 9 a.m. Ruttger's

Sept. 17, 9 a.m. Ruttger's

Everyone is welcome at all
BLIA Board meetings.