Bay Lake Breezes



Bay Lake Improvement Association Inc.

www.baylake.org

Spring 2003 Help protect our

Preserving your shoreline's beauty is beneficial, can be easy

by Tiffin Souder

Growing up on Bay Lake, I have learned to appreciate its beauty, quite unlike that of any other place I've seen. I have, however, noticed important losses in the depth of shoreline around the lake, and a change in water quality.

Shoreline preservation and restoration is the act of bringing the shoreline closer to its natural state. It can be as

simple as planting a buffer strip of plants between the grass of your lawn and the water. Shoreline preservation and restoration provides necessary habitat for wildlife, prevents shoreline erosion and helps stop lawn runoff and debris from entering the water. In addition, planting your shoreline is like adding a garden of beautiful flowers to your property. Many of the native and non-invasive plants commonly used for this purpose have brightly colored flowers as well as unique and interesting foliage.

Tearing out all the expensive rocks (rip rap) many lake homeowners have and planting your entire shoreline is not necessary. The key to the success of this idea is balance. At our property on Battle Point, we are

choosing to plant 83 percent of our shoreline, leaving the other 17 percent for beach access and dock space.

I look forward to discussing



this exciting and important concept further with fellow Bay Lakers at the BLIA annual meeting June 21. I will have information on shoreline preserva-

tion and restoration for folks to take along, including what plants work well, how to plant them and where to obtain the plants themselves. I have a degree in horticulture and landscape design and invite anyone interested in learning more to contact me at that time. I would be more than willing to give advice and consultation to help everyone make Bay Lake a more beautiful place to be, for generations to come.

loon neighbors

by Allison Wolf Beach Captain, Ruttger's East

All Bay Lakers have something in common: loons! We hear their ethereal nighttime calls from our beds, we see them dive near our docks, we watch them fly high above the trees with their unmistakable cries, and we enjoy the sounds of their loon "parties" toward summer's end.

Other folks in Crow Wing County like loons, too. In fact, 70 of them have agreed to officially watch over loon populations on some 66 lakes. Crow Wing County Loon Watchers make up about a third of the official Loon Watchers in Minnesota.

Although many of us have been unofficial loon watchers for years, Bay Lake has yet to join in the statewide Loon Watch Program, administered by the Department of Natural Resources See Loons, cont. on Page 9



Friends make the season bright

Bay Lakers greeted longtime friends and made new ones at the 2002 holiday party at Lord Fletcher's on Lake Minnetonka. You are invited to join them for the 2003 party at Lord Fletcher's on Sunday, Dec. 7.

From our president **BLIA helps build effective community**

by Paul Erickson

In previous newsletters, I've said that Bay Lake is a special place — a place where families flourish and traditions are created. And, I've stressed that our community is unique. It's where many of us have our greatest personally and financially vested interests and, unlike large or transient communities, it's a place where our involvement makes a difference.

Where does BLIA fit into this picture? It isn't a govern-

Bay Lake Improvement Association

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Editor.....Bobbie Keller

ment. It has no taxing authority, and it can't make or enforce laws. Yet it has an exceptionally important role.

BLIA enables our community to meet challenges that are beyond the control of individual residents. Here's a list of five capabilities BLIA brings to the table. They are essential for our success, whether we're fighting Eurasian watermilfoil, enhancing shoreline appearance, setting out safety buoys, improving water quality or promoting social interaction:

- Proactive identification of challenges
- Insightful strategy development
- Coordinated approach to solutions
- Effective communication, education and leadership
- Ability to generate volunteer participation and financial contributions

Make no mistake, our effectiveness as a community has a direct impact on your quality of life, your financial investment, and perhaps even your legacy. The steps we take together help determine whether Bay Lake is the best that it can be or whether it becomes just another green and weedy lake surrounded by people who don't know each other. This isn't a passive activity. It takes time, energy, focus and knowledge. But it's an essential investment. As stakeholders, we absolutely need BLIA's leadership and organization.

Our community has an exceptional history of accomplishment, enhancement, strength and interaction. Please help us build on it. Please join, support and participate.

Help preserve a special place

by Don Knutson Environmental Protection Fund

Bay Lake seems ever more important to me now with the conflicts in our world today. Thirty-eight years ago I was serving in Vietnam with the Marine Corps. I vividly remember the turmoil and stress of those times. Today, Bay Lake provides me a place that represents quiet time and also chores that tax my body, yet leave me with calm and a sense of accomplishment.

Bay Lake is back to nature with all its beauties, quiet and calm. It is a connection with nature's best — birds, trees, water and clean air. Bay Lake provides me the connection with family and friends. I believe it is our role and responsibility to act as stewards of our small piece of earth that exemplifies the opposite of devastation, turmoil, conflict and mayhem.

The one key element that Bay Lake has is its environment. We must all step forward and do our part to protect our utopia. Please give generously to the Bay Lake Environmental Protection Fund. Our enjoyment and the serenity of future generations depend on our actions today. We must lead by example and leave Bay Lake an even better place than we inherited.

Many of the dreams I had as a young Marine are being fulfilled today as a resident of the Bay Lake community. Wishing everyone a safe, healthy and enjoyable summer.

M is for...

- M Mission to mobilize
- E Each and every
- M Member to
- B Belong to the Bay Lake
- E Environment which
- R Results in a
- S Superlative
- H Habitat

I - Initiated and improved by P - Persons with plans to produce a picture perfect place, a paradise on Bay Lake!

Or — to say it simply — We want to remind everyone to become a 2003 member of the Bay Lake Improvement Association. Your help and support is always needed, however we say it!

Betty Marquardt Membership



by Gary Malek

In June of 2002, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) conducted its every-five-year lake survey for Bay Lake by netting and electro shocking.

The primary tool that guides fish management, the survey includes

periodic monitoring of fish populations, water chemistry and fish habitat. Lake survey data is used to track fish population trends, evaluate the effectiveness of management actions such as stocking and establish realistic management goals for Bay Lake.

The results are pretty much as expected: OK populations of crappie and bass, poor population of walleye and an ever-increasing population of small NORTHERN PIKE.



how to clean and prepare northerns and posted signs at all public accesses saying to keep

northerns less than 24 inches long. According to Tim Bastrup, DNR Fisheries, additional strategies for 2004 will probably include legislation to increase limits on small northerns and hindering spawning sites. More information will be available at the BLIA annual meeting. Results should be posted soon on the DNR Web site, which contains loads of great information on all Minnesota lakes: www.dnr.state.mn.us. Good fishing!



A sign of the times

These days, Beach Captains and mail are not enough to keep Bay Lakers informed about all the happenings around the lake. In response, three new signs are going up soon — at Hansen's Store, The Lonesome Pine and White Hawk — that will make it possible to post current information throughout the year. Thanks to Rita Pappas, and Mark and Becky Roloff for sponsoring two of the signs. Watch for them!



BLIA numbers count

by Paul Erickson

We're consistently pushing for increased membership. Let me explain why. Our number of members and percentage of property owners are our vital statistics. They affect everything from internal communications to external lobbying, from volunteer participation to social interaction, and from environmental enhancement to water safety.

It isn't a strategy to increase income. Rather, it's to enhance our effectiveness. Our membership has always been an asset when meeting local challenges. Now it's also the key to effectively dealing with government employees and elected officials who make decisions that affect our lake and community.

For example, this spring the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) proposed dramatically increased fees for aquatic weed treatment permits. Together with the Minnesota Lakes Association, BLIA challenged the increase. The additional cost (nearly \$8,000 per year) would have had to come from you...or it would have forced a reduction in our Eurasian watermilfoil management efforts. Our numbers counted. Without them, BLIA wouldn't have had a voice in the debate.

<u>To be clear, BLIA's vital</u> <u>statistics are strong.</u> But, with your help, they can be even better. I can think of three ways:

• First, there should be more than one membership per cabin. Kids and grandkids should be started on a tradition of BLIA membership. This gets them into our communications loop, gives them "ownership" and makes it clear that Bay Lake is theirs to protect and enhance.

- Second, we need to expand membership amongst long-term rental residents.
- Finally, a few of our neighbors still need to be convinced. <u>We</u> all benefit when all areas are represented.

In a nutshell: <u>owners, second</u> and third generations, renters

and even repeat visitors are all Bay Lake stakeholders whose interests can be protected best if everyone joins.

Extra membership cards are available by e-mailing Paul@baylake.org. Or include the extra names and addresses (and dues) in your own membership envelope. Thank you for helping us increase our numbers. Believe me — they count!

Bay Lake Camp has busy summer ahead — come join us!

by Carol and Gary Malek Camp managers

Greetings from First Lutheran Church of St. Paul and Bay Lake Camp (BLC). This will be our 77th year of camping on beautiful Bay Lake, and we invite you to share in the island's uniqueness. Come for worship, walk the trails, enjoy the 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.

We welcome you to our nondenominational worship service each Sunday at 10 a.m., beginning Memorial Weekend through Labor Day. The service is held at the outdoor chapel on the south shore, or in the indoor chapel if it's raining. Come by boat or catch the shuttle from the camp landing on Brighton Point starting at 9:30 a.m.

After the service we gather for coffee, treats and fellowship

— a good way to meet your Bay Lake neighbors. We have some wonderful speakers and singers scheduled this summer.

We have a full schedule this season, with campers of all ages and from all over the state. The primary mission of BLC is to provide a camping experience to inner city youth and families. The average cost is \$150 per camper per week. If you would like to help sponsor a camper, send your check to Bay Lake Camp, 16257 Brighton Pt. Rd, Deerwood, MN 56444 and indicate for camperships.

Another opportunity to help out is on Saturday, May 24, at 9 a.m., when we look for volunteers to help install docks and ready the outdoor chapel for the season.

Questions? Call Carol or Gary at (218) 678-3712.

Have a joy-filled summer!

Looking ahead to summer...

Calling anglers of all ages...

by Joel Kraft

The 2003 Bay Lake Improvement Association Fishing Contest began Saturday, May 10, and will run through Monday, Sept. 1. Trophies will

be awarded for the largest walleye, northern pike, largemouth bass, crappie and sunfish in each of two age groups: anglers 15 years of age and younger; and those 16 years of age and older.

Fish will be measured by length

(down to the quarter inch) and may be registered in the contest at Hansen's Store. The signature of a witness in the registration book or a photo of the fish is all that is needed to enter — you do not need to provide the actual fish. Contest details and

submitted photos will be available on the Bay Lake Web site at <u>www.baylk.com</u>. This year,

all who enter the contest will be eligible for a drawing to win two \$15

gift certificates to Tutt's bait store in Garrison. Even if your fish isn't the biggest, please stop in at

Bay Lake, Deerwood Lakes Lions to host 2nd annual Tour of Homes

by Sylvia Graff

A tour of elegant homes Aug. 1 and 2 will help purchase a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit for the Cuyuna Regional Medical Center.

Currently these ambulances respond to between 800 and 900 calls per year. GPS mapping will greatly increase response time in our lake area.

Refreshments and parking will be available at 8 a.m. on tour days at the Bay Lake Lions facility across from Zigs. Patrons will enjoy a tour of unique homes, a buffet lunch at Ruttger's Lodge and a gallery of paintings by local artists.

Tour cost is \$35, most of which is tax-deductible. Group and individual registration forms are available at Hansen's Store and several other area businesses. Gather your group and join the 430 persons who participated in last year's sellout tour.

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

Hansen's and take part in the contest. Maybe we'll help take a bite out of your bait bill this summer.

Names of trophy and gift certificate winners will be posted on the Bay Lake Web site and listed in the Fall/Winter issue of the Bay Lake Breezes. Prizes may be picked up at Hansen's Store beginning Oct. 4.

This should be a great summer of fishing on Bay Lake. I look forward to many of you participating in this year's contest.

Minnow Camp to be June 28

Calling all Bay Lake preschoolers and early elementary aged children...

Please come to Minnow Camp on Church Island, June 28 at 10 a.m. Meet by the flag pole, near the mess hall and indoor chapel. We'll have games, activities and food, all with a fun fish theme! This rain-or-shine event is from 10 a.m. to noon.

Annual tree giveaway

BLIA will give away four-yearold transplant trees on Saturday, May 24 (Memorial Day Weekend), in the White Hawk front parking lot. The giveaway will be from 9 to 11 a.m. or while supplies last.





Happy 50th anniversary Hansens continue long tradition of service

by Mary Lu Hansen

The winds of time have made their changes on Bay Lake. In doing so, they brought Curt and Ruth Hansen to the Hunter's Bay Store. This summer, the Hansens will be celebrating their 50th anniversary, and they have at least that many stories to tell of those changes.

Built in 1933 by Chester La Salle, Hunter's Bay Store was open only during the summers. Hunter's Bay was a major flyway for ducks between Bay Lake, Maple Lake and Loon Lake, thus attracting hunters.

Curt's history on Bay Lake began in 1936 when his parents, Art and Edith, purchased three lots at the western end of Woodland Beach Road for \$350 apiece. A cabin was built the same year for \$600. Curt and his mother spent summers there while his father continued operating a radiator business on Lake Street and commuted from the family's South Minneapolis home on weekends. Curt and his mother became familiar with Hunter's Bay Store when they would row across the lake each week to get the family's groceries. Although they did have a 3 HP Champion motor on the boat, Curt's mother felt he was too young to operate it.

La Salle sold the store in 1938. For the next six years there were four or five owners, each with a story of their own to tell.

In March 1944, Art and Edith bought the store, thinking Edith would operate it for the summer and sell it if it was not profitable. They also purchased the building just south of the store that then housed the Bronson Erickson Real Estate firm. At that time there was a dance floor and a bar above the store, which they converted into living quarters. The store sold groceries and a few other convenience items. However, the main attraction was the slot machine. It was their big money maker.

Curt and Ruth met at Club Lagayle in Brainerd. A mutual friend arranged a blind date for them shortly after that. Ruth had grown up near the White Hawk Store and was teaching in White Bear. Curt was working for his father. They were married on June 6, 1953.

In 1964, a year after his mother's death, Curt and Ruth became store owners. It wasn't until 1972 that they decided to make the store a year-round business, adding boats and snowmobiles to their line of products in the Sports Shop next door. Curt, Ruth and their three children, Lynn, Diane and Dean, moved to the lake.

Over the years the Hansens have carried Weeres, Hydro Stream, Forester, Mirro Craft and Crestliner boats, as well as Evinrude, Snojet and Polaris snowmobiles.

The combination store and home was rebuilt in 1975. The "new" store is now 31 years old and continues to be one of our lake's landmarks. Congratulations to Curt and Ruth for their 50 years together and their continuing service to the lake.

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Open House

to help celebrate Curt and Ruth Hansen's 50th Wedding Anniversary Sunday, June 8, 2 - 4 p.m. Hansen's Store





Curt and Ruth Hansen relax in front of the original Hunter's Bay Store, built in 1933. They rebuilt the old store in 1975.

A new spring tradition

by Meredith Poland

On Saturday, May 3, Bay Lake Township held its second annual Township Road Cleanup Day.

Township residents arrived in the morning at the Town Hall to pick up their equipment: designer-orange vests and plastic trash bags. After a cup of coffee and a donut, we headed out to our designated roadsides to attack the winter trash.

With full trash bags, we returned to the Town Hall to create our own Trash Mountain in the parking lot. Crow Wing County cleaned up our "mountain" later in the week.

Participants were treated to gourmet hot dogs, chips and sodas while sharing stories about the varied items they found during their search.

The Road Cleanup Day has become an annual event, and all BLIA members are invited to join us next year on the first Saturday of May.

Please save these!

The Bay Lake "community" extends beyond the shores of our lake. Therefore we're joining other local organizations in an effort to benefit local schools by collecting things we would otherwise throw in the garbage. Please bring the following items to Hansen's Store (Ruth will figure out where to put them all):

- Campbell's labels with the logo "Labels for Education"
- Kemps milk caps with the logo "Kemps Give 'Em Five"
- General Mills and Pillsbury labels with the logo "Boxtops for Education"
- · Used ink jet cartridges
- Pop tabs Thanks!

Bay Lake first Minnesota site for new all-electric boats

As the lake opens up and the boating season begins, keep your eyes out for a canopied gondolastyled boat putting about. You won't see fishing lines or a towrope behind this boat. You may, however, hear music and the rattle of ice cubes, as this is truly a cruising boat.

What is so special about this new, unusual-looking boat, you are asking? The boat is entirely electric. No gas, no oil, no motor — just unplug and go.

Duffy Boats

(www.duffyboats.com) has been making these in California for more than 30 years, and Bay Lake will be the first lake in Northern Minnesota to have one.

In these days of environmentally sound thinking, it would only make sense that electric boats are the next big thing. "It's a life style thing," says Gary Crane, vice president of Duffy Electric Boat Co. "These boats allow people to enjoy their water in a way they never could before. These are perfect for the 'Northern Exposure' Minnesota has to offer."

They are dependable. Keep them charged, turn the key and go. There is no internal combustion engine with all its nagging moving parts. No messy

Remembering

In the past few months, Bay Lake has lost several longtime residents. Our sympathies to the families of:

George Herda, Feb. 4. George was a charter member of the Bay Lake Area Lions Club. **Daisy Hetherington**, Feb. 17. gas or oil mixing. It makes boating what it should be — fun and easy.

The boats travel at about 6.5 knots or about 9 MPH. The charge lasts anywhere from five to 15 hours, depending on your cruising speed. They are either 18 or 21 feet long and have a canopy that covers the entire sitting area, making them look much like an Italian gondola. As the story goes, about 32 years ago, Marshall "Duffy" Duffield was blessed with a broken down boat and nothing to do but sit on the dock and curse his bad fortune. A pal cruised by and offhandedly suggested to Duffy that a golf cart might be more dependable. The Duffy was born.

Will we see gas motors outlawed on Bay Lake? Probably never. But with wake restrictions and the potential for a pollution mess with gas and oil, not to mention the new regulations regarding motors being cleaner and burning cleaner, this may be the way of the future.

Feel free to pull up along side the Duffy should you see it putting around the lake. I am sure its owners would be happy to show you the boat and maybe even give you a ride. If you have an interest in learning more about electric boats, call (952) 476-2910.

Chair of the BLIA Fishing Contest for many years, Daisy also wrote a Breezes column, "From My Window."

Mark Anderson, March 17. An active member of the BLIA Board, Mark was chair of the Tax Committee and co-chair of the Government Committee at his death.

EWM program 12 years old; you can help its success continue

by David Devins Aquatic Nuisance Control

Once again we will continue our fight against Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) in Bay Lake. We will do as we have since 1992. This is our 12th season addressing the EWM problem in Bay Lake. Our program is working to control the weed from both becoming a total nuisance and destroying the native vegetation.

Last year there was an increase in EWM, but there was also very heavy growth of weeds native to Bay Lake. In fact, most areas of matted and dense weeds were natives and NOT EWM.

EWM is scattered in the lake, and we are making every effort to keep treatment sites moving around the lake so we do not have any one area that gets too large or dense. We ask you to pull EWM around your dock if it is a problem. The treatment equipment cannot get in and around all docks and boats.

We need your signature cards authorizing treatment returned ASAP. If you have not done so, please complete the form mailed to you or the one on Page 9. If we do not have a signature on file, we will not treat your shoreline should it be needed.

We will use divers and surface surveys from Buddy Diving Service and Lake Restoration Inc. as we have for several years. We will do the surveys in late May and early June, with treatment planned for the third or fourth week in June. We will repeat this 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.

MLA gives BLIA valuable support

by David Devins Aquatic Nuisance Control

The Minnesota Lakes Association (MLA) is a statewide membership-based nonprofit organization that promotes citizen stewardship of Minnesota's lakes and influences public policy for water resource management. BLIA is a member of this group, and MLA's help this year on aquatic plant management issues at the state level has been invaluable.

Through MLA this year, potential fee increases for our Eurasian watermilfoil program have been limited to a workable amount. Fees could have drastically increased without the help of MLA. The group is working on all kinds of programs statewide that are in the interest of lakeshore owners.

MLA needs individual members in addition to Lake Associations. There is strength in numbers! This group is heard, and your participation will help greatly. MLA does an excellent job of updating members on critical issues by email and in print.

You can learn more about MLA, its programs and how to join at the following Web site: www.mnlakes.org/.

See you at the BLIA annual meeting June 21 at Ruttger's!

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

Loons, from Page 1

(DNR). However, Pam Perry, the DNR's regional nongame specialist stationed in Brainerd, says she is "very excited about the prospect of having an official Loon Watcher on Bay Lake!"

What is the purpose of the Loon Watch Program? It is twofold: to monitor the presence and health of loons and chicks on Minnesota lakes, and to increase public understanding and protection of loon habitat.

Loon Watchers agree to complete a form once each year to record observations about loons, such as the number of adults and chicks seen and whether nests were observed. After two years of volunteering, Loon Watchers are given an embroidered loon patch.

Bay Lake is lucky to have good loon habitat still available on the lakeshore. Some Minnesota lakes are so highly developed that they have had to place loon nesting platforms in the lake in hopes of luring nesting loons. Thanks to all those with relatively undeveloped shorelines, Bay Lake still has a number of good nesting spots for loons.

We hope to have the DNR's Pam Perry speak about the program at the BLIA annual meeting. In the meantime, if you would like to volunteer to be a

LARRY THE LOON says,

"Please help safeguard my family and our habitat by becoming a Loon Watcher." Loon Watcher or get more information, please contact her at (218) 828-2228 or pam.perry@dnr.state.mn.us. Because of the size and configuration of our lake, it would be ideal to have volunteers from each of the bays.

If we watch over our fascinating state bird, we can increase the odds that the Common Loon will remain common on Bay Lake.



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

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