



Bay Lake Breezes

Bay Lake
Improvement Association Inc.



www.baylake.org

Spring 2005

Protecting native weeds helps control EWM

by David Devins

Aquatic Nuisance Control

We continue our efforts to control Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) in Bay Lake. This is our 14th year of fighting this invasive weed, and our program has been successful. Our goal is to control EWM so it does not become a nuisance and the dominant weed in Bay Lake. We have done that with our program and will continue to do so.

EWM is present in most areas of the lake, mixed in with native species. It is not impeding use of the lake and is not dominant. Last year we treated considerably less EWM than we did the previous year due to very successful treatments in 2003.

We will continue our program as in the past. We have divers and surface survey work being completed by the first week of June and treatment by the end of June. We will repeat the process in the fall. For those of you who did not sign authorizing BLIA to chemically treat your shoreline, we need that signature, which will be good through 2006. Without authorization we can not treat along your shoreline.

We are never going to get rid of Eurasian Watermilfoil, but we can control it. There will be problem spots that we will address. We have to remember

that this program is for the overall good of the lake. If you are having a problem with Eurasian watermilfoil in and around your dock during the course of the season, you can mechanically pull or remove an area of weeds that is 50' X 50' without a permit. Please consider removing the Eurasian watermilfoil only. Native lake weeds are a major line of defense against Eurasian watermilfoil. They create competition for EWM and help to keep it from taking over.

It is important to understand that these native weeds in Bay Lake are critical to the success of our program and to the health of Bay Lake. EWM, cont. on Page 2

Bay Lake needs YOUR help

With the discovery of Zebra Mussels in the Brainerd lakes area in 2003, **it is critical** that we develop a volunteer public access monitoring program for Bay Lake. We will continue to buy additional Department of Natural Resources (DNR) monitoring hours as we did in 2004, but that is not enough. **We need volunteers** to train with the DNR, then spend time inspecting boats at the public access during the summer.

The only way to keep Zebra Mussels away is to stop them from coming in. **There is no fix for Zebra Mussels.** The more inspections we do, the greater the chance we keep Zebra Mussels out of Bay Lake.

There will be a separate mailing asking for volunteers, but in the meantime please contact George Hansen or David Devins at davidd953@msn.com or 952-931-1241 if you are interested in getting involved.

EWM, cont. from Page 1

Lake. Bay Lake has a very diverse and healthy variety of native species. We need to protect them and encourage their growth. We are seeing many areas in which natives are regenerating where Eurasian watermilfoil once was. The way we handle Eurasian watermilfoil — treating most acreage in the fall — helps native weeds survive and prosper. In the fall

most native species are already either slowing down the draw of nutrients or have become dormant, while Eurasian watermilfoil is still active. Our fall treatments have been tremendously successful for that reason.

The Bay Lake Improvement Association recently completed a written long-term Lake Vegetation Management Plan

with the DNR. This plan has many components to it and is of real value to Bay Lake. Some of the components of this plan give the Association greater flexibility in operating our plan to control EWM. There are other areas we will work on such as public access monitoring, shoreline reconstruction, non-point source pollution, aquatic plant management control rules, native specie replanting in EWM zones, native specie education and GPS based computer EWM monitoring and modeling.

As mentioned, one of the more exciting components is that we are going to experiment with replanting native species that are resistant to the chemicals used for treating EWM by the spring of 2006. We will do this with former Eurasian watermilfoil sites the spring after treatment, starting with several smaller sites that will be monitored. Our intent is to take plant stock from Bay Lake for this experiment.

In August of this year we will send Bay Lake cabin owners a EWM ID card with a survey card to mail back. Please look at your shoreline for signs of EWM and reply. If you have problems with EWM, please let us know. It is difficult to view the entire lake. There have been many times that homeowner alerts to EWM issues have been of tremendous help and resulted in treatments to areas that may have been missed.

Our plan works, and it works because of the tremendous support of the property owners of Bay Lake. We continue to ask for your financial support of this program. We spent close to \$100,000 in 2004 and can expect to spend that much or more going forward. Please continue to contribute and support this important program. Bay Lake is worth it!

Bay Lake Improvement Association

Officers

President.....Mark Roloff
Vice President.....Tricia Jespersen
Co-Secretaries.....Rick Carlsen, Jim Ysseldyke
Co-Treasurers.....Chris Gondeck, Sylvia Graff

Directors

David Devins, Liza Dopp, Chris Gondeck, Tom Halverson, Tricia Jespersen, Bobbie Keller, Don Knutson, Gary Malek, Mark Roloff, Chris Ruttger, Steve Souder, Jim Ysseldyke

Committee Chairs

Aquatic nuisance control.....David Devins
Audit.....John Parrish
Beach captains.....Tricia Jespersen
Breezes.....Bobbie Keller
Church camp liaisons.....Gary & Carol Malek
Conservation.....Chuck Albertson
Continuity.....Ruth Hansen
Env. Protection Fund.....Don Knutson, Advisor
Fireworks.....Gregg Orwoll
Fishing contest.....Joel Kraft
Fishing resources.....Gary Malek
Government.....Jerry Poland
Legal advisor.....Mike Kelly
Membership..... Betty Marquardt
Nominations.....Paul Erickson
Programs/social.....Rita Pappas
Runtilla.....Jim Bye
Security.....Jim Nelson
Shoreline Protection.....Tori Peterson, Tiffin Souder
Tax.....Open
Water quality.....Mark Roloff
Water safety.....Kevin Krueger
Web site.....Scott Shekels

Bay Lake Breezes is published twice a year by the Bay Lake Improvement Association, P.O. Box 461, Deerwood, MN 56444-0461.
Web site: www.baylake.org

Editor.....Bobbie Keller

What is 1,000 times worse?

by Mark Roloff
Water Quality

In past issues of the Breezes, I have talked about issues pertaining to water quality on Bay Lake. With this issue I want to make you aware of the problem of yard waste and the impact that it has in fostering higher phosphorus levels in lake water.

This past fall and winter it was brought to my attention that large amounts of yard waste were entering the lake. The problem with using our lake as an easy disposal site is that decaying matter, such as leaves and tree branches, has a greater impact in water than on land. One of the by-products of decaying matter is the release of phosphorus, which in turn leads to plant and weed

growth: Eurasian Milfoil and algae blooms. Studies have shown that water magnifies the potency of phosphorus by up to 1,000 times what it would be if used on land. Envision, instead of a yard full of leaves going into the lake, several bags of fertilizer being tossed into the water.

When planning yard work this year, consider how to dispose of yard waste either by spreading it in natural areas on your property or by hauling it to a proper disposal site. If you contract for yard service, make the company you hire aware that yard cleanups require proper disposal of waste — and that an acceptable disposal site is NOT

the lake.

Over the years, all of us have worked very hard to improve the water quality on Bay Lake. Making the effort to see that yard waste is disposed of in a proper place improves our chances of preserving the water quality we have worked so hard to achieve.

Welcome

Welcome to Craig Jones and family, new owners of the White Hawk, now the “Hawk on Bay.”

Good news for bird watchers — and all of us

by Tori Peterson

Pam Perry of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) shares the following about our lake’s feathered friends:

Osprey and Bald Eagle populations are healthy — finally. Since the late 1940s these two birds have been decimated by DDT spraying. The effects of DDT made the birds unable to reproduce: at the low point there were only 120 pair of eagles in Minnesota. Numbers were roughly the same for osprey.

These numbers remained steady until the 1980s, when populations began to reproduce again. Last year populations for both were estimated to be around 800 pair! There were two eagle

sightings in 2004, however no pairs nesting on Malkersons’ Island for the last two years.

The good news is that we are seeing eagles. Eagles and their offspring will use the same nest as long as possible. However, eagles are predators to the loons, so we have a mixed blessing here. That could be why we have had a healthy loon population over the past few years. There have been loon pairs on almost every bay. As a matter of fact, we are an observation lake for an area Audubon Society. (Anyone interested in building a loon-nesting platform can contact our committee or the DNR for more information.)

Finally, we are looking for someone in each bay to help us track the loon population this year for the DNR. There has been no information on the loon count for Bay Lake since 1997. If you are interested in being an observer, please contact Tori Peterson. There is no work involved except calling me with numbers at the end of the summer!

The duck population is another matter. Populations are down due to the draining of wetlands, loss of habitat due to midlevel predators such as racoons and skunks, and loss of natural shoreline.

Looking ahead to summer...

Calling all anglers!

by Joel Kraft
Fishing Contest

The 2005 Bay Lake Improvement Association Fishing Contest began Saturday, May 14, and will run through Monday, Sept. 5. Awards will be given for the largest Walleye, Northern Pike, Largemouth Bass, Crappie and Sunfish in each of two age groups. Anglers 15 years of age and younger will compete in one group, and those 16 years of age and older will compete in another.

Fish will be judged on 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. Providing the actual fish is unnecessary.

Join BL Lions for annual Home Tour

Ever wonder what some of the unique, elegant homes around Bay Lake look like inside? Members of the Bay Lake Deerwood Lions invite you to tour such homes July 29 and 30.

Beginning at 8 a.m., pre-tour refreshments and parking will be available at the Bay Lake Lions facility across from Zig's. A buffet lunch at Ruttger's Lodge will follow the morning tour.

Contest details and submitted photos are available on the Bay Lake Improvement Association

Web site at www.baylake.org.

We will also have a drawing that includes the names of all who enter for \$15 gift certificates to



Tutt's bait store in Garrison. Even if your fish isn't the biggest, please stop in at Hansen's and take part in the contest. Maybe we'll help take a bite out of your bait bill next summer.

Names of contest and gift certificate winners will be posted on the Bay Lake Web site and also listed in the Fall/Winter issue of the Bay Lake Breezes.

Tour cost is \$35, most of which is tax-deductible. Proceeds will go to the Lakes Area Habitat for Humanity, a self-help program to improve family lives and community livelihood.

Group and individual registration forms are available at Hansen's Store and several other area businesses. Gather your group and come along!

For more information, contact Sylvia Graff at 218-678-2643.

Prizes may be picked up at Hansen's Store beginning Oct. 15, 2005.

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

Minnow Camp to be July 9 on Church Island

Come join the fun at Minnow Camp, the annual Bay Lake children's party, from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, July 9, on Church Island.

As always, the morning will be full of fish-theme crafts and activities, and conclude with a "shore lunch." Parents and preschool-to-early-elementary-aged children should meet at the flag pole on the island's east end. Weekend guests and older/younger siblings are also welcome.

Minnow Camp will take place rain or shine!

Chaired for four years by Sherry Hanson, Bay Lake Minnow Camp now has two additional chairs. To reserve your child's spot at camp, call Joyce Kohnen (218-678-2209) or Stacy Keefe (952-831-4390).

Sherry Hanson passed away on May 30, 2005. Our condolences to her husband, Scott, their children, and her parents, Arnie and Sylvia Graff. Sylvia has been BLIA's co-treasurer for many years.

An exciting summer ahead for Bay Lake Camp

by Carol and Gary Malek
Bay Lake Camp

Greetings from First Lutheran Bay Lake Camp (BLC). What a wonderful tradition started 79 years ago when this St. Paul church sent its first group of campers to Bay Lake for an island experience! We invite you to come and check us out. Come for worship, walk the trails, enjoy the children's playground, a picnic or just take in the island's solitude. Come and see what we are about and why we are seeking your help to rebuild BLC and continue this wonderful tradition. (Please dock your boats on the south side of the island).

A special welcome from First's new minister, Christine Berthelsen, to walk the new labyrinth located near the beach area. "Travel its path and you will find rest for your soul." Jeremiah 6:16. This is what Bay Lake Camp is all about!

Lisa G. Moriarty of Stillwater designed the labyrinth, being developed this spring. Bring a rock the size of a grapefruit and help us complete the design. Pastor Chris fully supports camp and has many new ideas for the future.

We have been busy readying the camp for a full schedule, and once again we are blessed with Bay Lake volunteers who have helped with docks and spring cleanup. Watch for several new docks that were donated by generous mainlanders! Thank you for your ongoing support!

Another way to help is to sponsor a camper for a week of camping. A gift of \$175 would provide an island experience to an inner city youth. This is the

primary mission of BLC: hoping to make a difference in the lives of today's youth. Send your check to Bay Lake Camp, 16257 Brighton Pt. Rd, Deerwood, MN 56444 and indicate for camperships.

Bay Lake would not be the same without the Sunday worship on Church Island. We welcome you to our nondenominational worship service each Sunday at 10 a.m., 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. Stay for coffee, treats and fellowship, a wonderful way to meet your Bay Lake neighbors. Check our Web site for a listing of weekly worship leaders. You can get to the BLC Web site via the Bay Lake Improvement Association (BLIA) site, www.baylake.org.

We are thrilled to have the support of the BLIA and you, our neighbors. With your help, we can rebuild Bay Lake Camp, and put Church Island into a conservation easement for future generations.

Questions? Call Carol or Gary at 218-678-3712. Have a wonderful summer!

2005 Runtilla is July 23

Grab your running/walking shoes, your bikes or your roller blades and join us for the 21st annual Bay Lake Runtilla July 23.

Bay Lakers will meet at Hawk on Bay (White Hawk) to tackle the 5K course, with family and friends cheering them on. Registration begins at 8 a.m.; the starting gun will sound at 9.

As always, event sponsors will be listed on the Runtilla t-shirt. For \$50, you can have your name or your company name appear on the back of the shirt. A mention on the sleeve costs \$250; space on the front, \$1,000. To be a sponsor, please send your check and the name as you would like it to appear on the shirt to Jim Bye, Runtilla coordinator, 2482 Lafayette Road, Wayzata, MN 55391, by July 10. The entire amount raised goes toward the Bay Lake Environmental Protection Fund.

Many thanks to Jim Bye and the other volunteers who put the event together every year. Thanks also to the participants, those who come out to support them — and of course to the Hawk on Bay.

See you there!

Picnic on the island!

Saturday, Aug. 13
5 p.m.

We are very fortunate to be on Church Island again this year for the Bay Lake Picnic!

FUN — FRIENDS — FOOD

\$10 Adults \$5 Under 12

Mailing will be sent with reservation information. Call Rita Pappas with questions: 612-759-8600.

'Preserve Church Island' Update

Fundraising efforts surpass \$725,000!

by the Preserve Church Island
Task Force

The campaign to preserve Church Island moves into the summer months with great momentum. As of May 1, gifts from 63 Bay Lake families, in combination with donations from members of the First Lutheran Church and a significant contribution from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, have very generously put our fund-raising total at more than \$725,000. This represents more than 40 percent of our target goal of \$1,800,000 by March 31, 2006.

Upon completion of the target fund-raising goal, the church will sell a conservation easement over Church Island, which will perpetually restrict development of the property beyond its current development footprint. The easement will protect the natural and scenic values of the island and protect the shoreline from development — thereby maintaining the water quality of Bay Lake — while simultaneously providing the church the funds to improve and maintain Bay Lake Camp, a Bay Lake institution for more than 75 years. In essence, by meeting our goal, we have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to preserve 8,000 feet of wilderness character shoreline for future generations of Bay Lakers.

Over the summer months you will be hearing a great deal more about this truly exciting project. Saturday, Aug. 20, will

be **Preserve Church Island Awareness Day**. Activities will begin with an open house on Church Island from 9 to 11 a.m., featuring a presentation by representatives of the Minnesota Land Trust at 10 a.m. The open house will give Bay Lakers a chance to tour the island and to have their questions about the project answered.

For more information on how you and your family can help, please contact:

Frank Tonnemaker, Preserve Church Island Task Force:
952-548-1002

Carol or Gary Malek, Bay Lake Camp Managers: 218-678-3712
Brenda Olson, Bay Lake Camp Director: 651-785-6225
Jane Prohaska, Minnesota Land Trust: 651-647-9590

Or visit the Web:
www.preservechurchisland.org or www.mnland.org

Quick Quiz

by Betty Marquardt
Membership Chair

Here is a quiz that everyone can answer correctly!

WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO DO THIS SPRING?

Is it:

- a. Turning on the water?
- b. Putting in the dock?
- c. Getting your boat out of storage?
- d. Raking leaves?
- e. Planting flowers?

The correct answer is:
**SENDING IN YOUR 2005
MEMBERSHIP DUES!!!**

While all of the above is important and necessary, joining the Bay Lake Improvement Association shows your support for all the volunteer work that is being done to keep Bay Lake the best lake in Minnesota. Join for yourself, for your children, and for your grandchildren!

The FUTURE is what we're all about.

Memories...

We're proud of our history. Many of our families have been here for multiple generations.

Unfortunately history that isn't written down is soon lost.

The History Committee will help with the documentation, but we need your submissions. The following article, which has been

modified to fit within the space constraints of the Breezes, is an exceptional example. See whether you can identify the location, and then start writing down your own memories.

Send your submission to Paul@baylake.org or give it to anyone on our committee:

Wayne & Joyce Kohnen
George & MaryLu Hanson
Tom & Margaret Lunacek
Mary Swanson
Paul & Susan Erickson
Al Knieff (advisor)

Memories of Hickory Heights

by Joanne Fletcher Susag

In the early 1930s, probably 1932, John Erickson, a real estate developer, made an arrangement with my father, Abbott Lee Fletcher, to do legal work as he developed the area that became known as

Woodland Beach.

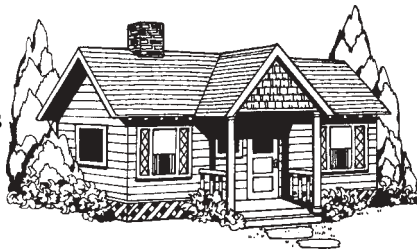
In exchange for those legal services my dad had the opportunity to select some property.

As I remember he chose three fifty-foot lots. We named the area Hickory Heights, as there were many hickory trees on the property at that time. The next year our family — Dad, Mother (Louise Chandler Fletcher), Alfred, Fremont and I — started going up there, living in tents the first summer.

The next year my dad and brothers (I held the nails) built a one-room cabin with the help of Mr. LaSalle, a single man who lived in a very small house at the corner just outside of the entrance to the beach. He was a good carpenter and they worked well together. This cabin was big enough for a wood stove, an ice box and a narrow table that could be folded against the outside wall when two army cots were set up so that my mother and I could sleep inside.

An early project was the outhouse, which lasted for many

years. Those were Depression years, and not many people were going to lawyers, so for at least two years my dad lived at the Minneapolis YMCA in the summer, and our Minneapolis



house was rented from the time school was out until it started again in September. Dad came up

on Friday nights, bringing groceries and what ever else we needed. The rest of us did not have a car.

Over time the rest of the cabin was completed. For the first few years we took the little red wagon down to Ericksons' at the bottom of a hill to get water from their well. We used the wagon to go on to the corner to an icehouse, where we would get a huge chunk of ice for the icebox.

In those days we had to walk to the intersection another mile or so towards Deerwood to get our mail. After the LaBrants started the resort we could go up there to use a phone; otherwise we were really pretty much on our own. In time Alfred, and then Fremont, found summer jobs away from the lake: Al at Green Giant and Fre as a counselor at YMCA Camp Warren. When they left each summer, Mother and I would use the rowboat to take

them across the lake to Hanson's, where they could get the bus, or from where they walked to Garrison for a bus. I have a vivid memory of Fre hiking off with a huge backpack.

I spent my summers with Mother and my dad, who came up weekends and vacations. My last full summer there was 1942. I went to the U of M by streetcar from January to August, then left for my sophomore year at Carleton College in 1943. Some time after WW II we were hooked up for electricity and an indoor bathroom was installed.

In time my mother and dad built what we call "the cottage" south of the cabin so that they had a place for themselves. This was after the next generation helped to fill the cabin.

Two or three years before my father died in December 1977, he deeded the property to Fremont and me. At that time he made sure the foundation was in good shape and otherwise gave us a very nice piece of property. My mother used the cottage until she died in December 1985.

Until 1995 or 6 Fre and I managed to share in the expenses and doing what needed to be done. Then the next generation started taking a more active part. Our daughter, Missy, lives in Edina, and Fremont's four children, Susan, Jan, Marty and Charles, and their families are all now in the area. I've sold my portion to Fremont, but we are still very interested in what happens and continue to support Bay Lake happenings. It is a wonderful place to be together with family and is still an important part of our lives.

Good shoreline management leads to a healthy lake

by Tori Peterson
Shoreline Protection

A healthy lake — important for a balanced fish and wildlife population — must have an adequate amount of natural and protected shoreline. Native shoreline plants growing undisturbed have a better chance of survival and can interrupt the spread of exotics, which can threaten natural habitat because of their high density. Unless we can sustain natural shoreline, fish and wildlife populations on our lake will decrease for lack of habitat. If that happens, exotics can take over, and their ability to propagate unhindered will endanger Bay Lake's health.

Fish and wildlife play an important part in a checks-and-balance system by using shoreline areas to nest and spawn. Natural growth in these areas keeps invasive plants such as milfoil and purple loosestrife from multiplying. Empty, dead areas along the shoreline provide a breeding ground for exotic plants because there is no competition.

Curbing erosion

In addition, a natural shoreline is the best defense against erosion! Water plants act as a buffer zone against wave damage, and the root systems of trees, bushes, grasses and plants (large and small) have been proven to be more effective — and more cost effective — than riprap at preventing shoreline erosion. They anchor the soil and “catch” the drainage of phosphates and other minerals, chemicals and damaging residue that can hurt the lake.

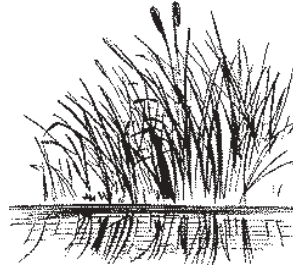
Riprap might look good and appear to protect your shoreline, but in most cases it is an expensive, cosmetic approach that will eventually give way to nature's power. With riprap you will have the expense of repairing it — sometimes annually — as nature's ice heaves “rearrange” your riprap each year. Riprap also robs wildlife of valuable habitat and breeding grounds.

Some situations DO require rip rap. We urge cabin owners to contact a company that is knowledgeable in shoreline landscaping, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) or our committee(!) to discuss requirements and alternatives for their shoreline.

Shoreline plants range from grasses to perennials to bushes and trees. We recommend having a buffer zone of at least 5 to 25 feet. Other than the area you reserve for boating access and swimming, that leaves a good deal of space promoting natural beauty and habitat, and a lot less yard to mow! Shallow water plants (aquatic) take a little more care and attention, but the end result is perennial protection with little to no maintenance.

These plants are available from several sources, including Prairie Restorations (Elk River) and the DNR. For more information and to see pictures of the plants, visit www.dnr.state.mn.us.

Now, a word about that dirty little subject: FERTILIZER! All right people...how many times do we need to tell you that lake water — really it's true — is the best and most effective way to get your grass, flowers and other plants to grow? Lake water contains natural ingredients. It is not a threat to fish or wildlife. It is loaded with the discharge of all those little fishies. It is GREAT for growing things.



So, PLEASE, if you or someone you know is thinking of using synthetic fertilizers — THINK AGAIN. Is it healthy for the lake? Lake water is free after your initial investment of a water pump (+/- \$100).

Tiffin Souder and I are looking into the possibility of using grant money to create shoreline restoration models. The Crooked Lake Association has restored three cabin shorelines using different methods with grant money and help from the DNR. If you are interested in viewing these models, contact Tiffin Souder or Tori Peterson for information.

We believe that the next few years will determine how all residents of Bay Lake can help to sustain our shoreline and the health of our beloved lake through education and lakescaping, and promote an even stronger lake community committed to shoreline health. The Shoreline Restoration Committee has been gathering information and resources, and there is now a permanent library of materials available for check-out at the home of Tori and Spence Peterson (218-678-3685). Tiffin and Tori are also available to answer questions or for any assistance you might need.

How to feed your plants without harming the lake

by Tiffin Souder
Shoreline Protection

Many of us still cannot resist the urge to apply additional fertilizer to our gardens and flower beds at our cabins and lake homes. With this in mind, we have decided to introduce to you some highly effective, safe and natural products that are kinder to the environment, and especially to our beautiful Bay Lake!

The major difference between organic and synthetic chemical fertilizers is the effect they have on the soil. Synthetic chemical fertilizers are usually formulated to be a fast acting, quick burst of nutrients to a plant. Typically they have higher percentages of nutrients such as nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium, (the numbers on the front of your fertilizer package, for example 10-10-10) and are salt or acid based.

However, in the case of fertilizers, more is definitely not better. Plants can only absorb a certain portion of these nutrients, and the residue is left behind in the soil or leached out with frequent rainfall or regular watering. These idle nutrients negatively affect microbial populations in the soil, decrease overall soil fertility, contaminate ground water and contaminate lake water, causing unwanted algae bloom.

Giving plants what they need

Organic fertilizers, however, are a great alternative. These products promote soil fertility for healthier plants with bigger, brighter flowers and juicier,

heartier vegetables, and do not contaminate ground or lake water when used properly. Organic fertilizers like the products we recommend encourage large populations of beneficial microorganisms in the soil, which allows nutrients to become immediately available to the plants.

This beneficial bacteria also helps your soil retain moisture for your plants without making it hard or compact. In addition, the nutrients remain in the soil longer, gradually releasing over time so the plants have a constant supply of the nutrients they need. Organic fertilizers are made from renewable aquatic sources such as fish, seaweed and kelp, composted manure from animals such as chickens, cows and bats, as well as by-products of the corn industry.

Below are a few Organic fertilizers I have used in the past and am currently using in my

profession. They can be purchased at most popular garden centers such as Bachman's, some "cutting edge" hardware stores, as well as specialty stores dedicated to environmentally friendly gardening such as Eco Garden Supply in St. Paul and American Garden Supply in Princeton.

A huge supply of environmentally friendly plant products can also be found online by going to Web sites such as www.wormsway.com. Please note: these fertilizers can still contain phosphorous (the middle number in the series of three as noted above), which causes algae growth in lake water. We would never, ever, recommend anyone fertilize plants on their shoreline or in containers located on or near their docks. As with any product, these fertilizers have no brains of their own, so we have to be sure to remember to use ours!

Recommended organic fertilizers

- ✓ NEPTUNE'S HARVEST "FISH PLANT FOOD"
- ✓ NEPTUNE'S HARVEST "SEAWEED PLANT FOOD"
- ✓ NEPTUNE'S HARVEST "FISH/SEAWEED PLANT FOOD"
- ✓ NEPTUNE'S HARVEST "KELP MEAL PLANT FOOD"
- ✓ FOX FARM "MARINE CUISINE PLANT FOOD"
- ✓ SUNLEAVES "PERUVIAN SEABIRD GUANO"
- ✓ SUNLEAVES "MEXICAN BAT GUANO"

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

Bay Lake Bulletin Board

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

*BLIA Picnic
Saturday, Aug. 13
5 p.m.
Church Island*

*Fireworks
Sunday, July 3
East end of
Ruttger's*

*Garrison Keillor
comes to Bay Lake
Friday, Aug. 5
Ruttger's*

*Minnow
Camp
July 9*