



Bay Lake Breezes

Bay Lake
Improvement Association Inc.



www.baylake.org

Spring 2009

Recent winter, summer weather conditions have helped control EWM growth; we are doing our part

We continue to control Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) in Bay Lake — this will be our 18th season doing so. After two average or above snowfall winters and higher water levels, combined with normal summer weather last year, we have had some much needed relief from the previous three years of heat, drought and explosive EWM growth.

Good snow cover is important because it blocks the light and prevents uncontrolled EWM growth under the ice. With our very successful treatments in the fall of 2007, combined with good, constant snow cover that winter, little growth happened during the winter of 2007-2008. 2008's average summer weather also helped out, giving the native vegetation a chance to fill in — and it did in many areas. The EWM in 2008 was not nearly as dense nor as widespread as in 2007. With that being said, we only treated about 120 acres in 2008 vs. 200 in 2007.

The 2009 plan

This year we are surveying the lake as we have all these years starting around Memorial Day. We will treat in late June, then

repeat the process in late summer and follow up with a fall treatment late in September.

After some very bad and expensive years in 2006 and 2007, last summer we were able to stay within budget at approximately \$125,000. I can't thank all of you enough in that we had the funds and the plan to carry us through. We will continue to aggressively fight this invasive species in Bay Lake.

Even though we have had a break the last year or two, we can't let up on our program. We have talked about these swings in conditions in the past, and we have to expect and be prepared for them in the future. It became very clear the last couple of years just how important it is that we aggressively fight EWM. Please continue contributing to BLIA and the Environmental Protection Fund. There really is no one to help us with these problems but us.

Authorization signatures are required for all onshore treatments. We did get most last year, but still need some. Either I or your beach captain will be working over the next six weeks to collect signatures we don't

have. If you have not authorized treatment along your shore, we will not be able to chemically treat it. There is a copy of the signature form with mailing or faxing instructions on the BLIA website for those who have not signed it.

We will be sending a EWM ID card and a return postcard later this summer asking for your help in inspecting your shoreline for signs of EWM. This has been a very big help in years past, and I would ask for your support again.

We can and will continue to control EWM in Bay Lake. Our program does work. Your support and involvement is very much appreciated, and what our community has done in supporting these efforts is amazing. Please continue to give to the Environmental Protection Fund so we all can continue to use and enjoy Bay Lake as we have.

Thank you.
David Devins
Aquatic plant management



BLIA communication depends on membership dues

by Betty Marquardt
Membership

Every year, as spring finally arrives, we ask for your new or continued support of the Bay Lake Improvement Association. This support is crucial if we are

to continue our ongoing communication with everyone on the lake. Your \$30 annual membership dues make it possible for us to

mail out the president's spring letter and all the information in it, and to distribute flyers on upcoming events, such as Minnow Camp, Fireworks, the Golf Scramble, the Annual Meeting, workshops to learn how to check boats for Eurasian watermilfoil, the Runtilla and the Holiday Party. The Breezes, which you are reading now, is printed twice a year, spring and fall, to give you information on various topics of concern to all of us.

One other thing the dues help support is the maintenance of our buoys, which must sometimes be replaced. It's amazing what \$30 can do!

So, thank you in advance for sending in your dues for 2009. Some of you have already done this online, for which I thank you. I've also received some dues by mail — again, my many thanks.

We'll see you on the lake. Here's hoping for more memberships than ever!!

Remembering _____

We have heard of the recent loss of two longtime Bay Lakers. Our deepest sympathy to the families and friends of:

Gretchen Marple Pracht, 99, Dec. 6, 2008. She was one of the founders of the Bay Lake Improvement Association and the grandmother of Patricia Jespersion, current BLIA president.

Craig Yudell, 54, April 30, 2009. He was a third generation Bay Laker.

Bay Lake Improvement Association

Officers

President..... Patricia Jespersion
Vice President..... Chris Ruttger
Secretary..... Jim Ysseldyke
Co-Treasurers..... Chris Gondeck, Sylvia Graff

Directors

David Devins, Chris Gondeck, Patricia Jespersion, Mark Jessen, Bobbie Keller, Gary Malek, Mark Roloff, Chris Ruttger, Steve Souder, Jim Ysseldyke

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Audit..... John Parrish
Beach captains..... George Hansen
Breezes..... Bobbie Keller
Church camp liaisons..... Gary & Carol Malek
Conservation..... Chuck Albertson, Steve Souder
Continuity..... Ruth Hansen
Env. Protection Fund..... Rick Bale
Fireworks..... Gregg Orwoll
Fishing contest..... Joel Kraft
Fishing resources..... Gary Malek
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History..... Paul Erickson
Legal advisor..... Mike Kelly
Membership..... Betty Marquardt
Access Monitoring..... Sylvia Graff
Nominations..... Mark Roloff
Programs/social..... Open
Runtilla..... Jim Bye
Security..... Jim Nelson
Shoreline Protection..... Tori Peterson, Tiffin Tripp
Taxes..... Open
Water quality..... Mark Roloff
Water safety..... Kevin Krueger
Web site..... Scott Shekels

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Editor..... Bobbie Keller

BLIA receives DNR grant for public access inspectors

by Rick Bale

Environmental Protection Fund

The Bay Lake Improvement Association was awarded a \$2,000 grant from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to use toward the costs of hiring DNR-trained lake public access inspectors. This grant will help us provide additional DNR inspectors to supplement the inspection hours we now purchase from the DNR, and the hours donated by the volunteers from the Bay Lake community and the Deerwood Lion's Club.

These DNR inspection hours will be coordinated by Sylvia Graff, who also schedules the many volunteers who generously donate their time and talents to this important effort.

Inspection of watercraft entering and leaving Bay Lake at the public access is needed to help prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species. The public access inspectors encourage and assist boaters in removing aquatic plants from boats and trailers, and draining any live wells, bait buckets or other containers that may hold lake water. They are an important and helpful resource for boaters and others launching and removing watercraft from Bay Lake.

Watercraft inspections are particularly important to prevent the introduction of zebra mussels into Bay Lake from neighboring lakes. The prolific and harmful little mollusks have gained a strong foothold in Lake Mille Lacs and other neighboring waterbodies. Zebra mussel larvae,

called veligers, can be the size of the period at the end of this sentence. They can be transported in virtually any amount of water. When they grow into adults, their sharp, hard shells can clog marine equipment and smother beaches. There is no effective treatment. More information can be found at the DNR's zebra mussel web page at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquaticanimals/zebramussel/index.htm>.

Volunteer public access monitors needed for coming season

by Sylvia Graff

Access monitor coordinator

As of Dec. 31, members of the Bay Lake Improvement Association and Deerwood Lakes Lions and DNR representatives monitored Bay Lake for 604 hours during 2008. Monitors inspected 980 crafts from 97 lakes, 11 U.S. states (Wisconsin, Arizona, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, South Dakota, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Nebraska, Texas) and Canada.

Data from the DNR revealed that about 7 percent of boaters were not familiar with the invasive species Eurasian watermilfoil and 17 percent of boaters were not familiar with zebra mussels. These numbers illustrate that many boaters using Bay Lake are unaware of the problems associated with invasive species, although many are very aware.

The grant was awarded through the Minnesota DNR Invasive Species Program. The additional inspection hours we will be able to purchase with this grant will help us provide some, but not all, of the public access inspection hours we need. We also need as many volunteers as possible. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the BLIA and we will get you going!

Already we are down in hours monitored from this time last year, so please consider monitoring a couple of four-hour sessions during the season. The protection of our lake and the money saved your BLIA would be substantial.

I will set up another one-hour training session to be given by the DNR this season. Even if you do not plan on monitoring, please educate yourself and ask friends to attend.

To those who have monitored this year, THANK YOU, as well as to those assisting me, to Ruttger's for accommodating the DNR sessions, to the Deerwood Lakes Lions and to Rick Bale for writing a \$2,000 grant request to the DNR.

Please contact me at 218-678-2543 or graffbay@mlecmn.net.

Thank you.

It's going to be another great Bay Lake summer!

Have some fun, support your lake at the BLIA Golf Outing and Family Picnic

by Rick Bale
Environmental Protection Fund

The third annual BLIA Golf Outing and Family Picnic will be held at Ruttger's on Saturday, Aug. 8. You can enjoy another great day of golf with family and friends on The Lakes course, the beautiful 18-hole Championship course at Ruttger's that offers a fun round for all types of golfers. After golf, everyone is welcome for the great food and the chance to catch up with your Bay Lake neighbors at the family picnic at the golf shelter near Zig's.

Through the tireless work of George Reynolds, and thanks to the generosity and hospitality of the Ruttger family, this has quickly become another great event to look forward to at the lake each summer. And all the fun has a purpose — the proceeds benefit the BLIA Environmental Fund and the association's work to protect the water quality of Bay Lake. This is a great way to support the lake, see your neighbors, and have a great day with family and friends.



Minnow Camp set for June 27

You are invited to the annual Bay Lake Improvement Association's Children's party!

WHAT: "Minnow Camp" is a great gathering of Bay Lake children to enjoy crafts, games and songs, and lunch. Children get to know each other while enjoying interactive activities.

WHEN: Saturday, June 27, from 10 a.m. to noon with lunch included.

WHERE: Bay Lake Camp, Church Island. Come to the flag pole.

WHO: Preschool - elementary age children. Older siblings are encouraged to volunteer to help run the party. Lake guests and family members are welcome.

COST: No cost to association members. Donations to cover party are accepted.

RSVP: Please contact Minna Gallagher at 952-474-0329 or minpat@skypoint.com to let her know how many are coming (approx.) and also to volunteer. Grandparents, teens and parents are encouraged to participate in this great social event!

Enjoy an evening of music and help Bay Lake causes

Join with friends and neighbors for a wonderful evening on the lawn at Ruttger's Saturday, July 18, at 6 p.m., as the Twin Cities Community Gospel Choir and soloist Robert Robinson raise their voices in song and we raise money for the Bay Lake Improvement Association Environmental Fund and camp scholarships for urban youth at Bay Lake Camp!

Ticket prices:
Adults, \$15
Children under 12, \$5

Bring a lawn chair or blanket, spread out under the summer sky and enjoy a wonderful midsummer concert while supporting some of your favorite Bay Lake causes!

Runtilla: the 25th on the 25th

When Runtilla founder Jim Bye was wondering if the event should run beyond the fifth year, his mother, Peggy Bye, advised him to continue “as long as you see your fellow Bay Lakers still smiling.”

“Here we are, after 25 years, and they’re still smiling,” says Bye.

For a quarter of a century, rain or shine (mostly shine), Bay Lake runners, walkers, bikers and skaters have enjoyed the camaraderie and challenges of participating in the annual Runtilla, to the cheers of family and friends along the 5K (3.1 mile) course. This year will be no different — with one exception.

Because of construction on Hwy. 10, the course will start and end at the traditional finish line. Participants will go 1.55 miles down Brighton Point Road to a marker and return. The starting

gun will sound at 9 a.m. Saturday, July 25. Check-in will begin at 8:15.

Following the race, Dennis “Charlie” Charles, longtime owner of the White Hawk, and other sponsors will host a party featuring BBQ hot dogs and brats, beer, water and other goodies to celebrate the Runtilla’s 25th anniversary. Everyone is invited to stick around for the fun.

Bay Lakers under 20 years of age and those over 70 are again invited to submit a t-shirt design for the event. As in the past, sponsor names will appear on the shirt. Participant registration forms will be available by June 15 at www.baylake.org or at Hansen’s Store.

Design entries, sponsorships and participant entry forms should be submitted at Hansen’s by July 15. After July 15, partici-

pants can enter the day of the race. The first 450 participants to sign up will get a free t-shirt.

Bye thanks the sponsors, who have given a total of \$136,000 to the

BLIA Environmental Protection Fund since the Runtilla began. Each year, all sponsorship proceeds have gone to the fund.

“Bay Lake events have come and gone, but this has grabbed people’s interest,” says Bye. “I’m very proud of the sponsors and volunteers who have helped make it successful. It’s nice to have a day when people can enjoy early morning exercise around Bay Lake.”



Calling all anglers!

by Joel Kraft
BLIA Fishing Contest

The 2008 Bay Lake Improvement Association Fishing Contest began Saturday, May 9, and will run through Monday, Sept. 7. Awards will be given for the largest Walleye, Northern Pike, Largemouth Bass, Crappie and Sunfish in each of two age

groups. Those 15 years of age and younger will compete in the kids’ contest, and

licensed anglers 16 years of age and older will compete in the adult contest.

Fish will be measured by length (down to the quarter inch) and may be registered 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 not necessary.

We will also have a drawing that includes the names of all who enter for two \$15 gift certificates to Tutt’s Bait & Tackle 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 appear in the Fall/Winter issue of the Bay Lake Breezes.

This is going to be a great summer on Bay Lake — I look forward to your participation in this year’s contest.

Looking WAY ahead to the Holiday Party

by Sylvia Graff

The Bay Lake Holiday Party will be Dec. 12, 2009, at Ruttger’s Lodge, with social hour at 4:30 p.m. and dinner at 6. Come and join the fun.

Last year’s party was a special treat, with live music and table centerpieces that Donna Murphy created and donated. Thank you, Donna, and thank you, Ruttger’s, for a fun-filled evening, even if the weather was a bit threatening for snow.



Help Church Island celebrate its centennial

Spring Greetings from Bay Lake Camp!

2009 marks the 100th year of ownership of Church Island. In 1909 A.F. Landstrom donated the island to First Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. Paul. It was not until 1926 that the church, along with the Lutheran Brotherhood, made plans to build a camp for church children. With little money, but tons of hard work, Bay Lake Camp became a reality. On the 4th of July, 1926, there were 145

happy campers! What wisdom and vision those early members of First Lutheran had! They began the tradition of preserving Church Island for generations to come. Now with the support of the Bay Lake Community, we keep the dream going.

Just a year ago we completed our building project and can now offer camping experiences year round. The Red Cedar Lodge, along with our new dining hall and kitchen, can accommodate large groups year

round. We invite you to come on over and check us out, see how we have grown. Send your children to camp, host your family reunion or accommodate your overflow guests here at Bay Lake Camp in the Red Cedar Lodge.

The future looks bright as more and more campers visit Bay Lake's island wilderness. Join us this summer as we celebrate our 100-year heritage.

There are many special things happening on the Island:

Sundays through Labor Day Sunday, Sept. 6, 10 a.m.
Worship with us each Sunday. Come by boat or catch the pontoon shuttle from Brighton Point beginning at 9:30. Stay for treats and fellowship.

Saturday, June 27, 10 a.m. - noon. BLIA children's Minnow Camp. Lunch included.

July 3, 4 and 5. The Young Artists' Initiative Theater is back. This year, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. Performances: Friday 7 p.m., Saturday 1 and 7 p.m., Sunday 1 p.m. Tickets at the door \$8 adults, \$5 students/seniors.

Saturday, July 18, 6 p.m. Robert Robinson and the Twin Cities Community Gospel Choir in concert at Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge. A fund-raiser for the BLIA Environmental Fund and Bay Lake Camp. See Page 4 for details on this exciting concert.

Sunday, July 19, 10 a.m. Robert Robinson and his Gospel Choir will lead worship at the Outdoor Chapel for a Church Island Centennial Celebration!

Sunday, July 26, 10 a.m. A bluegrass-led worship service with Churchyard Grass from Crosby.

Sunday, Sept. 6, Labor Day Sunday. Worship and 2nd annual Bay Lake Camp Raffle and Arts Jam, complete with music, food and crafts. All summer long we will be selling raffle tickets to raise dollars to help send kids to camp. Watch for more information about a

number of fantastic items up for raffle. Many handmade articles as well as donations from local businesses.

Camping sessions open to your camper:

6th grade – 9th grade June 15-19
3rd grade – 5th grade Aug. 10-14
Women's Retreat August 7-9
Watch for details on day camp in early July.

To register, contact First Lutheran at 651-776-7210 before June 15 or Bay Lake Camp at 218-678-2271 after June 15. Check out our website at www.baylakecamp.net.

Hope we will see you at one of these many events as we celebrate 100 years of stewardship of Church Island.

Brenda Olson, Camp Director
and
Carol and Gary Malek

Keeping our heritage alive

by Paul Erickson
History Committee

The Bay Lake History Project is in high gear. Active initiatives are underway on almost all of our shorelines. The projects on the eastern half of the lake will likely be completed this summer and the same could be true for the Birkeland, Scotland Shores, Eaglewood, Bay Lake Shores/Doty's Addition shorelines and, possibly, also for the Wild Bird Lane, Bluffside Road and Bayview shorelines.

If you haven't been contacted by your Shoreline History Project Coordinator, please review the list of volunteers in the History Project section of the website. Maybe your coordinator needs your help...or maybe your shoreline still needs a coordinator. Then please read the "History Project FAQ" section to learn more about this exceptionally rewarding project.

While you're looking at the website, please also review the Bay Lake "Points of Reference" map. As I've recruited volunteers I've been surprised that many residents don't know the names of our bays, points and shorelines. The map is "first stab." Don't hesitate to suggest changes.

I've come to realize that this project is as much about strengthening our community as it is about documenting history. Bay Lake is unique. It's a community. Our challenge is to strengthen it. The History Project brings people together and helps

us appreciate our heritage — both of which are cornerstones of a wonderful community.

In early May we had an "Oldtimer" Party/Reunion involving families that homesteaded Bay Lake and a number of former residents. Organizing the event has given me an opportunity to meet people who, almost immediately, tell me stories of their fondest memories. Their enthusiasm and the emotion in their voices tell me how important Bay Lake was to them...and, more important, remind me how fortunate I am to be a Bay Laker. Our efforts to learn about the past are, surprisingly, actually about the future — because what we pass on to the next generation should be far more than just a cabin on a lake.



Fireworks to be July 3

Whether you're in a boat or on the shore, the annual Bay Lake fireworks display is a spectacular event. This year the colorful tradition takes place Friday evening, July 3, beginning at 10 p.m. Come help celebrate our nation's birthday, Bay Lake style. See you there!

Join our Clearwater friends for Clearwater Friends' Day

Date: July 11 at Clearwater Forest, located off Hwy. 6 at 16595 Crooked Lake Road.

Time: 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Featuring: Guided tours of the facilities, invitation to participate or watch high ropes activity.

Boating includes: Pedal bikes, sailboats with a guide, pontoon rides, kayaks, canoes.

Meals: Lunch at noon, dinner at 5 p.m. Call to ensure that we plan enough food. There is a fee for each meal, served in a tent just outside Eagle (the original lodge).

Live music: A guitar group will perform. Opportunities to listen, watch dancers or dance.

Contact: To reserve a meal, call Clearwater Forest, (218) 678-2543.

A must for Bay Lakers!

The Most Magical Bird in the World: The Common Loon, a book by Jon Wefald, featuring loons of Bay Lake.

Available at Hansen's, Ruttger's, Woodland Beach Resort or Bay Lake Camp for \$20 as a fund-raiser for the BLIA Environmental Protection Fund.

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