



Bay Lake Breezes

Bay Lake

Improvement Association Inc.

www.baylake.org

Spring/Summer 2016

Two zebra mussel infestation stories

Last fall, a youngster from Ruth Lake found zebra mussels on a rock on a beach below his family's cabin. Ruth Lake, near Emily in Crow Wing County, has an active monitoring program like we do, and the youngster knew to take the sample to Art Patterson, Ruth Lake's vigilant coordinator. The DNR (Department of Natural Resources) and other government agencies responded immediately, closing off the area of contamination with a bright yellow "water curtain" and treating the contained water chemically. Art reports that, thus far, it appears the treatment has been effective, one of the very few successful zebra mussel elimination efforts in the country. That's the bad/good news. Bad news that a new zebra contamination had been found so close to home. Good news that fast and early treatment appears to have been effective.

Not such good news comes from a contaminated lake in the Twin Cities. After almost two years of treatment on Christmas Lake in Hennepin County, the DNR announced that efforts to contain and destroy the ZM infestation there had failed. Mussels were found in places outside the containment area, and the treatment program on Christmas Lake was abandoned.



DNR continues to push prevention, such as the efforts we make on Bay Lake. "There is a common misconception that zebra mussels 'are everywhere' and that their spread is inevitable. The reality is, zebra mussels have been confirmed in less than 2 percent of Minnesota lakes, and more Minnesotans than ever before know and follow invasive species laws," Keegan Lund, DNR Invasive Species Specialist, said.

Bay Lake's Prevention Program

Last year, BLIA spent about \$36,000 to keep new invasive species out of the lake. No zebra mussels or other new invasives were found last fall as docks came out, which says we may be fairly confident that last year's prevention efforts were successful.

Inspectors, DNR trained and certified, are by far the most expensive part of Bay Lake's prevention program. Their job is to physically check every boat entering and leaving Bay Lake at the public ramp — starting the weekend before the fishing opener, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week. Their wages are reimbursed by the BLIA. Periodic scuba diving inspections, water testing, placing zebra mussel detection devices and maintaining a public ramp camera are additional pieces of Bay Lake's program that are in place for 2016. BLIA also provides financial support for upstream inspections on the Crooked/Portage public access, protecting waters that flow into Bay Lake.

This year, the BLIA Board has approved a maximum \$47,000 for our prevention efforts. The cost is somewhat dependent upon the local DNR's ability to provide inspectors throughout the summer. While Bay Lake has won a grant for 375 inspector hours for 2016, in the recent past, DNR was not able to hire enough inspectors to fulfill this commitment. The BLIA Board is prepared to pay for and fill the gaps as necessary.

Our BLIA prevention program would not be possible without the generous financial support of many

Zebra mussels, cont. on Page 2.

What is summer all about?

Blue water, green leaves, green grass (along with a few weeds) — and yes, BLIA MEMBERSHIP! The best deal going on the lake. Still only \$30. Amazing!

Membership is not only open to parents, but to grandparents, great-grandparents, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, friends, visitors, and even to dogs and cats. We did have a few dogs join last summer.

Guess they enjoy the lake as much as we do! It does not extend to deer, however. They eat too many of our flowers and plants!

Seriously, the BLIA truly appreciates the continuing support from all of you on the lake. Your membership helps publish the Breezes twice a year, which keeps us up to date on all the activities, as well as the status of milfoil, zebra mussels, boat inspections, roads and everything else of importance. It also is a way of updating your address, phone number and/or e-mail address.

There are two ways of joining. Either mail in your dues to: BLIA, P.O. Box 461, Deerwood, MN 56444, or join online at www.baylake.org.

So, thank you in advance for your 2016 memberships. If you ever have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at: (651) 730-1045 or (218) 678-2417 or at mbmarquardt@msn.com.

Betty Marquardt
Membership

Zebra mussels, cont. from Page 1.

members, committed to preserving the Bay Lake we know and love. I offer my personal thanks to you.

Phillip Rollins
AIS Prevention Coordinator

Officers

President.....Bruce Johnson
Vice President.....Phil Rollins
Secretary.....Jennifer Qualen
Co-Treasurers.....Chris Gondeck, Sylvia Graff

Directors

Dominic Ciresi (Past President), Terry Coss, David Devins, Chris Gondeck, Amy Grady, Josh Goolsbee, Bruce Johnson, Bobbie Keller, Jennifer Qualen, Phil Rollins, Chris Ruttger, Steve Souder

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AIS prevention.....Phil Rollins
Aquatic plant management.....David Devins
Beach captains.....Josh Goolsbee
Breezes.....Bobbie Keller
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Runtilla.....Jim Bye, Steve Souder
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Shoreline protection.....Tiffin Souder Tripp
Taxes.....Bruce Johnson
Water quality.....Terry & Debbie Coss
Water safety.....Karl Krueger
Website.....Scott Shekels, Paul & Ward Erickson

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Website: www.baylake.org

Editor.....Bobbie Keller

Bay Lake water quality still good; we need to watch phosphorus levels

Residents and visitors to Bay Lake appreciate the recreational opportunities that come from good water quality. The Bay Lake Improvement Association normally performs monthly water quality monitoring during the summer (May-Sept.) each year, and does a single round of winter sampling every other year.

Summer sampling provides information on water quality during the times when the lake is in heavy use and is most susceptible to sudden changes in water quality from short-term events such as extreme weather. Winter sampling is performed when the lake is iced over and stable, and provides the best indicator of long-term trends. All sampling is conducted by our consultant AWRL, with assistance from BLIA volunteers to reduce the cost.

The news from summer 2015 sampling is that water quality in Bay Lake remains good, among the best in our central Minnesota ecoregion. However, we should continue to try and reduce phosphorus levels, which contribute to algae and weed growth. This is not just a water clarity concern. When algae and weeds die, the decomposition process uses up oxygen in Bay Lake's deep, colder water that fish like tullibee need to survive in the hot summer months. When tullibee numbers drop, species like walleye, lake trout and muskie that feed on the tullibee also suffer. According to a 2014 DNR gill net survey, tullibee numbers in Bay Lake are very low compared to other lakes in the region.

AWRL's 2015 report on Bay Lake recommends that we continue to emphasize the

adoption of shoreline best management practices (BMPs) to reduce phosphorus loading from lawns and septic systems.

Information on this can be obtained from the University of Minnesota Extension at www.extension.umn.edu/environment/shoreland/shoreland-best-

management-practices/ or by contacting the Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District.

Thank you for your continued efforts to keep Bay Lake clean. Have a safe summer on the lake!

Debbie and Terry Coss
Water Quality Chairs

Canoe adventure uncovers Bay Lake gem

Relatively speaking, we are new to Bay Lake, having purchased our cabin on beautiful North Bay in 2012. Each year, we learn more about the lake and the area, and make new discoveries that enrich our Bay Lake life. Some of our favorites — breakfast at Ruby's at Ruttger's and maple donuts at Auntie Em's, massages at the Fine Line, art classes at Ripple River Gallery, cocktails and dinner at the Lonesome Pine, and the shopping, llamas and kittens at Coffee Lake Farm. We are learning the names of the bays and have found the eagle and osprey nests. We pick out our favorite cabins while on our happy hour boat cruise, only to change our mind with a new favorite the next trip around.

Wanting to add to our Bay Lake discoveries, one sunny day, my son, mom and I decided to paddle the canoe to Church Island and explore. We had attended services there on Sundays but had not seen any more of the island. After tying up to one of the many docks, we ran into Brenda Olson, the Bay Lake Camp director. "Can I get you a cappuccino?" she asked. We entered the dining lodge and saw a full coffee shop, fun store and dining hall with an inviting fireplace. I toured the large commercial kitchen, where Ray was busy making the next meal for the campers. Jars of his secret and spectacular BBQ sauce were for sale, and I brought some home. Amazing!

We walked around the whole island, cups in hand, and saw the charming garden with fresh herbs, vegetables and flowers. We peeked in the lodge, the art building and walked the wooded trails to the far end of the island, a former Boy Scout camp, now the Folkschool area. It was peaceful, quiet and so beautiful, a perfect hike. We had so many questions about life on an island, the logistics, the winter and the challenges. But we were drawn to the novelty of such a unique life. How delightful to live on an island with so much to offer.

Did you know that Bay Lakers can enjoy Church Island, too? Breakfast by boat? It is served every Saturday and Sunday from Memorial to Labor Day. Belgian waffles, egg sandwiches and Ray's amazing daily frittata. How about taking your guests for a boat ride with a stop for a latte along the way? Or let your grandkids play on the playground equipment after a tube ride around the island. Church Island staff will even host your family reunion and shuttle all the luggage and guests across the water from the landing. Such a rare and special experience right here on Bay Lake.

After a very satisfying day adventuring, we paddled back to North Bay, knowing that we had just experienced a truly unique and hidden gem on Bay Lake. We plan many more trips to Church Island in the years to come, this special Bay Lake treasure.



Save these dates for special fun

5th Annual Bay Lake Amazing Race Saturday, July 23

The 5th annual Bay Lake Amazing Race is on the books!

Save the date — Saturday, July 23 — and create a four-person team for this fun event on Bay Lake. Teams will compete in different challenges at various locations on the lake.

Meet at 10 a.m. on Church Island; race begins at 10:30. Cost is \$15 per person. Proceeds go to the BLIA Environmental Protection Fund.

Contact Nancy LaTourneau for more information at ctboss1999@yahoo.com or “like” the 5th Annual Bay Lake Amazing Race Facebook page. Entry forms will be there and at www.baylake.org. Forms are due to Hansen’s by July 16.

10th Annual Golf Scramble and Picnic Saturday, Aug. 13

The 10th annual Golf Scramble and Picnic Benefit at Ruttger’s is coming in August! Mark your calendars now for Saturday, Aug. 13, to enjoy a great event and support the Bay Lake Improvement Association Environmental Protection Fund.

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

George and LaDonna Reynolds
Co-chairs

Fireworks — July 2

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



Trivia Contest Sunday, Aug. 28

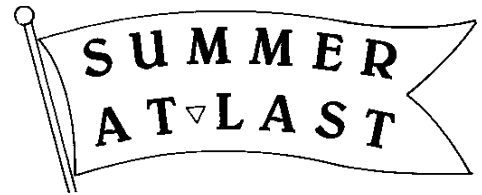
Are you good at trivia?

Join other trivia buffs at the second annual Trivia Night at Ruttger’s on Sunday, Aug. 28.

The fun starts at 7 p.m. Your \$20 per person entry fee benefits the BLIA Environmental Protection Fund.

For more information, contact Peggy Blistain, (218) 851-1208 or pegblistain@gmail.com.

See you there!



BLIA Holiday Party Sunday, Dec. 4

The BLIA Holiday Party will be on Sunday, Dec. 4, at Ruttger’s: social hour at 4 p.m. and dinner at 5:15. Guests were able to make it back home in good time last year.

Several of our Bay Lake friends told their favorite Bay Lake memories during last year’s program. It was fun, with a lot of laughter. We now have an assignment for this year’s Holiday Party. You have all summer to think about it.

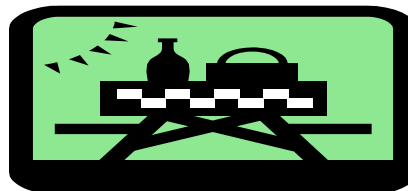
At this year’s party, we will listen to four or five guests tell their favorite Bay Lake memory. A prize will be awarded to the guest whom everyone there votes as having the favorite shared memory.

I know all of you have a good memory — maybe boating, a pontoon parade, putting in a dock, etc. So we don’t have 20-30 people wanting to share memories, please call and let me know in advance if you plan to participate.

Thank you to Ruttger’s for a great holiday buffet, Ann Ruttger on the piano, Jerry Henricks for leading us in singing and for the table flowers giveaway, Steve Kline for his special story, Paul Erickson for his Blasts, and registration persons Ellen Brandt, Mary Lu Hansen, Tom and Margaret Lunecek and Faye Ysseldyke.

See you Dec. 4 at Ruttger’s.

Sylvia Graff
(218) 678-2543



Bay Lake Camp celebrating 90 years of summer fun

Spring greetings from First Lutheran Church of St. Paul and Bay Lake Camp. Celebrating 90 years of camping makes Bay Lake Camp one of the oldest in the state of Minnesota. As we continue to look for a partnership or sale of the island with a like-minded organization, our client base is supportive and growing. We thank you for your support and ask for your ongoing business, ideas and most of all, hope for the future. Think of us for family reunions, celebrations and retreats. Take a look at some of the ways you can participate this 90th summer:

COME WORSHIP WITH US!

Memorial Day Sunday through Labor Day

10 a.m. at the Outdoor Chapel, Indoor Chapel if raining. Shuttles from our mainland dock begin at 9:30 a.m. Check out our Facebook page or website for the preaching and music schedule. Bring your family, friends and neighbors over for a unique summer experience. Come for worship and stay for fellowship time with coffee, lemonade and treats!

MAY

As we compose this article, we are preparing for summer. Just like at the cabin, there is a lot to do! Plans are in place to continue work on the wood-fire bread/pizza oven project. We hope to have it ready for use by mid summer. Come on over anytime to check it out. If you'd like to help us get ready for summer worship, we are putting in docks, raking and preparing the outdoor chapel on Saturday, May 28, at 9 a.m. We can always use more helpers!

JUNE

Join us on weekends for the Island Cafe, open Saturdays and Sundays all summer from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., featuring breakfast and lunch items, coffee drinks and smoothies.

Check out our website www.baylakecamp.com for the latest updates.

June 24-26, Women's Weekend retreat. Registration forms are on

the website, as is the Folkschool class schedule.

JULY

On the 4th of July weekend, we will celebrate 90 years of camping! There will be special music, worship, art, Folkschool classes and family camp. Again, check out the website and Facebook page for details. Join us and see what will be happening. Come join us for this special worship service on Sunday, July 3, 10 a.m.

July 24 Worship - Join us for Bluegrass music with "Churchyard Grass."

Also in July we will sponsor two weeks of camp:

Middle School camp July 18-22
3rd-5th graders camp July 25-28

Registration forms at www.baylakecamp.com or for more information contact Pastor Chris Berthelsen at pastor.chris@mac.com

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

Our annual Silent Auction and pie and ice cream social will be Sunday, Sept. 4, after our final worship of the season. Come and help us raise funds to help Send Kids to Camp. If you would like to donate items for the auction, just let us know.

Labor Day Weekend means it is time to take in docks on Monday, Sept. 5, 9 a.m. Come help Gary Malek and the camp staff get ready for fall.

Finally, we thank you for all the ways you support our efforts to

build community and find ways for kids and families to spend time in this island paradise.

Your financial gift will help "Send a Kid to Camp," providing a camping experience to kids whose families cannot afford the fee. Check out our website for details.

You are always welcome on the island.

Brenda Olson
Bay Lake Camp Director
651-247-0360
brendajolson@mac.com
www.baylakecamp.com

Tree/Plant Giveaway Saturday, May 28

If you're looking to spruce up your yard with new trees or small plants, come check out our selection at the annual BLIA Tree/Plant Giveaway May 28 in the Lonesome Pine front parking lot.

We'll be there from 10 a.m. to noon, rain or shine. Please come no earlier than 10.

This year we'll have three-year-old Norway (Red) pine and white spruce transplants, 8 to 24 inches tall. We will have plastic bags available for you to transport your trees.

Also available will be several species each of sun, shade and in-the-water native wild flower plants. Please bring one or more containers to carry your plants home in.

See you there.

Runners take off July 30 for 32nd annual Runtilla

On July 30, Bay Lakers of all ages will gather once more near White Hawk to run, walk, bike or skate 1.55 miles down Brighton Point Road and back, while many more will be there to cheer them on.

Registration for the 32nd annual Bay Lake Runtilla will begin at 8:15 a.m. that day, and the starting gun will sound at 9. Top male and female runners in each of nine age-group categories will receive awards.

Following the award ceremony, Bay Lakers will enjoy the now-traditional picnic, with Dennis “Charlie” and Jackie Charles as hosts.

“More and more we’re seeing four-generation families participate: great-grandparents, grandparents, parents and children,” said Jim Bye, Runtilla founder and coordinator.

Bay Lakers age 20 and under and 70 and over are invited to submit a drawing for the front of the Runtilla t-shirt. The shirt will also list names of Runtilla sponsors. A \$50 donation will earn a mention on the back of the shirt, \$250 will secure space on a sleeve, and \$1,000 or more will score a place on the front. All proceeds go to the BLIA Environmental Protection Fund. Sponsorship at any level is welcome.

“With good financial support, we will have raised more than a quarter of a million dollars since the first Runtilla,” said Bye. “I’m always surprised at how generous Bay Lake people are.”



Henry Jessen, right, overall Runtilla winner for the third year in a row in 2015, stood with Jim Bye, Runtilla coordinator, left, and fellow winners Joe Swenson and Ryan VanOrman at the awards ceremony. How will they do this year?

Sponsorship and registration forms will be available at Hansen’s and online at www.baylake.org. Completed registration forms, sponsorships and t-shirt design drawings are due at Hansen’s by Saturday, July 16.

Bye thanked the “29-30 great volunteers who put in significant hours” to make the event happen every year, as well as the sponsors and the many Bay Lake participants who help make the event a success.

“When we started the Runtilla 32 years ago, we didn’t expect it to have the ‘legs’ it has,” he said. “So come and join us. It’s a great day.”

EWM challenging but still in check

After completing our September lake survey for EWM (Eurasian watermilfoil) last fall, we treated 85 acres the first week in October. That brings the total area treated for the year to 93 acres. While this is up significantly, it was not as bad as I had expected.

There is not any doubt that the EWM presence was way up from the previous year, but so were the native species, which was a surprise and probably kept the EWM from being worse. With another light snow cover winter, coupled with both late ice in and out, this will probably be another challenging season for all of us.

These weather cycles are not new, and we will continue our plan to control the EWM in Bay Lake. We have been through this before, and the plan works, so we have to just keep after it as we have for all these years.

Buddy Divers will be starting their lakewide survey around Memorial Day, depending on the weather, and along with Lake Restoration Inc. will be conducting a chemical treatment later in June.

Please continue to support the BLIA Environmental Protection Fund, which makes all our efforts happen. Without you we would not be able to do this important work for Bay Lake.

David Devins
Aquatic plant management

Be part of something special: BLIA

It really is spring, and summer is just around the corner. Warm weather came early this year, and the lake is already seeing quite a bit of use. I hope all of you have plans in place to get here soon and enjoy this special piece of paradise.

I'm taking this opportunity to introduce myself and the board members of your Bay Lake Improvement Association. I'm Bruce Johnson and will be serving as president of the association for the next few years. The other officers are: Phil Rollins, vice president; Jennifer Qualen, secretary; Chris Gondeck and Sylvia Graff, co-treasurers. Additional members of the Board of Directors are: Dominic Ciresi (past president), Terry Coss, David Devins, Amy Grady, Josh Goolsbee, Bobbie Keller, Chris Ruttger and Steve Souder. These volunteers, along with many others, are working diligently to make sure your association continues to run smoothly and serve our Bay Lake community.

In Al's memory

Longtime Bay Laker Albert Knieff passed away on March 28. Al owned and operated Knieff's Shore Acres resort.

Funeral services for Al will be on Saturday, June 4, at noon, on Church Island. Docks will be available at the island, and Bay Lake Camp will provide pontoon shuttle service starting at 11 a.m. from Knieff's Shore Acres resort.

A luncheon out on the island will immediately follow the funeral service.

The Bay Lake Improvement Association offers many opportunities for our community to come together and meet new friends, socialize, participate in a host of activities and in general, be a part of something special. Your association is in excellent shape, both financially and organizationally, thanks to the leadership of Dominic Ciresi over the past three years. Thank you, Dominic, for your service and many contributions to our association.

I encourage all of you to participate in some fashion and enjoy the many benefits your

association has to offer. I also thank those of you who have already participated and given so generously in the past. In addition, my sincere thanks to all of you for your continued membership and donations, which are what keep this association going.

If you have questions, comments or suggestions for your association, please feel free to contact me via my e-mail address below.

Hoping to see you on the lake soon,

Bruce Johnson
President
bruce@baylakerealty.com

Remembering

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

Peggy Bergseng
Julia Ehasz
Jerry Johnson
Steven Kilgore
Al Knieff
Agnes Kohnen
John (Bud) MacKay
John Metsa
Jim Nelson
Tyler Anthony (Ty) Nermyr
Fern Newman
Jere Poston
Betty Jane (Fuller) Skillings
Nick Yursi

Please let us know

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

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

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

Thank you.

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

Watch for these exciting BLIA events:

May 28 Tree & Plant Giveaway, Lonesome Pine
10 a.m. to noon
July 2 Fireworks, east end of Ruttger's
Dusk
July 3 Music on the Lake, Church Island
1 p.m. (Rain Day July 4)
July 16 BLIA Annual Meeting, Ruttger's
9 a.m. Continental Breakfast
9:30 a.m. Meeting
July 23 Amazing Race, Church Island
10 a.m.
July 30 Runtilla, near White Hawk
8:15 a.m. Registration
9 a.m. Race start
Aug. 13 BLIA Golf Outing and Picnic, Ruttger's
3:45-6 p.m. Golf
5:30-9 p.m. Picnic
Aug. 28 Trivia Fundraiser, Ruttger's
7 p.m.
Dec. 4 BLIA Holiday Party, Ruttger's
4 p.m.

Jan. 1, 2017 Winter Fireworks
8 p.m. & Fun on the
Lake
Ruttger's

BLIA Board Meetings

June 18, 9 a.m. Ruttger's
July 16, 11 a.m. Ruttger's
Aug. 13, 9 a.m. Ruttger's
Sept. 17, 9 a.m. Ruttger's
Dec. 3, 11 a.m. Lonesome Pine
Everyone is welcome at all BLIA
Board meetings.