



Bay Lake Breezes

Bay Lake

Improvement Association Inc.

www.baylake.org

Spring/Summer 2020

Challenges ahead but Bay Lake community strong

Another great summer season lies ahead. I love the anticipation of the next few months living on the water, listening to loons, watching eagles soar and kayaks glide by. Yes, we have challenges ahead, and I'm confident we will find ways to accommodate them into our lake lives.

First Challenge, Zebra Mussels

Last fall, young Zebra Mussels (ZMs) were observed in most parts of the lake. We found them on one of our boat lifts and a swim ladder. In other infested lakes, ZMs have been slow to reproduce in the few years after discovery, but in year 4 or 5, their presence has been considerably more evident. We should expect this in 2020 or 2021.

BLIA and the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center ((MAISRC) have started a partnership to develop resources to help lakeshore property owners mitigate the impact of ZMs. The latest information can be found on our website, www.baylake.org, and has been distributed through Paul Erickson's e-blast. Leaders on other ZM-infested lakes assure me that their families are still enjoying lake life, with some modifications to accommodate the mussels. Surely we will do the same.

In recent years, BLIA has provided financial support to the

center, where staff are working to understand how ZMs and other AIS infestations can be prevented, managed and ultimately eliminated. Please consider an individual donation at www.maisrc.umn.edu.

In partnership with Crow Wing County and the DNR, we

continue to inspect boats at the public access. Other, more serious invasives are infesting northern lakes and we must continue to be vigilant in protecting ours. The state provides some inspector funding, with BLIA paying the balance of about 75 percent. Your dues and donations make this effort possible.

Challenges, cont. on Page 6.

50th Anniversary celebrations postponed to next summer

Excitement was building for a huge celebration this summer as BLIA celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2020. We were planning to gather over the summer in large groups at the boat parade, the Annual Meeting, Music on the Lake, the Amazing Race, Runtilla and celebrate together. With the COVID-19 pandemic still affecting Minnesota and the virus peak not anticipated until mid-July, the BLIA Board made the decision to move all the 50th Anniversary celebrations to the summer of 2021. It is a big deal and we want to celebrate it in a big way, with our members gathered together in celebration. While we are disappointed in this delay, it is just that, a delay. We will still celebrate together!



In the meantime, you have more time to get ready by purchasing Bay Lake flags for your boat and dock, beach towels, commemorative cups and hats, and all our clothing with the 50th Anniversary logo. We are still planning to unveil the video documentary, "A Day on Bay Lake," at the Annual Meeting in 2021 and celebrate all that makes Bay Lake so special to all of us. Thanks for understanding the need to postpone our big summer celebration. Now you have more time to plan your Fiftieth Funanza Flotilla design!

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2020 — A Special Year!

There are several ways we can look at this year: depressing, challenging, unique or inspiring! As Bay Lakers, I prefer to think we can look at 2020 as a special year, in which we can face whatever challenges are out there, deal with them, and come out

stronger and better than before. Not easy, but we can do it.

How? Send in your memberships again. Participate in as many events as possible. Meet in small groups and enjoy the conversation. Laugh at crazy jokes. Spend as much time as possible at the lake.

Have your pet join as a member. Help anyone who needs it. Love your family more than ever. Help fight Zebra Mussels. Thank the BLIA Board for all their work and dedication. And anything else you can think of that I've missed. We need your support this year and thank you for your loyalty in the past. It is so much appreciated.

Here's to a special 2020 year! Can we reach our 600 membership goal? We can, with your support! Send memberships to BLIA, P.O. Box 461, Deerwood, MN 56444, or join online at www.baylake.org.

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Remembering

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

Anne (Wendlandt) Bandel
Rodney (Bud) Becker
R. D. Briley
Mickey Cooney
Douglas Dahlquist
Marian Erickson
Dick Fischer
Eric Johnson
Ted Knutson
Debbie Kupper
Jeanne Eleanor Crosley Mielcarek
Darleen Ness
Bill Rahn
David Reamsnyder
George Reynolds
Steve Souder

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Aquatic plant management.....David Devins
Bay Lake Ambassadors.....Amy Grady
Breezes.....Bobbie Keller, Editor
Church camp liaisons.....Gary & Carol Malek
Conservation.....Brent Souder
Env. Protection Fund.....Bruce Johnson
Facebook page.....Scott Shekels
Fireworks.....Josh Goolsbee, Charlie Zajicek
Fishing resources.....Matt Qualen
History.....Paul Erickson
Legal advisor.....Amy Grady
Membership.....Betty Marquardt
Nominations.....Bruce Johnson
Runtilla.....Jim Bye
Security.....Larry LaTourneau
Shoreline enhancement.....Brent Souder
Water quality.....Terry & Debbie Coss
Water safety.....Karl Krueger
Website.....Scott Shekels, Paul & Ward Erickson

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Editor.....Bobbie Keller

In its 29th season EWM control program still working, thanks to everyone's support

We will continue our Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) control program again this year as we have for all these years. It's hard to believe, but this is our 29th season doing this, and it's worked with everyone's support. We conducted a survey of the lake in early June, which will be followed by a treatment of EWM in the third week of June. We will repeat this process in the fall, starting around Labor Day, followed by treatment around the first week of October.

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

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

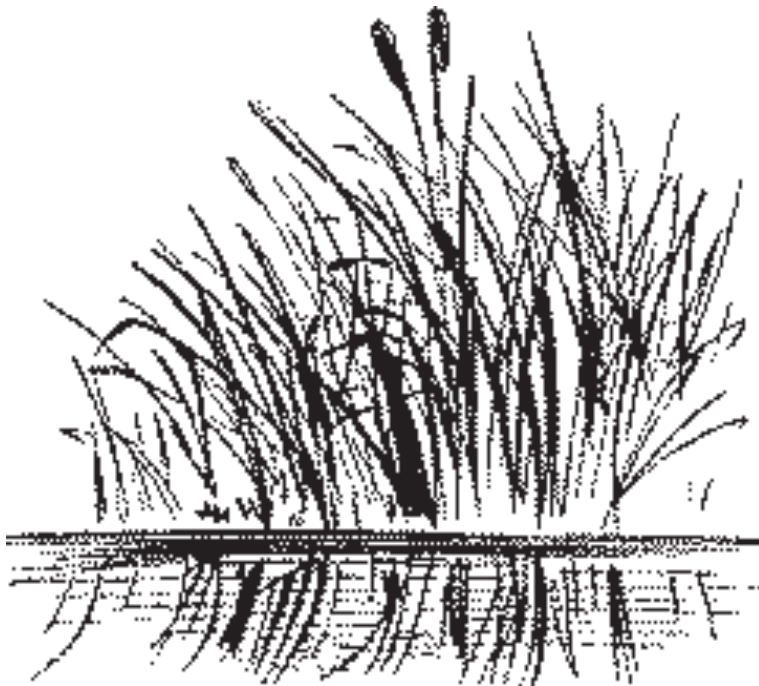
The last few years EWM has been greatly reduced with the help of heavy snow cover, cooler, wet summers and our control program. It has really worked. We also have to remember we can't let our guard down. As weather conditions change so can conditions for EWM growth. Our goal from the beginning

was to not allow EWM to dominate the lake, realizing that native vegetation was critical to the health of the lake, and it has worked very well. The native plants are healthy and diverse.

This program has been successful because of your support! When EWM was first found in Bay Lake, it was the issue of the day for area lakes and what seemed like a daunting task with a lot of uncertainty. With the commitment of the Association and more important, the total support of all of you, we met the challenge and have been successful for pushing 30 years now. All hope was not lost then, and fast forward to 2020, we have to continue to lead AIS efforts on Bay Lake. With limited resources the State (DNR) and Crow Wing County are best able to help those lakes that are best able to help themselves, and we have proven we can do that. With that said, we need to be able to keep addressing new infestations of aquatic invasive species (AIS) such as Zebra Mussels and others. Please keep giving to the Bay Lake Improvement Association Environmental Protection Fund. Bay Lake is truly an amazing community, and together we can keep it the special place it is.

Thank you for all of your support.

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Bay Lake Camp cancels 2020 in-person season, offers ways to enjoy island online

Bay Lake Camp has made the decision to cancel the 2020 summer camp season. While this has been a very difficult decision, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and concerns for the care and safety of all who would come to the island, we believe this to be our best and safest option.

Over the last several weeks, we have been in communication with many of our large summer groups, and most have already decided to cancel their weeks of camp and/or book later dates. We believe it will be critical for the safety of many of the vulnerable populations we serve to maintain physical distancing. This will be a necessary sacrifice for all of us to make for the sake of others and is at the core of what we believe and who we are as an organization.

We are declaring the Summer of 2020 at Bay Lake Camp a time for **Planting Seeds of Hope**, not just for the future but for this present moment.

- We will pursue initiatives and innovations and seek out new partners in our vision and mission.
- While we will not experience in-person worship at the outdoor chapel, we will provide online worship tools and ways to enjoy the island — occasional livestream worship, singing around the campfire, hiking a virtual path and a virtual labyrinth walk you can enjoy anytime online. There will also be some online printable tools for download (a Bay Lake Camp



Journal and a worship bulletin for “at the cabin” worship). Look for these on our website and Facebook page.

- While we will not be spending our time this summer managing day-to-day programmatic operations, we will be using this time to work on needed projects and care for the island grounds with limited opportunities for small groups of 10 or fewer people.
- While the island Cafe will not be open and our Pizza

Nights will take a hiatus, we will grow food in our gardens to share with many in need, and the “Island Trekker” Blog on our website will include island recipes and links to the many ways to enjoy God’s creation outdoors wherever you are. Limited space will be available later in the summer season and early fall for our Harvest Dinners — fireside family meals made to order. Watch for details.

Finally, we are asking that in this time of hopeful seed planting, you will still give to the ministry of Bay Lake Camp as we seek to continue creating sacred space and time away for a world in need of healing. Thank you.

www.baylakecamp.com

Like us on Facebook: Bay Lake Island Camp



While there will be no in-person worship or camping on Church Island this summer, you can still enjoy activities such as singing around a campfire and hiking online.

New to Bay Lake? We want to welcome you

If you are new to Bay Lake, or have new neighbors on the lake, remember that all new Bay Lakers receive a Welcome Book from the Bay Lake Improvement Association.

The Welcome Book is filled with lots of handy information about the association, the lake, water rules and regulations, and upcoming events, as well as resources about stores, restaurants, places of worship and suppliers of lots of the services we need as cabin owners.

Contact Amy Grady by phone at 952-818-4148 or e-mail at amy@amygrady.com so we can get a book to you or your new neighbor.

Support BLIA through Amazon

Are you an Amazon customer? The next time you buy something, you can also support BLIA at no extra cost to you through the Amazon Smile program.

Many Amazon purchases qualify for a .5% purchase rebate credited to the buyer's charity of choice. If you register your account as an Amazon Smile account, you can designate BLIA as your charity of choice. Visit www.baylake.org for more information.



Although our celebrations of BLIA's 50th anniversary have been postponed to 2021, you can begin honoring the milestone this summer by purchasing Bay Lake flags for your boat and dock, beach towels, commemorative cups and hats, and all our clothing with the 50th Anniversary logo. Contact Amy Grady at 952-818-4148 or amy@amygrady.com for more information.

Help protect our lake

With our Zebra Mussel infestation likely to expand and the unknown effect of COVID-19, our 2020 summer will be unlike any other. Unfortunately several other invasive species are threatening Minnesota lakes.

Starting in early May, BLIA pays for DNR-trained inspectors to check incoming

and departing boats at the public access. When DNR inspectors cannot be present, we depend on a small group of Bay Lake volunteers to fill in. Shifts are typically two hours.

If you are interested in helping to protect the lake in this way, contact Sandy Johnson at sanderooj@msn.com or 218-527-0063.



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Bay Lake Improvement Association
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Challenges, cont. from Page 1.

Second Challenge, COVID 19 and BLIA Events

The state is slowly opening up as I write this on May 20, although activities that attract crowds are still prohibited. Due to state restrictions and planning deadlines, the BLIA Board of Directors has postponed or cancelled previously scheduled activities. All activities related to the BLIA 50th Anniversary celebration have been postponed to 2021.

Here's where we stand as of May 20:

May 23 Shoreline Enhancement/Plant Giveaway Day - postponed to later in 2020
June 20 Pontoon Parade - postponed to 2021
July 3 Music on the Lake - cancelled
July 4 Fireworks - on hold
July 11 BLIA Annual Meeting - on hold
July 18 Amazing Race - on hold
Aug. 1 Runtilla - cancelled
Aug. 15 Block Party Picnic - cancelled
Aug. 30 Trivia Night - on hold
Dec./Jan. New Years Fireworks - date to be determined

This information may already be out of date, so please check www.baylake.org for updates.

Yes, challenges lie ahead. Our incredible Bay Lake community will stay strong, accommodate when necessary and continue to enhance the lake experience. Please be careful and stay safe. See you on the water.

Phil Rollins, BLIA President
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