

President's Letter

Greetings and welcome to the July 2018 edition of the Big Birch Lake Association (BBLA) newsletter. The real Big Birch Lake summer season is well under way after a confusing early—and quick—melding of spring and summer.

Spring means that the BBLA Board of Directors resumed regular activities and programs to support both a healthy lake and our membership. Volunteer-driven activities include water quality and clarity testing; the Fish Creek buffering program; membership, communications, fiscal services and more. AIS volunteers will focus on invasive aquatic plants and algae.

Thinking about the core importance of water quality, 'shoreland buffers' or 'lakescaping' is a concept that speaks to maintaining and/or restoring shoreline. 'Lakescaping' benefits both land and water by controlling shoreline erosion, protecting water quality by filtering runoff, creates fish and wildlife habitat, and reduces flooding. Both Stearns and Todd Counties have staff in their respective Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) offices who can provide services including 'shoreland buffers' or 'lakescape' property evaluation, technical assistance, project design, and possible cost share. Consider a call to your county's SWCD office if these services might benefit your property and Big Birch Lake.

June is a busy month for BBLA-related social activities. The Ladies Breakfast Brunch, coordinated by Janet Roe and LuAnn Hatton and hosted at the Double R Bar and Grill, was very well attended. The 21st Annual BBL Residents Golf Outing had a strong field; the event took place at Meadowlark Country Club, Melrose, with a catered dinner from Coborn's Grocery-Melrose; the event was coordinated by Lee Moening assisted by Dr. Russ Sieben; golf prizes provided by Ryan Moening, TaylorMade Products. Our thanks to Janet, LuAnn, Lee, Russ and Ryan for their efforts to make these events go. Last but not least, the 9th Annual BBL Clean Up Day made it easy for lake residents to get rid of junk. Thanks to Tom's Refuse for the collection service and Lake Country Storage for providing a convenient location. Please consider patronizing these, and all BBLA sponsors, when shopping locally.

The BBLA Annual Meeting is scheduled for 8:30 am, Saturday, August 18, 2018 at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Grey Eagle. This year's meeting will include a presentation by Eric Altena, DNR Area Fisheries Manager, at the conclusion of the business portion of the Meeting. The meeting is a chance to meet friends, BBLA Directors, and take part in your organization's business.

On behalf of the BBLA Board of Directors, thank you to all—members, friends, sponsors, volunteers—for your support. Have a fun and safe summer at the Lake!

Peter Rutherford, President