

No 136

October, 2019

President's Letter

Calendar

BBLA Board Meeting

October 19, 2019

BBLA Board Meeting

November 16, 2019

Welcome to fall at Big Birch Lake. We hope you have had time to enjoy the fall colors and other fun activities that come with the season at the lake.

The BBLA Board of Directors welcomed three new board members at its September meeting. They include Larry Welle, (Area E) Grant Niehaus (At Large) and Jay Anderson (Area I). We look forward to the contributions each will bring to the organization.

The board thanks all 119 who attended the annual meeting in August. That number was a marked improvement over the past few years.

At the September meeting, the board organized for the year with each of the officers retaining their positions. Board members Deb Johnson and Lynn Ersland will co-chair the AIS Committee, as John Roe's term on the board came to an end. We thank John for serving for 12 years and all the work he put into the AIS Committee. He will continue to volunteer for that group.

The board also thanks Chuck Schiemann who retired from the board after eight years of dedicated service to the Water Quality Com-

mittee. Chuck will continue to be a Seechi disk volunteer, but the committee will need a new leader. The board also thanks Kris Zimmerman for her three years on the board.

The board formed some new committees and renamed some others. The Donations/Grants Committee will look for money for BBLA projects, track funds and budget for future projects. If you would like to volunteer for that committee, please talk to one of the board members.

Another committee was renamed Wildlife, Habitats and Fisheries with the goal of understanding fish and wildlife habitat in and around BBL. This committee will deal with fish habitat, fish stocking, waterfowl, loon nests and work with the

President's Letter *continued on page 2*



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Starry stonewort must be on everyone's radar

By Lynn Ersland

The University of Minnesota hosted the 2019 Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research and Management Showcase in September.

The university is playing a lead role in identifying and combating AIS in our state lakes. Of particular interest to the BBLA was an update on starry stonewort. There are now 15 Minnesota lakes infested. Beltrami is the latest to confirm its presence.

The infestation at Lake Koronis has almost completely circled the perimeter of the lake. It should be noted that starry stonewort has never been eradicated from any U.S. lake.

Treatment and careful removal can help reduce the risk of spreading and reduce the algae's adverse impact on water related recreation.

The BBLA is aggressively monitoring all of the boat accesses in an attempt to identify any new population that may get by our inspectors.

Starry stonewort is most likely found immediately adjacent to the boat launch and in water five feet deep or less.

The BBLA has volunteers checking the accesses about every two weeks. You can help when you are at an access. If you see a dense mat of light green plant that you haven't seen before, please contact your area director or contact directors Deb Johnson or Lynn Ersland so they can check the identification. Quick identification is the only way to keep a new population under control.

A good website to follow is maisrc.umn.edu/about-starrystonewort

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Obituary of Lake Resident

Floss Dinndorf, age 90, died August 19, 2019.

Floss was born December 26, 1928 in Melrose, MN to the Herman and Christine Klumpke. She married the late Ralph Klapperich in 1948 and together they had five children. She married Donald Dinndorf in 1977 and they enjoyed 41 years together.

Floss cherished her family, and her love expanded as her family grew with the addition of grandchildren and great grandchildren. She also enjoyed golf and was an active member of the Albany Golf Club Women's League for many years.

Floss is survived by her husband Don Dinndorf, children (her five J's) Jim (Barb) Klapperich of Wausau WI, Joan (Mike) Schwarze of Plymouth, John (Suzy) Klapperich of Eden Prairie, Julie (Jim) Staw of Maple Grove, and Jill (Gerhard) Guth of Fridley; 14 grand children, 9 great grandchildren, sisters Therese Wiener of St. Joseph and Mary Hurlbert of Brooklyn Park.

She was preceded in death by her parents, and brothers Robert Klumpke and Bernard Nathe.

The Dinndorf cabin is in the Sunset Beach area of Big Birch Lake.

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DNR. Again, if you would like to volunteer, talk to a board member.

The Lake Area Improvements Committee is another renamed committee that will work on projects that will improve the lake for members and the general public. Some possible projects include improvement at landings, the land buffer program, restrooms at landings and fish cleaning stations. Please volunteer if this committee interests you.

Another new committee formed was membership, which will be chaired by Kevin Costello. Volunteers from the general membership are welcome on all committees. If you would like to volunteer talk to your area director or any of the at-large directors.

The board thanks all the volunteers who worked on water quality, safety, aquatic and invasive species, publicity and lake improvement during the 2018-2019. Your time and talent and commitment to the lake is invaluable.

Enjoy the cold weather season,
Ben Ellering, President

Big Birch Lake Association Balance Sheet July-September 2019

	July 31, 2019	August 31, 2019	September 30, 2019	September 30, 2018
Assets				
Current Assets				
Checking/Savings-CMCU				
Cert of Deposits	\$107,851.28	\$107,978.60	\$108,106.07	\$106,614.65
Cert of Deposits	\$10,355.16	\$10,366.52	\$10,377.90	\$10,270.18
My Goal Savings	\$3,629.81	\$4,036.59	\$4,443.81	\$4,443.81
Checking-CMCU	\$1,496.90	\$1,612.61	\$990.29	\$806.42
Money Mkt-CM	\$11,611.85	\$11,015.02	\$6,917.48	\$15,362.00
Share Account-CS	\$35.90	\$35.90	\$35.90	\$35.90
Total Checking /S	\$134,980.90	\$135,045.24	\$130,871.45	\$137,532.96
Initiative Found				
Sub-total Assets	\$38,744.71	\$38,822.01	\$38,106.26	\$38,692.52
Property & equip	\$173,725.61	\$173,867.25	\$168,977.71	\$176,225.48
Total Assets w/b	\$35,300.00	\$35,300.00	\$35,300.00	\$35,300.00
Total Assets w/b	\$209,025.61	\$209,167.25	\$204,277.71	\$211,525.48
Liab. & Equity				
Liabilities				
Long Term Liabilities				
Buffer Obligation	\$5,949.05	\$5,949.05	\$5,949.05	\$5,838.12
Assets				
Reserve				
Aquatic-Invasi	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
Future Buffer	\$14,495.72	\$14,495.72	\$14,495.72	\$14,495.72
Total Reserve	\$114,495.72	\$114,495.72	\$114,495.72	\$114,495.72
Total Long	\$120,444.77	\$120,444.77	\$120,444.77	\$120,333.84
Equity				
Opening Balance	\$25,233.98	\$25,233.98	\$25,233.98	\$25,233.98
Retained Earnings	\$26,202.09	\$28,591.58	\$28,135.67	\$30,564.18
Net Income	\$1,844.77	(\$403.08)	(\$4,836.71)	\$93.48
Total Equity	\$53,280.84	\$53,422.48	\$48,532.94	\$55,891.64
Sub-Total Liab	\$173,725.61	\$173,867.25	\$168,977.71	\$176,225.48
Total Liability	\$209,025.61	\$209,167.25	\$204,277.71	\$211,525.48
****Note: Initiative Foundation entry is based on the month's previous statement, due to their reporting schedule.				

Schiemann retires from BBLA Board after 8 years of service

By Robert Kutter

Chuck Schiemann retired from the BBLA Board at the end of August 2019 after serving on the board for eight years. Schiemann began his term in September of 2011.

When Gene Waldorf retired from the board, Schiemann took over the duties of monitoring the water quality of the lake. He plans to continue volunteering as a Sechi disk reader.

Schiemann believes the association has had some success in combating some invasive species but needs to do a better job of spotting invasive species before they take hold in the water. Furthermore, he thinks all lake

residents need to be more knowledgeable and vigilant about keeping AIS out of the water.

Another pressing issue Schiemann says the lake faces is reducing the amount of phosphorous that flows in the water from lakeshore lawns. Any lakeshore property owner should not use lawn fertilizers that contain phosphorous. The phosphorous makes the lawn lush and green but contributes to the growth of weeds in the lake.

Solving problems that make a positive impact on the quality of the lake water is the most important work the association can do according to Schiemann *continues on page 4*

Spend time in nature at Big Birch Lake

Do what you can to preserve nature for future generations

When I feel anxious, worried or irritable about the state of things in our world, which is frantically modeled for us all too well in the media, I only must look at the lake and take a moment to realize what is important.

The 12th century poet, Hafiz wrote the following:

Even

After

All this time

The Sun never says to the Earth,

"You owe me."

Look

What happens

With a love like that,

It Lights the Whole Sky

Big Birch Lake has been lighting my sky for over half of my life. I grew up here and retired here. The lake, however, has been here for thousands of years. Probably no one ever-recorded changes in the lake until white people began visiting the lake in the late years of the 19th Century. It has just been in the past 50 years that scientist have examined the life of a lake.

The records collected about the quality of the water and the ice-over and ice-out dates are beginning to tell a story about the changes taking place in the lake and suggesting how the lake might change in the future. An exhibit I saw at the Minnesota State Fair this year displayed a huge block of ice with an accompanying message about ice-out changes on Lake Osakis. Ice out on that lake held steady historically until the past 20 years when the ice-out average has become earlier.

It is important not to panic about the condition of the water this past summer in Big Birch Lake. Yes, there was extraordinary weed growth and abundant filamentous algae, both conditions that kept me out of the water.

We learned at the BBLA Annual Meet-

ing in August that overall the water is in good shape. It has a good mix of lake vegetation, and unfortunately zebra mussels, which have occupied the water for three years and changed its clarity. Contributing factors to the water conditions this summer were a heavy snow melt last spring, a couple of rains that exceeded one inch which led to high water and more runoff from around the watershed. Those heavy rains kept that pace right through September.

I'm not suggesting we can be complacent, and certainly the BBLA and more



We don't have to look far to find beautiful fall colors around Big Birch Lake. This was Hoffman Bay on October 7, 2019. Photo by Robert Kutter

specifically the AIS Committee has been vigilant about inspecting the water for sign of invasive species. I am suggesting we allow science to lead us to the next protective steps for the water, and that we all be aware of the water conditions and report anything unusual to our area directors.

It is important that we preserve this body of water for future generations, who should have equal opportunity to experience the beauty, peace, and sense of place the lake has given to us. We have the honor of passing on to the next generations the stories of Big Birch Lake that have grounded us to a unique place, like no other on the planet where we experience the cycle of seasons.

We should look at the lake as a place



Kutter's Column

where things happen according to cycles and seasons where there is an order and flow from which we can learn how to live abundantly.

Our lives will forever be woven into the story of Big Birch Lake through the tending of the waters, to keep them clean and healthy. Our hope is that generations to

come will appreciate the place as much as we do and respect it so its life-giving force can be passed on to the next generations.

Douglas R. Tompkins, founder of North Face said, "If anything can save the world, I'd put my money on beauty." Someone who visited my house once said, "I would never get anything done living here. I'd spend all my time looking at the lake." The lake and the surrounding area communicate to us through beauty.

Think of the most beautiful landscape you have ever seen. Does it contain these basic elements? A view, a variety of greenery, evidence of animal life, evidence of water, a path

drawing us forward, and trees. You have found a beautiful place. This theory of beauty was developed by Philosopher of Art, Denis Dutton. We experience the miracle of a setting sun, a rising sun, a lake bathed in moonlight, a fog hanging just above the water and an island shrouded in mist, and we know the dance of beauty in our hearts.

I like to spend time in nature here at BBL. Whether it is on the water in a boat or in the water for a swim, or walking the beautiful lanes that people created around this body of water, I feel close to creation, close to the beauty that is unique in all the planet.

Indeed, heaven seems closer in a house beside the water.

BBLA Report on Activities July –September 2019

Income	July 19	Aug. 19	Sept. 19	Sept. 18
Membership Dues	\$178.50	\$507.44	\$294.22	\$90.00
Membership Donations	\$148.17	\$130.00	\$20.00	\$20.00
Sponsor Dues	\$148.17	\$148.17	\$0	\$0
Sponsor Donations	\$120.82	\$491.55	\$0	\$0
Interest Income	\$203.62	\$148.63	\$148.53	\$96.71
AIS Income- Todd County	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Memorials	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Misc. Income	\$80.27	\$0	\$100.00	\$20.00
Initiative Fndtn Income	\$1,841.05	\$77.30	(\$715.75)	\$276.25
Ladies Brunch	\$15	\$0	\$0	\$0
Golf Outing	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL INCOME	\$2,735.60	\$1,503.09	(\$273.00)	\$482.96

EXPENSE				
Arvig (Internet)	\$37.68	\$37.68	\$37.68	\$15.00
MN Power-Elect.	\$35.41	\$40.58	\$52.21	\$13.43
Rahn's Oil & Propane	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Crown Gas	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
City Sewer water	\$54.56	\$54.56	\$54.56	\$53.06
General Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Postage Newsletter \$0	\$151.35	\$0	\$0	
Postage Misc.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Printing Newsletter \$0	\$1,108.39	\$0	\$0	
AIS Payroll	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Misc. Expense	\$588.18	\$33.95	\$3,418.33	\$157.99
Secretary Services	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00
Building Maintenance	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$60.93	\$0
Membership print/postage	\$0	\$222.83	\$0	\$0
Annual buffer strip pymt.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Building remodel	\$0	\$81.83	\$0	\$0
Volunteer Luncheon	\$ 0	\$0	\$800.00	\$0
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$890.83	\$1,906.17	\$4,563.71	\$389.48

NET INCOME \$1,844.77 (\$403.08)(\$4,836.71)\$93.48

****Note Misc. August Exp.-\$35.35 Vanco, \$3000.00 Wire Fly IT, \$100.00 Branch Error, \$85.92 Mtg Agenda Print,\$76.00 PO box,\$35.00 DNR Permit, \$51.06 2019 MN AIS Sowcase Fee**

****Note Misc. July Exp.-\$257.88Best Practices, \$250.00 Friend of the Lake Plaque,\$5.36 Copy Paper, \$75.00 Church Rental, \$33.95 Vanco**

Schiemann continued from page 2

Schiemann. We need to be more concerned about our environment.

Chuck and Ellie Schiemann own the only resort left on Big Birch Lake. The Sunset Beach Resort has been on the lake since 1910, originally known as Buckley's Resort. In the early days, a dance hall behind the resort sold bootleg liquor and sometimes the resort rented cabins by the hour.

Schiemann's parents purchased the resort in 1959 and Chuck and Ellie took over in 1999. While the resort location has good open space and a quiet serenity, there is never an end to the maintenance needed on the 11 buildings. In winter, the Schiemanns get away to Florida from time to time.

The BBLA Board of Directors thanks Chuck for his 8 years of dedicated service to the board and for his knowledge about water.

Roe gives 12 years of leadership to BBLA Board, AIS Committee

By Robert Kutter

John Roe retired at the end of August from the BBLA Board of Directors after serving 12 years as director of Area E, which is located on the lower east side of the upper bay of Big Birch Lake. (Twelve years is the term limit for a board director.)

Roe lead the association's efforts to combat aquatic invasive species by organizing and chairing the AIS sub-committee, which opened the way for lake access inspections for the past several years. The AIS committee continues to learn and to teach others about how to inspect the water for

invasive species.

According to Roe, at the 2012 annual meeting, a woman asked what the organization was doing about aquatic invasive species. The response was "nothing." Thus began the organization's focus on AIS.

While it was unfortunate that zebra mussels found their way to the lake, the AIS committee continues to follow the research on the mussels for ways to eliminate them and to live with them. Currently the focus has shifted to keeping other invasive species out of the water.

"Because starry stonewort is in lakes not far from BBL, there is a greater chance it could get in the water here. We are at the point where we could identify and eliminate starry stonewort quite readily if it is spotted," said Roe.

Boat access inspections have helped to keep Eurasian milfoil out of the lake. Roe, who spent many hours working as an inspector, said inspectors report that almost all the people who launch their boats are concerned about keeping invasive species out of the lake.

Roe believes if you can get someone to volunteer one time, they will begin to understand the issues of the water. He also believes the organization needs to stay focused on its mission and not waiver from the permitting process enforced by the counties.

"We have to recognize that educating the lake residents and visitors is crucial to keeping the water clean, and the association can't rest on what it has accomplished but needs to continue to be vigilant," said Roe.

Roe was familiar with BBL as he grew up on a dairy farm north of Grey Eagle. He was introduced to the lake through local lake residents including Paul Niebling, who was an early BBLA Director. While working in Washington DC and Kansas City, he always wanted to have a place on the lake. In 1985 some folks introduced him to the property he now owns with his wife Janet on the east side of the upper bay near Sliter Island.

The BBLA Board of Directors thank John Roe for his dedicated service to the lake residents and the association.

Volunteers sample plants at lake accesses throughout the summer

By John Roe

The purpose of the BBLA aquatic plant sampling program is to detect the presence of an invasive weed before it can spread to other parts of the lake. Since lake accesses are most often AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) entry points, the BBLA has focused our attention on them.

At this point, we have two teams assigned to each lake access for a total of 20 volunteers. These volunteers attend a training session in June, sample the plants at their access once a month from June through September, and report the results.

In 2019, our five BBL accesses have been checked for invasive weeds a total of 26 times with no evidence of starry stonewort (SSW) or Eurasian water milfoil (EWM) found. The BBLA wishes to thank the following volunteers for all their time and effort:

Lou and Deb Bullock, Jerry and Deb Rudolph, Bob and Connie Koch, Bob and Deb Niehaus, Mike and Amy Schwantes, Lynn and Mary Kay Ersland, Kevin and Ann Costello, Linnea Ingold, Lee Uphoff, Jean and Steve Doth, and Craig Johnson.

This past summer, the MN DNR also studied the plants in 30 aquatic and shoreline plots around BBL. These plant specialists found a wide diversity of plants but no SSW or EWM. While we are happy with all the results of these studies, our monitoring program is not a foolproof system. However, this program is our best hope now of providing an early warning system for a plant like SSW when its control would be more manageable.

If you observe a suspicious aquatic plant, please contact your area director, Lynn Ersland, or Deb Johnson (see U of MN article for more information).



Gallery creates welcoming entrance to BBLA Community Center in Grey Eagle

By Robert Kutter

If you visited the open house of the BBLA Community Center in Grey Eagle following the annual meeting, you were treated to not only the updated meeting space but also the gallery at the front of the building.

There are large photo murals on two walls that are scenes from Big Birch Lake. Vice President, Kevin Costello, contributed the murals which create a focal point upon entering the building.

On the west wall, space and shelves have been added for displaying historic photos, paintings, antiques fishing equipment and other items that tell the story of the lake.

It is the dream of the BBLA Board that the gallery become a place that can tell the story of the lake for association members and visitors.

Jeanne Niehaus and Bob Kutter were instrumental in setting up displays for the open house in August. Mike Howe created some beautiful floating shelves for the space.

Going forward, the publicity committee imagines the displays change periodically

depicting different subjects about the lake.

For example, there could be photo displays of BBL antique boats, birds, sunsets, sailing regattas, fish and fishing, among others.

If you have significant photos from BBL that you would like to see displayed, contact Niehaus or Kutter and they can make copies, get enlargements made and find suitable frames. If you have a historic item you would like to donate to the BBLA for display, that is also possible.

Linnea Ingold, whose father Dr. Jim Hammarsten owned the larger island in the lake for many years, is having an aerial photo of the island enlarged and framed, which she will donate to the association.

The other connection Ingold has to the building space is that it was her grandfather's drugstore building from the 1920's to the 1970's.

No BBLA funds will be used to create or purchase items displayed in the gallery.

Please look around your place and see if there is something that would make a great addition to the gallery.



2019 Big Birch Lake Association Members

Anderson, Derry & Jay	Gerding, DeWayne	Logan, Suzanne & Guy	Schwartz, Steve & Joann
Anderson, Jean	Gerner, Bob & Charlene	Lundeen, Darrell & Marlys	Schwieters, Chuck
Anderson, Marjorie & Rick Mart land	Gordon, Brian & Kirsten	Mack, Murray & Sue	Sexton, Family Cabin
Anderson, Stephen & Lisa	Grossman, Jan	Maeder, Nik & Brandee	Shafer, Tom
Andrews, Mike	Gruenke Lake Cabin	Matchinsky, Jim & Rose	Sieben, Russ & Mary
Arulfo, Michelle	Grutsch, John & Jan	Mattson, Amy	Silbernagel, John & Marie
Athmann, Judy	Hatton, Rene & LuAnn	McConnell, David & Ann	Sinclair, James
Atkinson, Dan & Jan	Helget, Ron	McQueen, Kathleen	Sinclair, Ken & Jan
Atwood, Duane	Henderson, John & Mary	Mehr, Ralph & Mary Ann	Sorenson, Larry & Lianne
Auger, John & Karen	Hendrickson, David & Colette	Messerich, Steve & Char	Sorenson, Lois
Austing, April	Hennemann, Kitty	Meyer, Barry	Sova, Jeff
Austing, Dick & Jane	Hess, Herb & Mary Kay	Meyer, Juel	Spears, Heather
Becker, Isaac & Nancy St. Pierre	Hinman, John & Kathy	Meyer, Ken & Sherry	Spence, Jim & Chris
Beckermann, Linda	Hinnenkamp, Ben & Pam	Meyer, Mark	Stalboerger, Lorraine
Beekhuizen, Julie & Steve	Hinnenkamp, Bill	Meyer, Roy & Susie	Steinbring, John & Sandy
Berg, Dwaine & Louise	Hinnenkamp, Eb & Helen	Meyer, Virg & Joyce	Strack, Robert & Laurie
Berg, Ken & Beverly	Hinnenkamp, Hollis & Mary	Miles, Roger & Mary	Stueve, Charlie & Doris
Bergmann, Ken & Marilyn	Hird, Mike	Miley, Rod & Nancy	Tanner, Lucy
Beste, Alex & Jess	Hoeschen, Larry & Elaine	Moening, Lee and Judy	Tembrock, Henry & Marion
Bitz, Steve	Hoffman, Dan & Janell	Mohr, Richard & Marilyn	Thelen, Steve & Amy
Blommel Family	Holthaus, Kenneth	Mohs, Dean & Sandra	Thielen, Marvin & Judy
Blommel, Leroy & Marilynn	Hoverster, Leah	Molitor, Jon	Thieschafer, Beth & Kevin Sieben
Boecker, Elmer & Juliana	Hughes, Dan & Liz	Molitor, Karen & Chick	Thompson, Rod & Sally
Bohlig, Ves	Hughes, Parry & Kathy	Moser, Scott & Helen	Tiemann, Madonna
Brandt, Paula and Barry	Hughes, Robert & Sally	Mueller, Jerry	Timmerman, John
Brixius, Bernie & Lisa	Hughes, Tim	Nathe, Mike & Laura	Tomsche, Dan
Broman, Ruth & Raleigh	Humbert, Rick & Lois	Neville, Steve	Tomsche, David & Molly
Brunner, Paul & Lauri	Ingold, Kirk & Mandi	Niehaus, Bob & Deb	Trierweiler, Corey & Julie
Bruyere, James	Ingold, Linnea	Niehaus, Grant	Trulson, Kent K. & Loretta
Bullock, Lou & Debbie	Jacobsen, James & Marjorie	Niehaus, Jeanne	Tschida, Stewart & Amy
Bushman, Wayne	Jaeger, Audrey & Dwight	Niehaus, Tony & Carol	Tschida, Wayne & JoAnn
Butte, Rick	Jarsko, Judy	Orth, Dave & Linda	Tweedale, Craig & Mary Lou
Cahanes, Paul & RoxAnn	Jepperson, Craig & Mary	Osendorf, Phil & Gail	Uphoff, Jim & Lee
Campbell, Mel & Sherry	Jeske, Nancy	Osendorf, Rosie	Van Drehle, Donald & Helen
Carlson, Allen & Shirley	Johnson, Craig & Debra	Ostendorf, Lenore	Vener, Mike & Kim
Carpenter, Todd & Laura	Johnson, Dale & Janet	Pakola, Barb & Howard	Viere, Kevin & Ann
Cebuhar, Chuck & Mary	Johnson, David & Betty	Palmquist, Mary	Waldvogel, Dennis
Chirhart, Jim & Penny	Johnston, David & Diane	Patch, Bruce & Johanna	Walker, Tom
Chmielewski, Daniel & Barbara	Kadri, Abdu	Pavlicek, John	Walters, George & Susan
Claussen, Kim	Kalgren, Rick & Ann	Pelo, Rod & Phyllis	Warnert, Ronald
Collins, Jim & Crystal	Kappes, Mike & Jannie	Peterson, Tom & Ginger	Weinmann, Roger
Collins, Joyce	Kaufmann, Bob & Jo	Phillips, Rev. Roger & Rosemary	Weitzel, Jean
Collins, Ken	Kemper, Jeff & Linda	Pladson, Terry & Sue	Weitzel, John & Mary
Comfort, Jeff & Julie	Kennedy, Dennis	Poganski, Marcia	Welle, Larry & Rose
Coulson, Brad & Jane	Kerfeld, Art & Rosie	Powers, Robert & Kathy	Wiebolt, Bernard, DForine & family
Costello, Ann & Kevin	Kerfeld, Donald & Diane	Provinzino, Chuck & Jannine	Wollard Family
Czap, Neil & Catherine	Kerfeld, Glenn	Rahn, Dave	Wolters, Ronald
Damrow, June & Paul	Kirchner, Jerry & Jonelle	Rasmussen, Steve	Worms, Tim & Sonja Gidlow
Davis, Scott & Marjo	Klaphake, Florian & Doreen	Rediske, Marilyn	Wright, Tom & Sara Roberts
Dobesh, Jeff & Jill	Klaphake, Pam & Steve	Reed, Bev	Zachman, Jeff, & Linda
Donne, Don & Florence	Klaphake, Rick & Deb	Refsland, Curt & Mary	Zackoski, Mike & Kim
Donne, Marvin	Klapperich, John & Suzy	Rieger, Pamela & Joel	Zenzen, Art & Marilyn
Doth, Steve & Jean	Klasen, Vern & Marlene	Rieland, Chuck & Lucy	Zimmer, Chris & Mary
Dougherty, Tim	Klocker, Barb	Rieland, Mike & Mary	Zimmerman, Kris
Dubiel, Marvin & Pam	Kloos, Mike & Becky	Rieland, Shirley	
Duclos, Edwin	Kluempke, Dave	Ritchie, Betty	
Duevel, Jerome & Kim	Kluempke, Jim & Cathy	Ritchie, Paul	
Elfering, Evelyn & Family	Koch, Bob & Connie	Ritter, Greg & Barb	
Elieff, Daniel	Kohorts, Don & Bob	Rivisto, John & Deb	
Ellering, Ben & Jenn	Kotsmith, Randy & Karen	Roe, John & Janet	
Enneking, Eugene & Cheryl	Kotsmith, Terry & Sharon	Rolfes, Robert & Charles	
Engel, Susan & Greg	Kraker, Robert	Rose, Herm & Therese	
Engle, John & Carol	Kuehne, Robert	Rothstein, Gary & Ruth	
Enright, Jack & Kay	Kuehne, Ron & Midge	Roy, Barbara	
Erdman, Mark & Summer	Kuhlman-Weber, Tom & William	Rudolph, Jerry	
Erickson, Russ	Kuhns, Vanessa	Russell, Jim & Mindy	
Ersland, Lynn & Mary Kay	Kunkel, Phil & Rose	Rutherford, Peter & Laurel	
Eveslage, Sarah	Kutter, Robert & Nancy	Sadlowski, Mike & Vicki	
Falk, Jeremy & Jennifer	Kutter, Wayne & Sherry	Sagissor, Mary	
First, Pete & Nicole	Kyllo, Carole	Sand, Dan & Mary	
Flaws, Michael & Marilyn	Lafayette Resort	Savage, Bill & Sharon	
Fox, Tom & Laurie	Lambrecht, Craig	Schanhaar, Tom	
Freeman, Suzanne & Greg	Larson, Brendan & Debra	Schiemann, Chuck & Ellie	
Frerichs-Frank, Jane E.	Lemieux, BJ & Rachel	Schiffler, Dean & Carly	
Funk, Robert & Carolyn	Lieder, Bill & Renee	Schlough, Tom & Joyce	
Gagne, Bob & Christine	Lilligren, Kirk & Cathy	Schmid, Ted & Julie	
Gallagher, Patrick & Caryn	Lind, James	Schmid, Judy	
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**Summer sunsets at Sliter Island.
Photos by Paul Lambrecht.**



Waldorfs receive 2019 Friends of the Lake Award

This year the BBLA Board of Directors decided to present the Friends of the Lake Award to some folks who have done extraordinary volunteer work for the BBLA.

The award went to Gene and Bernie Waldorf for all they have contributed to the organization for the past 27 years. As past president Peter Rutherford said, "it is easy to see Gene's breadth of knowledge and activism as well as his fingerprints all over 20 plus years of archived BBLA records."

Gene became involved in the organization in 1992 serving in various leadership positions including years as president of the organization.

He initiated weed and water sampling which continues to this day. He worked to establish the buffer zones on farmlands that drain into Fish Creek/Adley Creek thereby reducing the runoff that can impair lake water.

He was instrumental in obtaining a grant from the Initiative Foundation for a study of the lake, he eventually served on the foundation's board and helped set up reserve funds for the BBLA at the Foundation.

Gene was active in the Coalition of Lake Associations teaching them about weed sampling and water quality. Again Peter Rutherford relays the story of Gene teaching other lake associations. Peter said, "Attending one of my first Stearns Co. AIS meetings, a long time Pierz Lake activist and committee member sought me out to relate a story of how Gene met with a group of Pierz Lake people at Charlie's Cafe in the early '90's to discuss and teach them about water quality and testing processes."

"At the Stearns COLA meeting in April 2018, an older guy from Grand Lake relayed a story of how Gene met with their lake people about the mid-90's regarding water quality and the pros and cons of a lake-wide sewage system.

Again, both of these people initiated the conversations about Gene and were complimentary about his work with them," according to Rutherford.

Gene knew the presence of loons were an indicator of good water quality and worked to provide habitat for them by building several loon rafts.

He remembers that he and Ralph Mehr were going to walk the creek between Big and Little Birch Lake to examine what could be done to provide

a healthy flow of water. Gene stepped out of Ralph's boat and sunk in muck up to his waist.

Many probably don't know that Gene was an avid ice boater. He loved sailing across the ice, and Bernie told him not to go through the channel. The first thing he did was head for channel. He got off his boat to examine the ice and fell through a hole. When he got back home, Bernie made him strip at the front door.

A couple of times he was involved in removing boulders from said channel. Once a barge was hired to move large boulders and then on May 6 of 2012, Gene, in his scuba gear along with Mitchell Niehaus and Tyler Schmidt dove to the bottom using a homemade chain sling in order to slide large rocks to the side of the channel.

Gene and Bernie purchased the current BBLA office building in 2004. It

was originally Hammarsten Drug Store from the 1920's to the 1970's, after which it was a retail space and a medical clinic. In 2015 they donated the building to the BBLA.

Bernie was always in the background helping with this organization in so many ways, and the association thanks her as well for her contributions to its health and vitality.

Prior to life at BBL, Gene was an engineer at 3M in Maplewood and served 16 years as a state senator representing an area north of the state capitol near Lake Phalen.

He and Bernie raised 6 children and are blessed with many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

From the current board members and all those who served with Gene in the past, we say thank you for your extraordinary contributions to the Big Birch Lake Association.



Bernie and Gene Waldorf (left) received the BBLA 2019 Friends of the Lake Award from Directors Robert Kutter, Chuck Schiemann and Ben Ellering, pres.

Big Birch Lake Association Board of Directors

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Mission Statement: The purpose of the Big Birch Lake Association shall be to improve and protect water quality, to advance the propagation and habitat of fish and to protect the welfare of all wildlife in Big Birch Lake and adjacent areas.

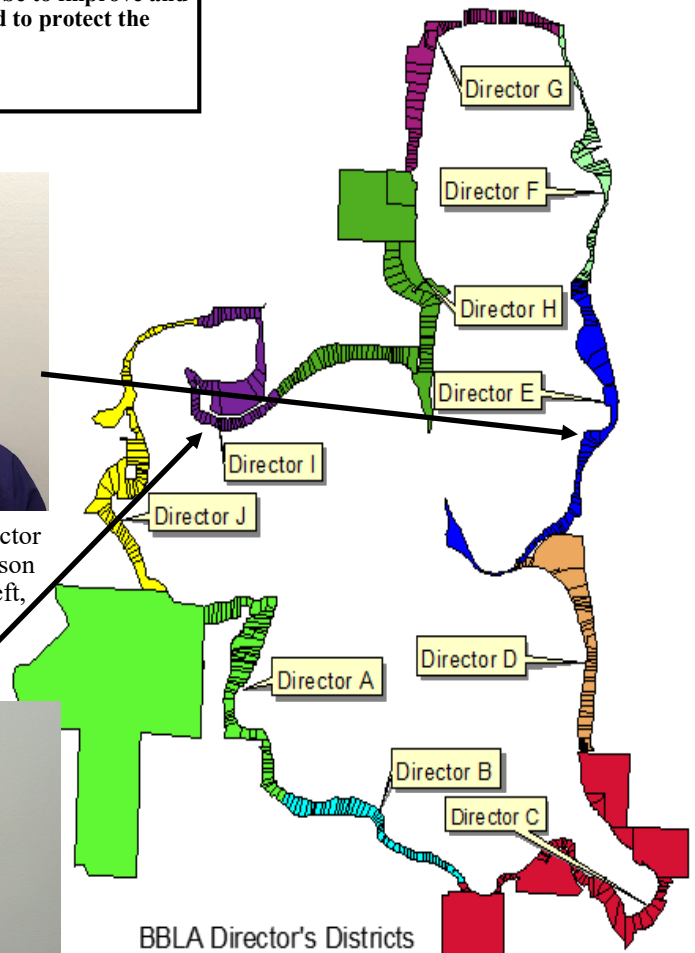


Fall color in Hoffman Bay, October 7, 2019,
Photo by Robert Kutter

Three newly elected BBLA Board members are pictured. The election was held August 17, 2019 at the BBLA Annual Meeting.



Above, Larry Welle is the director for Area E. Below, Jay Anderson is the director for Area I and left, Grant Niehaus is a Director At Large.



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Clockwise, members listened to presentations at the BBLA Annual Meeting on August 17 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Grey Eagle.

Vice President, Keven Costello, spoke about membership at the annual meeting.

Special guests, the Waldorf family, gathered before the meeting began.

Photos by Robert Kutter

