

No. 137

January, 2020

#### **President's Letter**

#### Calendar

BBLA Board Meeting 3/21/20 4/18/20 Welcome to 2020 at Big Birch Lake. As the BBLA Board of Directors begins the new year, there are several things we want to call to your attention. First, thank you for your membership support throughout 2019 as we made transitions in how we collect membership dues, how we organized committee work and how we responded to your needs as an organization.

You will receive an invitation to renew your membership and offer additional donations in late February. We are looking for any members who have expertise in the areas of contributions, fundraising and grant writing to lead the Donations/Grants Committee as we seek funding for goals and projects moving forward. Membership dues alone will not sustain the organization as we continue to fight the effects of aquatic invasive species, (AIS).

One of the newly organized committees is the Fish/Wildlife Committee headed by board member Grant Niehaus. The committee, which had its first meeting in December, is looking for ways to improve fishing in BBL. At the annual meeting last August, several people spoke to their interest of improving fishing. Please read the story on the fishing committee elsewhere in the newsletter.

The AIS Committee has attended training this past fall and is poised to take on new challenges in 2020, especially the detection of starry stonewort. See the AIS Committee story in the newsletter as well. The AIS Committee is working more with other local lake associations as the benefits of sharing information become clearer. Little Birch Lake Association, for example, will purchase a weed harvester. The results of its works will shed light on the potential of harvesting weeds in BBL.

Please let me know your ideas about how to make the BBLA an even more effective association as it seeks to fulfill its mission.

Thanks for all you do to support the BBLA financially and to volunteer your time.

Ben Ellering BBLA President

# AIS Committee targets skills for detecting invasives

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Leaders of the BBLA AIS Committee, Deb Johnson and Lynn Ersland, attended the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Management Showcase held in St. Paul on September 18, 2019. The summary below provides members with current research results on aquatic invasive species that should be a concern to all residents of Big Birch Lake. The information includes updates on Eurasian watermilfoil, zebra mussels, starry stonewort and phragmites.

An effort is being made to quantify land values for lakes infested with **Eurasian water-milfoil.** Data on infected lakes show a drop in property values in 2009 of 13 percent and 19 percent for the same lakes in 2014.

The Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research has found the growth of Eurasian watermilfoil is fostered by an increase in water temperature and water clarity. In Lake Washington in Meeker County, EWM had been present for 20 years. The lake association had been treating it with chemical until five years ago. Since that time, the EWM has appeared to have died out but no one can determine why that happened.

Unfortunately, invasive Eurasian watermilfoil hybridizes with native northern watermilfoil. Surveys in Minnesota indicate that the hybrid is widespread, but more common in the metro area and that there is much more genetic diversity in the hybrid than pure Eurasian watermilfoil. Work elsewhere indicates that this greater diversity can allow genotypes to be more invasive or resistant to herbicides. Northern has 5-11 leaflets, Eurasion has 12-20 leaflets and hybrids have 10-13 leaflets but have been found with 7-19 leaflets. The only true way to identify the hybrid is to send the plants to the U of M for genetic screening.

AIS Committee continues on page 5

# Renew membership for 2020

The 2020 BBLA membership and sponsorship forms will be arriving in your mailbox in late February. The membership form is also available on the contact page of the association website: www.bigbirchlakeassociation.org

If you no longer want a paper copy of the newsletter and prefer to read it on the BBLA website, please contact the association via email or contact your area director.

Please invite new lake residents or friends of the lake to become members.

BBLA sponsors are important to the association, and we encourage our members to show their appreciation by supporting sponsor businesses in 2020.

In addition to the newsletter and the association website, you can follow the association on Facebook. If you have a Facebook account, just type in Big Birch Lake Association. Like the page, add your comments and post your photos of activities at BBL.

If you don't have a Facebook account, you can still follow the page by typing bigbirchlakeassociation/Facebook into your browser.

If you are away from the lake during the cold months, Facebook is a good way to stay connected to the lake.

#### Obituaries of lake residents

**Jeffrey "Jeff" Carl Sova**, age 69, Wayzata, MN, died Tuesday, September 3, 2019 at his home following a long and courageous battle with cancer.

A celebration of Jeff's life was held Saturday, November 9. A headstone will be in North Star Cemetery, St. Cloud, MN near his parents. Arrangements were made by Benson Funeral Home, St. Cloud, MN.

Jeff was born May 22, 1950 in St. Cloud, MN to Donald C. and Ione (Molin) Sova. He worked for Sound Productions and Showco Inc., where he toured the world as a piano/guitar technician for the following bands: Jackson Browne, Linda Ronstadt, Fleetwood Mac, Crosby Stills and Nash, Billy Joel, Rod Stewart, and many more. Upon starting a family, Jeff stayed in Minneapolis and began his own piano tuning business, tuning pianos around the metro. He enjoyed music, playing guitar and piano, golfing, cooking, fishing, admiring Birch Lake, and spending quality time with all his loved ones, especially his granddaughter, Ryan.

Survivors include daughters, Monice (Joe) Korte of Golden Valley, MN; Miranda (Miles) Marmo of Golden Valley, MN;

#### **BBLA Report on Activities**

Income	December 2019
Membership	30.00
Interest Income	164.75
Memorials	50.00
Initiative Fund	886.15
Total Income	1075.90
Expense	
Arvig	37.68
MN Power	33.95
Rahn's Oil & Propane	188.63
General Liability	699.00
City Sewer & water	54.56
Misc. Expense	80.64
Building Maintenance	25.00
Total Expense	1119.46
Net Income	(43.56)

former wife, Jeane Zawacki Sova; stepsisters Darelyn Anderson Olsen, Melrene Anderson Savin and granddaughter Ryan Korte.

He was preceded in death by his father, Donald Sova, mother, Ione Sova Anderson, stepfather, Melvin Anderson and stepsister, Marla Anderson.

**Kenneth V. Collins** was born July 1, 1943 in St. Paul, MN. Died October 11, 2019 in St. Paul after surviving pancreatic cancer for eight years. He was 76.

He was preceded in death by his parents Victor an Gert Collins.

He is survived by living wife of 54 years, Margaret; children Mark, Steven (Kelly), Andrea; grandchildren Isabel, Grace, Ryan, Emily, Collin; many other relative and friends.

Ken was a member of the Maple-wood Police Department for 32 years, 14 1/2 year as Chief of Police and Director of Public Safety. He was a graduate of the FBI National Academy, and was president of many organizations including Tri-County Law Enforcement, Ramsey County Chiefs of Police and Minnesota Chiefs of Police.

He was vice chair of numerous committees with International Association of Chiefs of Police/IACP, and was responsible for numerous public safety programs that have benefitted the City of Maplewood, i.e. Domestic Violence Intervention, Community Oriented Policing, DARE Program, Scholl Liaison, Chemical Awareness for First-Time Offenders, Board of Directors of East Community Family Service and Family Service of St. Paul.

Ken was a US Navy Veteran, having served on the submarine, USS Proteus. He was a nine-year volunteer for United Way, and was very active in the community serving as youth hockey coach with Maplewood Athletic Association, assistant leader with the Boy Scouts of America, leader of Law Enforcement Explores for several years, President of the Little Birch Lake Improvement Association and many others. He also loved to drive and travel.

Ken and Margaret received the Friends of the Lake Award from the BBLA in 2017.

# Water attracts us to this place, keeps us returning season after season

# Come to that haven of peace and quiet on Big Birch Lake—Mary Palmquist

There is much to appreciate about life at Big Birch Lake in all four seasons. From the gradual change of sunlight to the abrupt change in the direction of the wind, nature lets us know who is in charge. The new fallen snow sparkles under a bright blue sky in winter as water does on a warm summer day. Such is our inheritance of a place we occupy for a short time, and yet we can't take it all in.

I love walking out the door on an October morning and hearing the faint call of a young loon or seeing and hearing a piliated woodpecker as she departs the suit feeder hanging from a tree. The sounds remind me of the cycle of life we can observe when we spend time in nature. The fall colors were especially beautiful around Big Birch Lake this past fall due to all the moisture. Between days when the winds blew over 50 miles per hour, there was time to just listen to crackling leaves underfoot, gentle waves meeting the shore and the cacophony of birds gathering for migration. Making intentional space to

do nothing but listen and see opens us to life we may have missed along the way. As a teen I could name several constellations of stars. My old brain doesn't remember their names anymore, but I have stood in my driveway on autumn nights and marveled at the Big Dipper in the north sky.

When we close a door behind us and step outside, a new experience of nature is waiting for us. I noticed a multicolored maple leaf lying on my path to the garden. Its beauty outshone all the other leaves. It is so easy to overlook what is right in our line of sight when we are focused on our destination.

I tell you these things not because you can't observe them for yourself but because sharing appreciation of this place in Minnesota hopefully makes your appreciation grow as well. We must speak for this land and lake for future genera-

tions; we must defend what we love. I spoke with an association member who must leave the lake due to advanced age. She wanted to purchase a copy of The History of Big Birch Lake to leave in the cabin she was selling because she wanted the new owners to know the history of the lake she had so long loved. Long inspired and enchanted by this place, she passed on what she could to the next



Summer sunset looking west from Birch Bay. Photo by Paul Lambrecht

generation of owners. She wrote, "I have come to the lake since I was three months old in 1927, and to the area full of memories of my father's family, both Pluth and Peschel," wrote Mary Palmquist. She closed on her cottage sale the first week of November and will no longer be able "to come to that haven of peace and quiet on Big Birch Lake."

Many of us witness the magic of this place when young grandchildren visit. Their excitement about catching tiny fish from the dock is contagious. Their joy of splashing in the water is ours as well. One cannot forget the smiles on their faces at the first ride on a towable behind a boat or the first ride on a jet ski. We come away inspired by their enthusiasm of firsts.

We can say thanks every day for being



### **Kutter's Column**

alive in this time and place and commit to love and to defend this place at every moment possible by spending more time in nature. The beauty of the place isn't going anywhere, and we are the only ones who can communicate our appreciation. From the emergence of light in the morning to dimming of the light at

night, we alone can say this was something to see. There are, of course, some elements we struggle to appreciate. I tire of the strong south winds that push me to the mailbox faster than I can walk. Yet, the water that is being tossed and turned in the lake is a precious life-giving mystery, it is the same water that has always been on the planet. Then we read there are people who want to sell some of Minnesota's water to places where it is less abundant. It is disrespectful to poison our waters or send it to people who don't want to live where water is more abundant. To do either jeopardizes life for all living creatures, says Toni Reyn-

As I finish writing this piece in late December, it is 37 degrees and raining, not what one expects when January is just two days away. The beauty of fall quickly melded into the bleak, dark cold of winter with at least five plowable snowstorms two weeks before Christmas. This resource of water has been abundant in 2019 and may be a record for accumulation.

Without this body of water, we would not likely be in this place, and that is why heaven seems a little closer in a house beside the water.

### Big Birch Lake Association Membership 2019

Althans, Kurt Anderson, Derry & Jay Anderson, Jean Anderson, Marjorie & Rick Mart land Anderson, Stephen & Lisa Andrews, Mike Arulfo, Michelle Athmann, Judy Atkinson, Dan & Jan Atwood, Duane Auger, John & Karen Austing, April Austing, Dick & Jane Becker, Isaac & Nancy St. Pierre Beckermann, Linda Beekhuizen, Julie & Steve Berg, Dwaine & Louise Berg, Ken & Beverly Bergmann, Ken & Marilyn Beste, Alex & Jess Bitz, Steve Blommel Family Blommel, Leroy & Marilynn Boecker, Elmer & Juliana Bohlig, Ves Brandt, Paula and Barry Brixius, Bernie & Lisa Broman, Ruth & Raleigh Brunner, Paul & Lauri Bruyere, James Bullock, Lou & Debbie Bushman, Wayne Butte, Rick Cahanes, Paul & RoxAnn Campbell, Mel & Sherry Carlson, Allen & Shirley Carpenter, Todd & Laura Cebuhar, Chuck & Mary Chirhart, Jim & Penny Chmielewski, Daniel & Barbara Claussen, Kim Collins, Jim & Crystal Collins, Joyce Collins, Ken Comfort, Jeff & Julie Coulson, Brad & Jane Costello, Ann & Kevin Czap, Neil & Catherine Damrow, June & Paul Davis, Scott & Marjo Dobesh, Jeff & Jill Dindorf, Don & Florence Donne, Marvin Doth, Steve & Jean Dougherty, Tim Dubiel, Marvin & Pam Duclos, Edwin Duevel, Jerome & Kim Elfering, Evelyn & Family Elieff, Daniel Ellering, Ben & Jenn Enneking, Eugene & Cheryl Engel, Susan & Greg Engle, John & Carol Enright, Jack & Kay Erdman, Mark & Summer Erickson, Russ Ersland, Lynn & Mary Kay Eveslage, Sarah Falk, Jeremy & Jennifer First, Pete & Nicole Flaws, Michael & Marilyn Fox, Tom & Laurie Freeman, Suzanne & David Frerichs-Frank, Jane E. Funk, Robert & Carolyn Gagne, Bob & Christine Gallagher, Patrick & Caryn Gangl, Dale

Gerads, Dale & May Lou Gerding, DeWayne Gerner, Bob & Charlene Gordon, Brian & Kirsten Grossman, Jan Gruenke Lake Cabin Grutsch, John & Jan Hatton, Rene & LuAnn Helget, Ron Henderson, John & Mary Hendrickson, David & Colette Hennemann, Kitty Hess, Herb & Mary Kay Hinman, John & Kathy Hinnenkamp, Ben & Pam Hinnenkamp, Bill Hinnenkamp, Eb & Helen Hinnenkamp, Hollis & Mary Hird. Mike Hoeschen, Larry & Elaine Hoffman, Dan & Janell Holthaus, Kenneth Hoverster, Leah Hughes, Dan & Liz Hughes, Parry & Kathy Hughes, Robert & Sally Hughes, Tim Humbert, Rick & Lois Ingold, Kirk & Mandi Ingold, Linnea Jacobsen, James & Marjorie Jaeger, Audrey & Dwight Jarsko, Judy Jepperson, Craig & Mary Jeske, Nancy Johnson, Adrian & Kay Johnson, Craig & Debra Johnson, Dale & Janet Johnson, David & Betty Johnston, David & Diane Kadri, Abdu Kalgren, Rick & Ann Kappes, Mike & Jannie Kaufmann, Bob & Jo Kemper, Jeff & Linda Kennedy, Dennis Kerfeld, Art & Rosie Kerfeld, Donald & Diane Kerfeld, Glenn Kirchner, Jerry & Jonelle Klaphake, Florian & Doreen Klaphake, Pam & Steve Klaphake, Rick & Deb Klapperich, John & Suzy Klasen, Vern & Marlene Klocker, Barb Kloos, Mike & Becky Kluempke, Dave Kluempke, Jim & Cathy Koch, Bob & Connie Kohorts, Don & Bob Kotsmith, Randy & Karen Kotsmith, Terry & Sharon Kraker, Robert Kuehne, Robert Kuehne, Ron & Midge Kuhlman-Weber, Tom & William Kuhns, Vanessa Kunkel, Phil & Rose Kutter, Robert & Nancy Kutter, Wayne & Sherry Kyllo, Carole Lafayette Resort Lambrecht, Craig Larson, Brendan & Debra Lemieux, BJ & Rachel Lieder, Bill & Renee Lilligren, Kirk & Cathy

Lind, James Linz, Curtis & Mary Lloyd, Karen Loehr, James & Renee Logan, Suzanne & Guy Lundeen, Darrell & Marlys Mack, Murray & Sue Maeder, Nik & Brandee Matchinsky, Jim & Rose Mattson, Amy McConnell, David & Ann McQueen, Kathleen Mehr, Ralph & Mary Ann Messerich, Steve & Char Meyer, Barry Meyer, Juel Meyer, Ken & Sherry Meyer, Mark Meyer, Roy & Susie Meyer, Virg & Joyce Miles, Roger & Mary Miley, Rod & Nancy Moening, Lee and Judy Mohr, Richard & Marilyn Mohs, Dean & Sandra Molitor, Jon Molitor, Karen & Chick Moser, Scott & Helen Mueller, Jerry Nathe, Mike & Laura Neville, Steve Niehaus, Bob & Deb Niehaus, Grant Niehaus, Jeanne Niehaus, Tony & Carol Orth, Dave & Linda Osendorf, Phil & Gail Osendorf Rosie Ostendorf, Lenore Pakola, Barb & Howard Palmquist, Mary Patch, Bruce & Johanna Pavlicek, John Pelo, Rod & Phyllis Peterson, Tom & Ginger Phillips, Rev. Roger & Rosemary Pladson, Terry & Sue Poganski, Marcia Powers, Robert & Kathy Provinzino, Chuck & Jannine Rahn, Dave Rasmussen, Steve Rediske, Marilyn Reed, Bev Refsland, Curt & Mary Rieger, Pamela & Joel Rieland, Chuck & Lucy Rieland, Mike & Mary Rieland, Shirley Ritchie, Betty Ritchie, Paul Ritter, Greg & Barb Rivisto, John & Deb Roe, John & Janet Rolfes, Robert & Charles Rose, Herm & Therese Rothstein, Gary & Ruth Roy, Barbara Rudolph, Jerry Russell, Jim & Mindy Rutherford, Peter & Laurel Sadlowski, Mike & Vicki Sagissor, Mary Sand, Dan & Mary Savage, Bill & Sharon Schanhaar, Tom Schiemann, Chuck & Ellie Schiffler, Dean & Carly

Schnettler, Ed Schwantes, Amy & Mike Schwartz, Steve & Joann Schwieters, Chuck Sexton, Family Cabin Shafer, Tom Sieben, Russ & Mary Silbernagel, John & Marie Sinclair, James Sinclair, Ken & Jan Sorenson, Larry & Loanne Sorenson, Lois Sova, Jeff Spears, Heather Spence, Jim & Chris Stalboerger, Lorraine Steinbring, John & Sandy Strack, Robert & Laurie Stueve, Charlie & Doris Tanner, Lucy Tembrock, Henry & Marion Thelen, Steve & Amy Thielen, Marvin & Judy Thieschafer, Beth & Kevin Sieben Thompson, Rod & Sally Tiemann, Madonna Timmerman, John Tomsche, Dan Tomsche, David & Molly Trierweiler, Corey & Julie Trulson, Kent K. & Loretta Tschida, Stewart & Amy Tschida, Wayne & JoAnn Tweedale, Craig & Mary Lou Uphoff, Jim & Lee Van Drehle, Donald & Helen Vener, Mike & Kim Viere, Kevin & Ann Von Wahlde, Dan & Brenda Waldvogel, Dennis Walker, Tom Walters, George & Susan Warnert, Ronald Weber, Tom & William Kuhmann Weinmann, Roger Weitzel, Jean Weitzel, John & Mary Welle, Larry & Rose Wiebolt, Bernard, Dorine & family Wollard Family Wolters, Ronald Worms, Tim & Sonja Gidlow Wright, Tom & Sara Roberts Zachman, Jeff, & Linda Zackoski, Mike & Kim Zenzen, Art & Marilyn Zimmer, Chris & Mary Zimmerman, Kris

> Remember to renew your membership by March 25th to be listed in the April 2020 newsletter.

Schlough, Tom & Joyce

Schmidt, Tom & JoAnn

Schmid, Ted & Julie Schmid, Judy

#### **AIS** Committee continued from page 1

A good website to view for the difference in the various watermilfoil is:

http://aissummit.mnlakesandrivers.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Hybrid

Projects are underway to control **zebra mussels**. One project is investigating the importance of microbial signaling. Attempts are being made to create an enzyme that will not allow a zebra mussel to attach to a surface. The idea is to add this enzyme to a solution that can be painted on a surface such as a boat or water irrigation intake pipe that will discourage zebra mussels from attaching to the surface. This product has not been approved and is not on the market yet.

A low-dose copper-based control was made to St Albans Bay in Lake Minnetonka to target the early life stages of zebra mussels in July 2019. The purpose was to suppress veliger growth.

There was a 70 percent survival rate. It was not intended to kill adults, which had 100 percent survival. It was noted that the copper used in the test lies in the bottom of the lake forever. Copper may be toxic to many organisms from algae to native mussels and to fish. More studies need to be taken to determine the long-term effects of copper.

**Starry stonewort** was first found in the U.S. in 1974. It has been found in 8 states and is in 15 Minnesota lakes. Wisconsin has 18 infested lakes first discovered in 2015. Indiana has 24 infested lakes and it was first discovered in 2008.

Currently the only means of control are hand pulling, mechanical harvesting, and an herbicide that contains copper and endothall. While this herbicide does appear to limit growth, copper will lie in the bottom of the lake forever with uncertainty of long term effects.

Starry stonewort impacts other plant communities in a lake according to Carli Wagner, who researched starry stonewort in Lake Koronis, Moose Lake and Lake Winnebigoshish.

Koronis, which was the first lake identified with starry stonewort, also has had the most prolific growth. Koronis has a high nutrient level, Moose is a smaller cleaner lake, and Big Winnie is a large windblown lake.

Wagner conducted a long-term study in several areas of each lake. Three years of observations have shown that this alga quickly expands and alters plant communities. This includes an almost 100% kill of existing plants in the populated areas.

Wagner said the best way to find and identify starry stonewort is to look at boat accesses in three to eight feet of water. The algae quickly form a dense "pillow" mat on

	BBLA Balance Sheet	
Assets		Dec. 31, 2019
	Current Assets Total Checking/savings CMCU	128,543.67
	Initiative Foundation Fund Sub-total Assets Property & equipment	40,496.36 169.040.03 35,300.00
	Total Assets with building and land value	204,340.03
Liabilit	y & Equity	
	Buffer Obligations-Strip Agreement	5,949.05
Assets		
	Reserve Aquatic Invasive Species Future Buffer Strips Total Reserve	100,000.00 14,495.72 114,495.72
	Total Long-term Liabilities	120,444.77
	Equity	
	Opening Balance of Equity Retained Earnings Net Income Total Equity	25,233.98 23,404.84 (43.56) 48,595.26
Sub-tot	al Liability & Equity without building/land value	169.040.03
Total lia	ability & Equity with building/land value	204,340.03

the bottom of the lake and may grow to the surface in shallow water. In water six to seven feet, it probably will not grow to the surface. It will have its best growth starting in July and be most easily detected in August up to the middle of September and will continue growing into October.

Wagner recommended snorkeling as an effective way to detect starry stonewort but went on to say that all new populations have been easily seen from the water surface because of where it begins its growth in shallow water.

Kevin Farnum, from Lake Koronis, said starry stonewort has continued to expand on the lake. It now has nearly spread around perimeter. Nothing has been found to kill it or stop its growth. The Koronis lake association is mechanically harvesting to keep it from **AIS Committee** continues on page 7

## Big Birch Lake Ice-over Dates

2019 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014 2013 2012 2011 2010 2009 2008 2007 2006 2005 2004	December 2 November 20 December 7 December 10 December 19 November 21 November 27 December 10 December 6 November 27 December 10 December 7 December 1 December 1 November 30 December 14 November 29
2004 2003	December 14 November 29

# Big Birch Lake Assoc. Sponsors 2019

BURTRUM	Engelmeyer Land Services LLC Dave Engelmeyer
Hub Supper Club Ernie & Ricky Valencia (320) 285-4318 Shady's Golden Fords Per & Grill Lee Margon (320) 285-6707	(320) 256-2798 Heartland Security, Matt Egget (888) 264 6380
Shady's Golden Eagle Bar & Grill Lee Mergen (320) 285-6707	Heartland Security Matt Eggert (888) 264-6380 Joe Helleremann Repair Joe Hellermann (320) 256-7730
FREEPORT	(320)-333-2764
Charlies Café (320) 836-2105	(320)-333-2704
Hennen Lumber Co. Tim Hennen (320) 836-2135	Kemper Excavating Bill Kemper (320) 256-3982
Hennen Floor Covering (320) 836-2217	(320) 250-2068
Sinclair Gas & Grocery David & Lisa Rahn (320) 836-7152	Kraemer Lumber Co. Inc. Barry Meyer (320) 256-4275
CDEW EACHE	
GREY EAGLE	
Benchmark Real Estate Judy Frieler (320) 491-0024 Central Lakes Landscape & Construction Ken Frieler	Karen Molitor-Independent Norwex Karen Molitor
Central Lakes Landscape & Construction Ken Frieler (320) 285-5715	(320) 256-3068 www.karenmolitor.norwex.biz
Central MN Credit Union—Grey Eagle (320) 285-2256	Little Birch Repair Gerald Osendorf (320)267-9350
Central MN Realty Brandon Kelly-Broker (320) 491-6107	Little Bileti Repair Geraid Oscildori (320)207-7330
Chris's Country Store Chris Browen (320) 285-5600	Mayers Excavating Inc. Bob, Mark, & Shawn Mayers
Double "R" Bar & Grill, Bob, Lenore, & Bob II Pallansch	(320) 256-4479
(320) 285-2965	Melrose 1 Stop- Sinclair Station Dave & Lisa Rahn
Eagle Fabricating Tim Ainali (320) 285-2700	(320) 256-3519
Edina Realty Jeff Piersak (320) 250-3825	Melrose Bakery David & Sherry Ostendorf (320) 256-4623
Grey Eagle Electric Inc. Kevin, Nancy, Darrel Bitz	Munson Feeds (320) 256-4219
(320) 285-2626	Rahn's Oil & Propane, Inc Dave & Lisa Rahn
Grey Eagle Gas & Grocery-Sinclair Dave & Lisa Rahn	(320) 256-3680
(320) 285-2336	Scottie's Outdoor Systems & Porta Dock Sales
Guy Waymore's Boat Storage & Music Emporium	Scottie Schiemsing (320)333-6382
Patrick Braegelmann (612) 868-8819	Spaeth Sodding & Landscaping, Inc. Rick Spaeth
Home Town News John & Lori Young (320) 285-2323	(320) 256-4634
Hinman Lawn Service John & Kathy Hinman (320) 285-3811	
Kerzman Construction & Spray – Foam Jeremy & Larry	Steve Schoenberg Construction LLC Steve Schoenberg
Kerzman (320) 285-7785	(320) 250-0674
Vytton Ingymana A concy Michael & Inning Vytton	
Kutter Insurance Agency Michael & Janine Kutter (320) 285 2200	Beth Thieschafer Accounting Ltd
(320) 285-2299	
(320) 285-2299 Lake Country Storage Chuck & Lucy Rieland (320) 527-3419	Beth Thieschafer Accounting Ltd Warrior Boats (320)265-2628
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#### **Big Birch Lake Association Board of Directors** Director Representing Lake Phone **Home Phone** Big Birch Lake Association e-mail address: bbla@meltel.net Ben Ellering, Pres, Area J Director 320-260-1907 Kevin Costello, V Pres. Area C Director 320-249-0472 Craig Tweedale, Treas. Director At Large 608-317-6647 Jay Anderson Area I Director 763-482-1926 Lynn Ersland Area H Director 320-285-2655 Brian Gordon Area F Director 763-443-6902 **Bob Hughes** 615-890-0991 Area G Director 320-285-2712 Deb Johnson Director At Large 320-285-5833 Adrian Johnson Area A Director 952-939-0939 Robert Kutter Director At Large 320-285-5114 Dean Mohs Area D Director 320-285-7155 **Grant Niehaus** Director At Large 320-583-4939 Jeanne Niehaus Director At Large 651-757-7475 Area B Director 320-256-3936 Russ Sieben Larry Welle Area E Director

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PO Box 342

Grey Eagle, Minnesota 56336

Ben Ellering, President

Robert Kutter, Editor E-mail: bbla@meltel.net

Web Site: www.birchlakeassociation.org

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.

AIS Committee continued from page 5 growing to the surface, and it is attempting to keep a path open for boats to unload and load from trailers at the accesses. Farnum was discouraged that nothing new has been developed to help combat the rapid growth.

The most used tool to identify AIS is the rake thrown from shore. All new populations of AIS have been found close to shore.

Phragmites, a perennial wetland grass that grows from three to 20 feet tall is another invasive. It is mostly found in roadside ditches but also along shorelines of lakes. It is spread through rhizome growth. Water treatment plants have used the plant to help evaporate water from their sludge ponds because of its tall growth and ability to grow in water. Unfortunately, it has spread into adjoining land.

Kandiyohi County has five populations. There are no known growths in Stearns or Todd counties. Forty counties have identified it with 435 popula-

tions. If it does get started on a lake shore, it needs to be cut down and burned during the dormant season and then have an herbicide applied during the early growing season the following year. The native phragmite has a red stem that will turn yellow in the fall. The invasive will stay green until frost. To get more information on phragmites go to maisc.umn.edu/phragmites.



A raft of gulls from summer of 2019. **Photo by Robert Kutter** 

## Fishing/Wildlife Committee seeks ways to improve fishing at BBL

The newly renamed Fishing/Wildlife Committee met in December to discuss ways to improve fishing at Big Birch

Lake. The committee is led by BBLA board member Grant Niehaus. Chuck Barth, Steve Thelen. Ralph Mehr, Barry Mever

**Grant Niehaus** 

and Peter Rutherford make up the committee.

A good deal of interest was generated for this committee at last August's annual BBLA meeting.

The primary focus of the first meeting was to discuss ways to improve the walleye fishing in the lake. While the group discussed many ideas, it will first meet with the DNR to discuss what a lake association can and cannot legally do regarding fishing.

Preliminary ideas include stocking walleye fingerlings and how to fund that effort. The committee will first need to understand the DNR's stocking policies, and then consider the baitfish population, natural walleye reproduction in the lake and the protection of a younger class of fish.

If stocking is allowed by a private organization, the group will seek funding, whether to stock fingerlings or fry and how many pounds per acre.

Once the committee has an action plan for walleye fishing it will consider other populations of fish that may need assistance to provide quality fishing.



BIG BIRCH LAKE ASSOCIATION, INC PO BOX 342 GREY EAGLE, MN 56336

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