



Big Birch Lake Association NEWSLETTER



No 143

July, 2021

President's Letter

The weather has been unusually hot and dry so far this summer. The BBLA reminds boaters that the lower level of water means more below the surface objects will require caution in many shallow areas of the lake. You will also want to make sure there is an adequate water level to get your boat off of the boatlift. Surface water evaporates dramatically in hot and dry water.

The BBLA is re-evaluating the buffer strip program that pays farmers to grow plants that retain the soil and prevent runoff along creeks that flow into BBL. It wants to make sure there is improvement in the water quality for the investment the BBLA makes.

Lake residents are reminded they can do their part by planting shorelines with native plants that create a buffer strip on their property as well.

The BBLA is researching the use of a lake weed harvester contractor that homeowners could hire to remove weeds from the water. Under water plant growth has increased as zebra mussels have made lake water more

clear. The DNR permits homeowners to remove weeds for a swimming area proportional to the size of shoreline. Please check the DNR website to get details on how and what can be removed.

As with most businesses and organizations, finding employees is a struggle this summer. Aquatic invasive species monitors are working only on weekends this year at the five accesses where there is summer boat traffic. The BBLA hires additional inspection hours when it knows of a special fishing event for example. This year the BBL Charities, which sponsors the fireworks, hired private security to provide for safety at the lake accesses.

The BBLA reminds all residents of the lake to be respectful of the people employed to monitor lake accesses. They are doing a job that can prevent invasive species from entering BBL. Please ask any guests or visitors to the lake to be respectful as well. The BBLA Board wants everyone to have a safe and pleasant experience on the lake.

Finally, remember to attend the annual meeting on August 21.

Ben Ellering, President

Calendar

BBLA Board Meeting

July 17, 2021

BBL Ladies Luncheon

August 7, 2021

BBLA Annual Meeting

August 21, 2021

BBLA Board Meeting

September 18, 2021

In-person annual meeting Aug. 21 at St. Joseph's

Five BBLA board members will be elected at the annual meeting on August 21, 2021. The board members whose terms expire are Adrian Johnson, Area A; Brian Gordon, Area F; Bob Hughes, Area G; Grant Niehaus, At Large; and Jeanne Niehaus, At Large.

Incumbents who will seek re-election to the board for another three-year term are Johnson, Grant Niehaus and Jeanne Niehaus.

A nominee for election is Mark Erdmann for Area G.

Matt Everding will vacate the At Large director to run for Area F Director held by Brian Gordon who did not seek re-election. Mike Sadlowsky will be appointed to the At Large Director that Everding vacated. In addition, Gary Rothstein is appointed to complete the term of Lynn Ersland, Area H Director. Ersland died last March.

According to the BBLA Bylaws,

"Nominations may be made from the floor at the annual meeting provided that notice of the intent thereof has been given to the president or vice-president of the association or any member of the nominating committee at least 10 days before the annual general membership meeting."

The annual meeting will return to the in person event of the past on August 21. The meeting begins at 8:30 a.m. at St. Joseph's Parish Hall in Grey Eagle. Refreshments are served beginning at 8 a.m. Please invite a neighbor to join you at the annual meeting.

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BIG BIRCH LAKE ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES

GREY EAGLE, MN

August 15, 2020

(Editor's note: Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, no in-person annual meeting was held in August of 2020. The minutes below are from the August 2020 meeting in which board election results were validated from online voting.)

Ben Ellering called the meeting to order at 8:05 AM.

Board of Directors Present –Ben Ellering, Kevin Costello, Craig Tweeddale, Jay Anderson, Brian Gordan, Bob Hughes, Deb Johnson, Bob Kutter, Dean Mohls, Jeanne Niehaus, Grant Niehaus, Russ Sieben and Larry Welle.

Board of Directors Absent- Lynn Ersland and Adrian Johnson.

AGENDA ITEMS

June Meeting Minutes

It was moved that the July 18, 2020 BBLA meeting minutes be approved.

Motion-Jeanne N. 2nd- Russ S. The motion carried.

Annual Meeting Emails

246 BBLA members were sent the emails concerning the BBLA Annual meeting business.

The breakdown of responses is as follows:

34 responses to the increase in Annual Dues vote

28 responses to the Annual Minutes Approval vote

61 responses to Director At Large 1 vote (Deb Johnson was reelected)

53 responses to Director At Large 2 vote (Matt Everding was elected)

49 responses to Director At Large 4 vote (Craig Tweeddale was reelected)

54 responses to Area C Director vote (Kevin Costello was reelected)

46 responses to Area D Director vote (Blake Johnson was elected)

In summary; all proposed Directors (see above) were elected, the 2019 BBLA Annual Meeting Minutes were approved and the proposed increase in BBLA Annual Membership dues (increased from \$35 to \$50) was approved.

Fundraising details

In response to fund-raising efforts for the stocking of Walleye, \$7100 has been received in donations.

There was discussion concerning future accounting of fund-raising efforts. In response a Finance Committee was established to address these concerns. Ben E., Craig T., Larry W. and Kevin C. all agreed to serve on this committee.

Elections

Newly elected BBLA Directors will be in attendance at the next BBLA Board meeting. At this time BBLA Officer elections will occur.

Volunteer appreciation

In lieu of a volunteer appreciation dinner, gift certificates will be presented to BBLA volunteers. A list of said volunteers will be established. It was moved that gift certificates from Double R, All-Stars and The Rock be issued to an approved list of volunteers.

Motion-Jeanne N. 2nd- Grant N. The motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Water Quality Grant Niehaus

Grant has added additional inlets to the testing process.

Annual Meeting Minutes continue on page 9

Obituary of Lake Resident

Dolores F. "Derry" Anderson, age 91 of Grey Eagle, formerly of Minnetonka, was called home to be with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Thursday, April 29, 2021 at the CentraCare Center in Melrose, Minnesota.

A celebration of Derry's life was held June 12 at the Grey Eagle United Methodist Church. A private internment was held in Lakewood Cemetery in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Derry was a devoted wife, wonderful mother and faithful servant of the Lord. Derry and her husband, Wess served faithfully with the Billy Graham Telephone Ministry for several years. Derry also served as the Chairman of Widow's Mite Foundation. In addition, Derry loved to entertain and spend quality time with family and friends. The "hug lady" will be greatly missed by many and was welcomed by the Lord most certainly hearing: "Well done good and faithful servant."

Survivors include her son Jay; daughter Karen (Bruce) Trantham, grandchildren Kimi, Kari Jauch and Amy Rask; several nieces and nephews; good friends, Darlene Lester, Katherine Meredith, Theresa Pansch, and several other beloved friends.

Derry was preceded in death by her husband of 53 years, Wess; parents; sister Virginia Bitner, brother, Edward Alexander, sister-in-law, Arlene Brenton; niece, Judy; great-nephew, David; and very dear friend LaVerne Schaefer.

Memorial are preferred to the Widow's Mite Foundation.

Arrangements were made with the Patton –Schad Funeral & Cremation Services of Melrose.

New director appointed for Area H

Gary Rothstein was appointed by the BBLA Board to fill the open position previously held by Lynn Ersland for area H. Ersland died in March 2021.

Lynn Ersland had a passion for staying abreast of the AIS issues affecting the lake and felt Gary would be a great candidate for continuing his efforts.

Gary and his wife Ruth raised their family in St. Martin, MN. Rothstein was an implement dealer for 34 years and insurance broker for 10. He and Ruth now look

forward to making memories on the lake with family and friends.

Questions pertaining to Area H can be directed to Gary at 320-290-7818.



At one time, BBL had seven resorts

How many do you remember?

In the early 20th Century, a few resorts were built on Big Birch Lake to accommodate tourists and vacationers. People who visited the lake prior to and even after the establishment of resorts, often stayed overnight at lakeside farms where they could use the farm's boat to go fishing. They paid the farmer for rent of the boat and overnight accommodations and meals, in other words, an early form of "bed and breakfast."

Before automobiles and roads, the tourists arrived by train in Grey Eagle or Ward Springs and were transported to the lakes by horse and buggy. A building that was a horse stall still stands on a Sandy Beach property according to Teresa Tomsche.

If traveling from the Twin Cities, people would take the train to Little Falls and then board the Northern Pacific train that ran between Little Falls and Morris, with a depot in Grey Eagle and another in Ward Springs.

Art Blackhurst was the first depot agent in Grey Eagle, and he saw the opportunity for a resort business. He opened the Farview Resort on the north shore of BBL in 1925.

The Blackhurst resort, however, was not the first one on the lake. John Buckley built Buckley's Sunset Beach Resort in 1911 on the south side of the lake. Buckley left the area in 1934 to live in Chicago with his sons. He died there in 1940.

The Sunset Beach Resort is the only remaining resort on the lake today and is operated by the Schiemann family.

There were several other resorts established on the lake in the 20th Century and what follows are mostly my recollections of them. In subsequent columns, I will explore more of their individual histories.

The Hillcrest Resort was located just south of the Rock Tavern on County Road #47. The Nestle Inn Resort on the point that leads to Hammarsten Island was first established by the Turner family, who also owned a cabin on the island. Einum's Camp was next to the Nestle Inn facing south on the lower bay. St. Rose Resort, just north of Hoffman Bay was another resort with a few different

names over time, and finally Nohner's Resort on a west shore of the lower bay.

Ren Holland hosts a website about historic resorts of Minnesota. Here are a couple of quotes from his website about the Farview Resort.

Nancy E. Eiben said, "My grandparents, Edwin and Gertrude Eiben, owned and ran the resort from my teen years through my twenties. I am now 66 and still long for the days at the cabin, watching the boats, swimming in the lake and having wonderful family get-togethers.

Raised in Omaha, Nebraska, we used to visit them when they owned a farm in Audubon, Iowa, before they bought the resort, but nothing compared to spending time with them at the lake.

I moved to Saint Paul, Minnesota, 22 years ago but lately have a constant itch to go back to Grey Eagle and see the old place and the wonderful Big Birch Lake. Many wonderfully happy memories!"

Harold Bisel said, "We lived in an upstairs apartment in the "Hotel" in 1952."

The Hillcrest Resort was the smallest of the resorts with just three or four cabins for overnight accommodations.



The Sunset Beach Resort is the oldest and only remaining resort on BBL. It is owned and operated by the Schiemann family.

The Stoner family was the last to own the resort which went out of business in the late 1970's. The property was sold off in individual lots.

The Nestle Inn Resort had the advantage of having both a north and south facing beach. While the north beach had a rocky shore, the south side had a hard sand bottom great for swimming.



Kutter's Column

John Nestle purchased the resort from the Turners and renamed it the Nestle Inn. The last owner was the Wright family, who operated the resort for many years. Walter Wright, son of the owner, retains one of the cabins from the resort. When the Wrights retired from the business, the resort properties were sold to individuals, often people who had been long time renters of summer cabins.

Next door to the Nestle Inn to the east was Bert's (Einum) Camp. I vaguely remember the Einums. Bert and his wife established the resort as a popular fishing destination. Some of the original buildings remain standing.

Einum's sold to Vessie Rose who ran it as Vessie's Resort for many years. In the early 1970's, it was purchased by the Johnson family, and it still owns the property, which was operated for a short time as The LaFayette Resort. The name came from the hotel in North Dakota the Johnson's parents had owned.

Just north of Hoffman Bay was another resort that I remember as The Saint Rose Resort but know it had another name before that. Today it known as Baywatch but has not been a resort for many years.

Finally, I remember Nohner's Resort (Weckwerth's) on the lower bay near Kraker's Point. One outstanding thing about it was the dockside filling station. You could drive your boat to the dock and fill up your gas tank.

All of the resorts have histories that will be detailed in future columns. They serve as a reminder of life at the lake that has receded into the past. Yet, those resort were an important development of BBL lakeshore.

No matter where or when you began your relationship to BBL, heaven seems closer in a house beside the water.

Take survey on bag limits of bluegills, walleyes

The BBLA Fishing and Wildlife Committee in conjunction with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources would like your feedback regarding fishing in Big Birch Lake.

We are trying to gauge interest from anglers who fish BBL to see if people are in favor of changing the bag limits of bluegill (sunfish) and walleyes.

The belief is that changing these bag limites will help protect and improve the numbers and size of bluegill and walleye.

Please tke the survey via clicking on the link posted on the BBLA website (bigbirchlakeassociation.org) or by going to the BBLA Facebook page and clicking on the link in the relevant posting. An email blast will also be sent to

BBLA member encouraging them to take the survey. It is noted that one response from a specific email address will be recorded.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Grant Niehaus,
BBLA Fishing/Wildlife Committee Chair

Big Birch Lake Association Board of Directors

Director	Representing	Lake Phone	Home Phone
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
Gary Rothstein	Area H Director		320-290-7818
Matt Everding	Director At Large		320-492-5902
Brian Gordon	Area F Director		763-443-6902
Bob Hughes	Area G Director	320-285-2712	615-890-0991
Blake Johnson	Area D Director		612-910-3871
Deb Johnson	Director At Large		320-285-5833
Adrian Johnson	Area A Director		952-939-0939
Grant Niehaus	Director At Large		320-583-4939
Jeanne Niehaus	Director At Large		651-757-7475
Russ Sieben	Area B Director		320-256-3936
Larry Welle	Area E Director		320 894 6695

Big Birch Lake Association e-mail address: bbla@meltel.net

The Big Birch Lake Newsletter is an official publication of the Big Birch Lake Association, Inc.

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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.

Plant sampling volunteers train

By Deb Johnson

Aquatic plant sampling volunteers were trained by BBLA board director, Deb Johnson, on June 17 at the BBLA office in Grey Eagle.

The training and review session included a lakeside "field trip" to view many of the actual plants.

The purpose of the BBLA 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 its attention on them.

Again, this year, there are two teams assigned to each lake access for a total of 22 volunteers. Eighteen access weed volunteers returned to the program for another summer along with four new volunteers.

Each team of volunteers samples the plants at their access once a month from June through September and reports the results. Since there are two teams working each lake access, each one is examined twice a month for invasive weeds like starry stonewort and Eurasian water milfoil.

The BBLA thanks the access-monitoring volunteers who attended the training session and to everyone who is volunteering their time this summer.



BBLA Board Director, Deb Johnson, trained volunteers about vegetation in the lake. Johnson co-chairs the Aquatic Invasive Species Committee. Photo by Jeanne Niehaus.

“Crazy Schwartz boys” memories of growing up at Big Birch

*Editor's Note: This history of the Schwartz family on BBL was intended for the 2007 book, **The History of Big Birch Lake**, but didn't get submitted in time. The story is told by Richard Schwartz.*

The Schwartz family story at Big Birch Lake began in 1946 when my parents, Reeves and Harriet Schwartz purchased property on Elmwood Beach on the south side of the lake. The previous owner was Claude Robins.

Reeves grew up in Melrose, the second son of Nick and Mary Schwartz. Nick was an engineer with the Great Northern Railroad. Reeves would hike to BBL to go fishing, and that is where the love of BBL began.

Reeves served as a Chief Petty Officer in the Navy during WWII. He then moved his family to Dayton, Ohio, where he was the head of the physical education department at the University of Dayton. Every summer the family loaded up a trailer and headed for “the cabin” on BBL for the summer.

The first summer was spent in a single car garage. Water came from a hand pump on a sand point halfway down the hill toward the lake. Other facilities were an outhouse and porcelain pot for the night time. We used rain barrels to catch water for laundry. A wood burning stove was used for cooking and heat. My older brother was three and I was two at that time.

Early on we became friends with the Meinz's and Wilhelms. We made slingshots and learned how to shoot everything except our cottage windows. We played mumbly peg with our hunting knives, lots of cards on rainy days or listened to mystery programs on the radio. Late at night we often played “kick the can” in Penny Meinz’s backyard.

An event in 1951 almost ended our lake history early. On July 12, 1951, my Dad took Steve, 9 and me 7, fishing in our sheet metal boat with a 9 1/2 hp Martin motor. We were out in the middle of the lake trolling for walleye when one of those flash storms rolled in with three to four foot waves with no chance to get to shore.

The boat swamped and Dad kept us together hanging on to us with three life preserver boat cushions. Elmer Meinz and the Wihelms finally rescued us after three hours in the water bobbing around like corks.

Days were often spent on day-long fishing ventures in our 12-foot Sea Nymph boat with a 5hp motor. On one occasion, Steve, Henry Wilhelm and I went on a week-long camping trip to Sliter Island. We fished, hunted frogs and even tried frog legs one night on an open fire.

One day we took our boat exploring the creek to Little Birch Lake and on down to Lake Sylvia to Adley Creek and back. We dreamed of continuing on all the way to New Orleans.

On one of the nights, we woke up to open air in our faces. Tommy Arvig had brought Dave Sieben and some of his friends to visit our campsite. They thought it would be fun to tip over the tent on us. After a few laughs, they left us to redo the tent.

Many Saturday nights we were entertained by the Wilhelm’s summer parties that included their beautiful daughter MaryLou playing the accordion and singing.

As summer went on, we spent much time swimming to our swim raft and just hanging out. As the summer got longer, we kids looked for things to keep us busy. That is when we got the ideas to try to ride something behind our father’s fishing boat with a 10 hp Johnson. We tied a rope on an old wooden ironing board and went at it. The lack of horsepower made us improvise. We added a pine board on either side of the ironing board and “eureka,” we were on top of the water. After seeing how much fun we had with that, Dad showed up with our first pair of water skis. I’m not sure, but I think Steve, Henry and I were the first to water ski on the lake about 1952. Over the years, we went through many transitions of motors and boats. We skied often with the neighbor’s boat and our new friend Betsy Joyce.

As kids we were always enamored with Am Welle’s Falls Flyer. We would always run to the top of the hill to watch the “bullet boat” as Welle drove by. We eventually replaced our Alumacraft boat damaged in a storm with our own Falls Flyer.

We continued to stretch the limits of what we did with our love of water-skiing. We did one ski, shoe skis, trick skis, (banana peels) and we even tried ski jumping.

Roger Weckwerth built a ski jump at his resort. We saw it and went by and

sprayed water on it. Then each of us went over the jump several times but never did it again. The jump was soon removed. They probably figured the jump was too big of a liability with guys like us around.

We used to hike the “Indian Trail” around the lake to Weckwerth’s to swim and dive off of the diving tower. After swimming, we got a Nut Goody and RC Cola before we had a few games of horseshoe. Then we would hike back home.

One of the craziest memories at the lake was the day a visitor down the beach with a new plywood boat and 10 hp Johnson was thrown out of the boat. The boat circled in the middle of the lake at full speed. It would have just kept circling until it ran out of gas had it not been for 80 year-old Herman Schulz coming across the lake with his wife in his boat powered by a 3 hp Johnson. Wouldn’t you know it, he ran right into the circling boat. I don’t think Herman even knew he hit it. The hit sent the unmanned craft circling closer to shore until it hit and ended up perched on Wilhelm’s dock running full bore.

Our younger brother John and sister Mary had similar experiences at BBL. My brother Seve and I now own the original property. We built a new cabin in 1996 after earning the reputation as the “crazy Schwartz boys,” that burned down the old cabin.

I sometimes long for the old simpler times before we all got so “civilized.” These are just a few of our memories of Big Birch Lake. We wish for all of you to have as many fond memories of BBL as we do.

Richard (Dick) Schwartz

MEMBERSHIP AS OF JUNE 21ST 2021

Althaus, Kurt & Lori	Gerads, Dale & Mary Lou	Linz, Curtis & Mary	Roehrl, Joe & Margaret
Anderson, Jay & Derry	Gerding, Dewayne & Alvina	Lloyd, Karen	Rothstein, Gary & Ruth
Anderson, Stephen & Lisa	Gerner, Robert & Charlene	Loehr, Jim & Renee	Roy, Barbara
Anderson, Todd & Debbie	Good, Tiernan	Louden, Sarah	Rudolph, Jerry & Deb
Anderson, Warren	Gordon, Brian J	Mack, Murray & Sue	Russell, Jim & Mindy
Andrews, Mike & Jackie	Grossman, Jim & Jan	Malm, Scott	Rutherford, Peter & Lourel
Arulfo, Michelle	Grutsch, John & Jan	Martland, Richard & Marge Anderson	Rutherford, Tyler & Amy
Atkinson, Dan & Jan	Hammerstrom, Malia	Matchinsky, James & Roselynn	Sadlowsky, Mike & Vicki
Atwood, Duane	Hatton, Rene & LuAnn	Mattson, Amy	Sand, Daniel & Mary
Auger, John & Karen	Heisick, Rosemary	Mauseth, Adrea	Savage, William & Sharon
Austing, April	Helget, Ron & Becky	McConnell, David & Ann	Schanhaar, Tom & Deb
Austing, Dick & Jane	Henderson, John & Mary	Mehr, Mike & Lori	Schiemann, Charles & Ellie
Beckermann, Fran & Linda	Hendrickson, David & Colette	Mehr, Ralph & Mary Ann	Schiffler, Dean & Carla
Beekhuizen, Steven & Julie	Hennemann, Kitty	Meyer, Barry	Schmid, Judith
Benolken, Sue	Hess, Herb & Mary Kay	Meyer, Glenn & Dianne	Schmid, Ted & Julie
Berg, Dwaine & Louise	Hinnenkamp, Ben & Pam	Meyer, Juel	Schmidt, Thomas & Joann
Berg, Ken & Bev	Hinnenkamp, Hollis & Mary Jo	Meyer, Ken & Sherry	Schmitt, Nicholas
Beste, Thomas & Julie	Hoffman, Dan & Janell	Meyer, Roy	Schnettler, Edmund
Beuning, James & Judine	Holthaus, Ken	Meyer, Virg & Joyce	Schnettler, John & Jan
Blommel Family	Howe, Michael & Jeanne	Middendorf, Fred & Amber	Schnettler, Mike & Deb
Blommel, Leroy & Marilyn	Hughes, Bob & Sally	Miley, Rod & Nancy	Schwantes, Mike & Amy
Boecker, Elmer & Juliana	Hughes, Tim & Kristine	Mische, Hans & Julie	Schwartz, Richard
Bohlig, Silverius	Humbert, Rick & Lois	Moening, Lee & Judy	Schwartz, Stephen & Joan
Bomstad, Gary	Huseby, Robert	Mohr, Richard & Marilyn	Schwieters, Charles & Beatrice
Braegelman, Pat & Sandy	Ingold, Kirk & Mandi	Mohs, Dean & Sandy	Sexton Family Cabin
Brattensborg, Ruth	Ingold, Linnea	Molitor, Chick & Karen	Shafer, Tom & Bonnie
Brixius, Bernie & Lisa	Iverson, Ron & Jennifer	Molitor, Jon	Sieben, Kevin & Beth Thieschafer
Broman, Raleigh & Ruth	Jacobsen, James & Marjorie	Moser, Helen	Sieben, Russell & Mary
Brunner, Paul & Lauri	Jansen, Jeff & Teri	Mueller, Jerry	Silbernagel, John & Marie
Bruyere, James Jr	Jepperson, Craig & Mary	Nathe, Mark & Ann	Sinclair, James & Carolyn
Bullock, Lou & Debbie	Jeske, Nancy	Nathe, Mike & Laura	Sinclair, Ken & Jan
Bushman, Wayne	Johnson, Adrian & Kay	Neibling, Tim & Sue	Sorenson, Larry & Loanne
Bussmann, Scott & Andrea	Johnson, Craig & Debra	Neville, Steve	Spanier, Eric & Jana
Butte, Rick	Johnson, Dale & Janet	Niehaus, Anthony & Carol	Spears (Moening), Heather
Campbell, Mel & Sherry	Kadri, Abdu & Janice	Niehaus, Bob & Deb	Starfield, Glenn & Katy
Carlson, Allen & Shirley	Kalgren, Rick & Ann	Niehaus, Grant	Steinbring, John & Sandy
Carpenter, Todd & Laura	Kappes, Mike & Jannie	Niehaus, Jeanne	Stomberg, Chuck & Nancy
Carstens, James & Brenda	Kaufman, Robert & Josephine	Niehaus, John & Mary	Strack, Robert & Laurie
Casper, Paul & Deb	Kelly, Brandon & Becky	Nohner, Kevin & Mary	Tembrock, Henry & Marion
Caspers, John & Allyson	Kemper, Jeff & Linda	Nohner-Black, John	Thelen, Steve & Amy
Cavello, Amy	Kennedy, Dennis & Holly	Orth, David & Linda	Thielen, Marvin & Judy
Cebuhar, Charles & Mary	Kerfeld, Art & Rosie	Osendorf, Phil & Gail	Thompson, Rod & Sally
Chirhart, James & Juanita	Kerfeld, Cheryl	Osendorf, Rosemary	Timmermann, John
Chmielewski, Daniel & Barb	Kerfeld, Donald & Diane	Ostendorf, Lenore	Tomsche, David & Molly
Claussen, Kim	Kerfeld, Glenn	Ostendorf, Mark & Lisa	Tomsche, Dr. Ed & Theresa
Collins, Joyce	Kirchner, Gerald & Jonelle	Ostrem, Justin & Amy	Trierweiler, Corey & Julie
Collins, Margaret	Klaphake, Deb	Pakola, Howard & Barbara	Trulson, Kent & Loretta
Costello, Kevin & Ann	Klaphake, Florian & Doreen	Patch, Bruce & Johanna	Tschida, Stewart & Amy
Coulson, Brad & Jane	Klapperich, John & Suzy	Pelo, Rod & Phyllis	Tschida, Wayne & JoAnn
Damrow, Paul & June	Klasen, Kyle & Stacy	Peterson, Dr Thomas & Virginia	Tweedale, Craig & Mary Lou
Davis, Scott & Marjo	Klasen, Vern & Marlene	Phillips, Rev Roger & Rosemary	Uphoff, Jim & Lee
Denne, Marv & Mary Beth	Klocker, Barb	Piersak, Jeff & Kim	Van Beck, Chad
Dindorf, Don	Kloos, Mike & Becky	Piersak, Thomas	VanDrehle, Donald & Helen
Dobesh, Jeff & Jill	Kluempke, David	Pladson, Dr & Mrs Terence	Vener, Mike & Kim
Dougherty, Tim	Kluempke, Jim & Cathy	Plombon, Roger & Gloria	Waldorf, Bernadine
Dubiel, Marvin & Pam	Koch, Bob & Connie	Poganski, Rock & Marcia	Waldvogel, Dennis
Duevel, Jerome & Kim	Kotsmith, Randall & Karen	Powers, Robert & Kathleen	Walker, Tom
Elfering Family, Evely	Kotsmith, Terry & Sharon	Provinzino, Chuck & Jannine	Walters, George & Sue
Elieff, Daniel & Julie	Krig, Gary & Peggy	Pudlick, Gerald & Sheila	Wander, Dave & Joan
Engel, Greg & Susan	Kuehne, Robert	Pundsack, Craig & Lisa	Ward, Rick & Missy
Enneking, Gene & Cheryl	Kunkel, Phil & Rose	Rahn, Dave & Lisa	Warnert, Ron & Lee Meyer
Enright, John & Kay	Kutter, Robert & Nancy	Rasmussen, Steve & Sandy	Weinman, Roger & Constance
Erickson, Russell	Kutter, Ryan & Jenny	Reed, Beverly	Weitzel, John & Mary
Ersland, Mary Kay	Kutter, Wayne & Sherry	Refsland, Curt & Mary	Weitzel, Michael & Jean
Everding, Matt & Missy Kotzer	Kyllo, John & Carole	Richardson, David & Anna	Welle, Larry & Rose
Eveslage, Steve & Sarah	Lafayette Resort	Richie, Betty	Wiebolt, Bernard
Falk, Jeremy & Jennifer	Langer, Denise	Richie, Paul	Wolters, Ronald & Kathy Hinnenkamp
First, Pete & Nicole	Larson, Brandon & Debi	Rieger, Joel & Pamela	Wright, Thomas & Sara Roberts
Flaws, Michael & Marilyn	Larson, Gayle & Karen Lemons	Rieland, Chuck & Lucy	Zaborski, Tom & Julia
Fox, Thomas & Laurie	Larson, Max & Brenda	Rieland, Matt & Shari	Zachman, Jeff & Linda
Frerichs Frank, Jane	Lemieux, BJ & Rachel	Rieland, Mike & Mary	Zackoski, Michael & Kimberly
Freudenrich, Jeremy & Holly	Lieder, William & Renee	Rieland, Shirley	Zaczkowski, Marie
Gagne, Bob & Christine	Lilligren, Kirk & Cathy	Ritter, Greg & Barb	Zenzen, Art & Marilyn
Gallagher, Pat & Caryn	Lind, James & Maryellen	Rivisto, John & Deb	Zimmer, Chris & Sarah
Gangl, Dale	Lind, Kevin	Roe, John & Janet	Zimmerman, Lowell & Kris

May roadside cleanup successful

A successful BBLA sponsored roadside cleanup was held May 1, 2021.

Led by board director, Brian Gordon, the group of volunteers cleaned up lake area roadsides and collected over 20 bags of trash.

Gordon and the BBLA Board thanks all volunteers, and organizers plan on doing it again next year. They also thank Opatz Recycling for disposal.

Big Birch Lake Association Balance Sheet As of May 31, 2021

May 31, 21

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

1005 · Checking-CMCU	5,697.95
1010 · Share Account-CMCU	35.90
1015 · My Goal Savings	2,816.67
1020 · Money Markey-CMCU	26,280.33
1050 · Cert of Deposit-12 Month #1	110,495.90
1055 · Cert of Deposit-12 Month #2	10,577.72

Total Checking/Savings

155,904.47

Other Current Assets

1080 · Initiative Foundation Fund	48,946.43
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Total Other Current Assets

48,946.43

Total Current Assets

204,850.90

Fixed Assets

1200 · Building & Land	35,300.00
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Total Fixed Assets

35,300.00

TOTAL ASSETS

240,150.90

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Long Term Liabilities

2500 · Buffer Obligations-Strip Agreem	5,949.05
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2550 · Reserve

2551 · Aquatic-Invasive Species	100,000.00
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2552 · Future Buffer Strips	14,495.72
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Total 2550 · Reserve

114,495.72

Total Long Term Liabilities

120,444.77

Total Liabilities

120,444.77

Equity

3990 · Unrestricted Net Assets	81,266.62
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Net Income	38,439.51
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Total Equity

119,706.13

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY

240,150.90



Above, Bill and Renee Lieder picked up roadside garbage along the east side of the lake.

Pictured to the right, Lane Gordon, Brian Gordon, Trace Gordon and Eli Berg were at the Rock parking lot ready to begin work on roadside cleanup.





SATURDAY, AUGUST 7TH, 2021

BIG BIRCH LAKE LADIES BRUNCH

THE HISTORIC ROCK TAVERN

SOCIAL HOUR AT 10 A.M. & BRUNCH AT 11 A.M.

Loaded egg bake, fresh fruit, yogurt parfaits, donuts & coffee.

\$16 Gratuities & Taxes Included
CASH BAR AVAILABLE

Please dress for outdoor patio
Brunch is planned for
patio and lower level area



Please use easy registration online www.bigbirchlakeassociation.org
or make check payable to **Big Birch Lake Association**. Return
registration with payment by **July 31st** to: Big Birch Lake Association
P.O. Box 342
Grey Eagle, MN 56336

Enter name(s) of whom you are paying for:

Name: _____ Name: _____

Name: _____ Name: _____

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PLATINUM

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GOLD

Freeport State Bank	Freeport
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Outdoor News Inc.	Plymouth



SILVER

Freeport Gas & Grocery-Sinclair	Freeport
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Edina Realty-Jeff Piersak	St. Cloud
Arnzen Construction Inc	St Rosa
RJ's Country Store LLC	St Rosa
St. Rosa Lumber Inc.	St Rosa



BRONZE

All Stars Sports Bar & Grill	Freeport
Hennen Floor Covering Inc	Freeport
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Benchmark Real Estate-Judy Frieler	Grey Eagle
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Plumbing on the Side	Grey Eagle
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Melrose Bakery	Melrose
Norwex - Karen Molitor (320) 249-8000	Melrose
Centre Powersports & Marine	Sauk Centre
K&R Tax Service LLC DBA H&R Block	Sauk Centre

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Annual Meeting Minutes *continued from page 2*

Due to increasing phosphorus readings at Hoffman's Bay, additional steps are being taken to address the situation.

July Secchi Readings as follows: North basin 10.2' and lower basin 17.4'.

2. Aquatic Invasive Species Control Deb Johnson/ Lynn Ersland

There were some reported incidents between inspectors and BBLA visitors during the 4th of July Fireworks display.

Weed sampling at public accesses is on schedule. There have been 19 samplings to date: North basin and State Park accesses 5 times each, Hunter's Bay access 6 times and Stearns County access 3 times.

State-wide Starry Stonewort training is today.

3. Building/Equipment Committee Brian Gordon

BBLA office temperature is set at 78 degrees and the fan has been set to run.

4. Wildlife Habitats and Fisheries Grant Niehaus

See above discussion on fund-raising activities.

It has been suggested that we reach out to the DNR for future sampling efforts.

There have been discussions concerning Bluegill bag limits.

5. Lake and Area Safety Russ Sieben

Funds to proceed with buoy chain replacements are needed.

It was moved that a budget not to exceed \$200 be approved for said chain replacement.

Motion-Dean M. 2nd- Grant N. The motion carried.

6. Lake Area Improvements NO REPORT Brian Gordan

7. Finance Craig Tweedale

Presently the BBLA has \$12,500 available to meet future operating costs.

Craig T. addressed potential BBL study which it is hoped that a grant will be obtained to cover the \$75,000 cost. \$1,000 (\$500 to be covered by the SRWD) is required to determine viability of applying for the above mentioned grant. The following email from Sarah Jo Boser of the SRWD provides the necessary details:

Good Afternoon Craig and Connie –

I had a conference call with our in-house engineering firm (Houston Engineering) yesterday regarding the Comprehensive Lake Management Study for Big Birch Lake. They have quite a bit of experience with this type of work, and recently hired a former water quality lab employee who specialized in this type of study work (she also has some other ideas for funding that we are looking into!). She had some great ideas when we spoke yesterday, and I have included some links below of examples of the items we could develop through this process. In talking with the Houston staff, it sounds like we could expect several deliverables:

1. A comprehensive management plan document
 - a. Clearly defined goals for the lake association
2. Outreach materials with room for innovative ways of displaying and/or distributing the information (video, brochures for realtors, etc.)

My thought here is that if you like the examples that Houston provided, and, depending on their estimate, felt comfortable moving forward with using them as a consultant for the project, we may be able to save some time and money by eliminating the search process. If you would still prefer to go out for a bid that is more than ok, just let me know.

To give us an educated estimate, Houston would like to spend some time evaluating the available information. This would allow them to do several things:

1. Identify existing data gaps and estimate cost for collecting the data necessary to fill those gaps
2. Develop a table that would summarize references that are currently available, as well as the information that could be gleaned from each reference
3. Ideas for outreach materials

This work could be completed for less than \$1,000. Is this a cost that the lake association would be willing/able to split with the SRWD?

I would like to keep this project moving forward, and would like to bring some of this information to my Board to do so. If you could write/type a letter to our Board, I would greatly appreciate it. In the letter, please include the following information:

1. A brief summary of the project we are working on together

Annual Meeting Minutes *continue on page 10*



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

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2. An explanation about why you approached the SRWD for assistance, and what kind of assistance you are looking for (staff guidance, financial, etc)

If you have questions on this or would like additional information, please let me know. Below are the links I referenced earlier in this email:

<https://www.crowwing.us/DocumentCenter/View/17677/Whitefish-Lake-Plan>

<https://www.crowwing.us/DocumentCenter/View/15751/PineRiver1W1PSummary-of-Draft?bidId=>

This one is an 11x17 sheet that you would print double-sided and fold in half:

<https://mfiles.wildricewatershed.org/files/1W1P%20Materials/Plan%20Summary.pdf>

It was moved that the BBLA approve \$500 be spent to gather information to apply for a BBL Study grant partnering with the Sauk River Watershed District.

Motion-Bob H. 2nd- Russ S. The motion carried.

8. Publicity- (Newsletter)

Bob Kutter

Five Big Birch Lake History books were sold at R J's Country Store in St. Rosa.

Please continue to send information/articles for the BBLA Newsletter and Facebook page to Bob K. following his departure from the BBLA Board. He will continue to provide deadline dates for said publications.

Jeanne N. has agreed to serve as a liaison between the BBLA Board and Bob K.

September 25th is the deadline for the next BBLA Newsletter.

9. Grants/Donations

See above discussion.

10. Membership Committee NO REPORT Kevin Costello

11. Governance/President NO REPORT

VP, Treasure

A final note of heartfelt thanks to those departing BBLA Board members and their efforts.

Adjournment 10:23AM

Website: www.bigbirchlakeassociation.org

Submitted: Jay Anderson

Next Board Meeting – September 19, 2020