

No 144

October, 2021

President's Letter

Calendar

BBLA Board Meeting
October 16, 2021

Thanks to everyone who attended the annual meeting back on August 21. You elected the following to the board of directors.

Area A: Adrian Johnson

Area F: Matt Everding

Area G: Mark Erdmann

Area H: Jeanne Niehaus

At Large 3: Grant Niehaus

At Large 5: Mike Sadlowsky

Our gratitude goes to retiring members Bob Hughes and Brian Gordon and our appreciation goes to Mark Erdmann and Mike Sadlowsky for stepping up to run for office.

The following slate of officers for the BBLA Board was elected at the September board meeting.

President-Ben Ellering

Vice President-Kevin Costello

Treasurer-Craig Tweedale

We have come to the end of the boating season, and I want to thank all of the volunteers who tested water, read Sechi disks and did weed sampling at all of the accesses. Your time and effort is a big part of the association's

effort to keep invasive plants and animals out of the water.

Read the list the of volunteers and if you see any one in your neighborhood, thank him or her for their contribution the BBLA.

If you like to fish on BBL, please take the time to complete the bag limit survey for sunfish and walleye on BBL at the association's website. There is also a fishing story about BBL reprinted from the Outdoor News you won't want to miss in this issue of the newsletter.

President
Ben Ellering



Find us on:
facebook®

BBLA needs volunteers

The BBLA is in need of a volunteers to help at various positions.

Newly elected director, Mike Sadlowsky, is the only person doing ortho phosphorus sampling. The BBLA needs at least one more person to help with sampling according to Grant Niehaus who chairs the Water Quality Committee.

Since the sampling is usually done the next day after it rains, the volunteer needs to be someone that lives locally. "Please reach out to your family and friends around the lake to see if anyone is interested?" said Niehaus.

With Jim Kleumpke's passing, the board found two volunteers to take over the loon count next spring, Bob Goerner and Bob Gagne.

The association is always on the lookout for volunteers to take Secchi readings on the lake. This is an easy and not very time-consuming

task. If you know anyone who would be interested in this as well, please let me know," said Grant Niehaus.

Also, Director Niehaus asks that you take the bag limit fishing survey on the BBLA website (bigbirchlakeassociation.org) and click on the green button.

The BBLA Fishing and Wildlife Committee in conjunction with the MN DNR would like to get your feedback in regards to the fishing in BBL. 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 in BBL. The belief is that changing these bag limits will help protect and improve the numbers and size of bluegill and walleye in BBL. Please take the survey via clicking on the link posted on the BBLA website (bigbirchlakeassociation.org)

Inside this issue:

Association Balance sheet	2
Kutter's Column	3
Association Membership	6
Contributing Sponsors	7
Area Director's Map	9

Obituary of lake resident

James, 'Jim' Kluempke, age 78 of Grey Eagle, passed away Sat., Aug. 7, 2021 at his home on Big Birch Lake surrounded by his wife and children after a short but brave battle with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease).

James Joseph Kluempke was born Jan. 16, 1943 in Melrose, MN to Joseph and Mary (Gieske) Kluempke. He served in the U.S. Army from 1961 to 1964, stationed in Munich, Germany. On July 12, 1969 he married Catherine Mohs at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Melrose.

After their marriage, they moved to Columbia Heights where they made their home for 49 years. Jim worked in the liquor and wine industry his entire working career. He was employed with Ed Phillips & Sons of Minneapolis/Johnson Brothers of St. Paul.

Two years ago, Jim and Cathy moved to Grey Eagle to their lake home on Big Birch Lake.

Survivors include his wife, Cathy Kluempke, Grey Eagle; children, Keith (Cindy) Kluempke, Sauk Rapids, Karla (Gary) Mortensen, Albany, and Kirk (Allison) Kluempke, Brooklyn Park; grandchildren, Nolan and Owen Kluempke, and Kane Mortensen; siblings, Dave Kluempke, Big Birch Lake -Melrose, Nona (Larry) Knoblach, Plymouth, Dick (Rosemary) Kluempke, Portland, OR; sister-in-law, Carol Kluempke, Portland, OR, Tom (Judy) Kluempke, Melrose, Pat (Tracy) Kluempke, Stillwater, George (Eva) Kluempke, Big Watab Lake - Cold Spring.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Joe Kluempke Jr; and sister-in-law, Ann Kluempke. Memorials are preferred to ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) Foundation.

BBLA Financial Balance Sheet

	Aug 31, 21	Aug 31, 20
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
1005 · Checking-CMCU	1,226.89	1,866.75
1010 · Share Account-CMCU	35.90	35.90
1015 · My Goal Savings	4,032.98	4,036.67
1020 · Money Markey-CMCU	20,983.67	8,119.20
1050 · Cert of Deposit-12 Month #1	110,704.91	109,790.76
1055 · Cert of Deposit-12 Month #2	10,592.39	10,501.62
Total Checking/Savings	147,576.74	134,350.90
Other Current Assets		
1080 · Initiative Foundation Fund	49,864.73	40,169.03
1499 · Undeposited Funds	100.00	0.00
Total Other Current Assets	49,964.73	40,169.03
Total Current Assets	197,541.47	174,519.93
Fixed Assets		
1200 · Building & Land	35,300.00	35,300.00
Total Fixed Assets	35,300.00	35,300.00
TOTAL ASSETS	232,841.47	209,819.93
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Long Term Liabilities		
2550 · Reserve		
2551 · Aquatic-Invasive Species	100,000.00	100,000.00
2552 · Future Buffer Strips	14,495.72	14,495.72
Total 2550 · Reserve	114,495.72	114,495.72
Total Long Term Liabilities	114,495.72	114,495.72
Total Liabilities	114,495.72	114,495.72
Equity		
3990 · Unrestricted Net Assets	120,443.92	87,215.67
Net Income	-2,098.17	8,108.54
Total Equity	118,345.75	95,324.21
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	232,841.47	209,819.93

BBLA Volunteer List 2020-2021

Aquatic plant sampling at accesses

Lou and Deb Bullock
 Jerry and Deb Rudolph
 Bob and Connie Koch
 Bob and Deb Niehaus
 Mike and Amy Schwantes
 Mary Kay Ersland
 Jeanne Niehaus and Michael Howe
 Gary and Ruth Rothstein

Kevin and Ann Costello
 Linnea Ingold
 Lee Uphoff
 Bob Kuehne
 Craig Johnson
 Bob Hughes

AIS Committee (excluding directors)

John Roe
 Chuck Schiemann
 Peter Rutherford

Water sampling

Mike Sadlowsky
 Marge Anderson
 Rick Maitlan

Water testing

Sherry Kutter

Loon Count

Jim Kluempke

Volunteer list continued on page 4

Long-time North Shore residents share memories of the Farview Resort

Early area residents saw potential of lakeside development

Editors note: Robert and Sally (Hird) Hughes and Lee and Gay (Simons) Kutter were interviewed for this story.

The Farview Resort, which was located on the North Shore of the upper basin of Big Birch Lake, was not the first or even the second resort. Research and interviews revealed that the first resort was Buckley's Sunset Beach Resort, located on the southeast shore of the lower basin, the only surviving resort on the lake. Charles Buckley built that resort in 1910.

The first resort on the North Shore was called the Oh Joy Resort. Little is known about its beginning, but the building was destroyed by a 1921 tornado, which also killed Mrs. Wilke, a resident of property.

The Farview was built by George Blackhurst, who was also the first train depot agent in Grey Eagle. He saw the potential of tourists arriving by train to spend time at one of the area lakes and took advantage of the opportunity by building accommodations. Before resorts and even after, people who came to fish at Big Birch sought room and board at nearby farms and rented the farmers' boats.

It is not clear exactly when the Farview was built. Robert S. Hargis wrote a letter to the Grey Eagle Gazette newspaper stating that his family vacationed at the resort from 1913 to 1964, fifty-one years of returning to the same resort was something of a local record. Other sources say the resort began in 1915 or 1925.

Blackhurst sold the resort to Frank Dunebauer in 1940, and he remodeled the main lodge and added cottages on the adjoining lots. In 1944, the Dunebauers sold the resort to Mr. and Mrs. O'Hotto from Elmdale. The lodge room had bare

stud walls until plaster was applied in a remodel.

Charley Cyriach was the next owner and he sold it to Les Voorhuis of Storm Lake, Iowa in 1951. Voorhuis died suddenly in 1952 and the resort ownership went to his friend, Ethel Ryan, also from Iowa. Ryan operated the resort through the 1950s into the early 1960s when it was sold to another Iowa family, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Eiben.

The Eibens lived at the resort year-round and continued the business until



The main lodge building of the Farview Resort can be seen in the background of this photo. Since the late 1970s, the resort property has been divided into individual lots.

the late 1970s when the property was purchased by Rod and Nancy Miley. Miley sold the west part of the property, where the cottages were located, to the Sexton family, and the remainder of the property was purchased by the Pierzak family. To the east of the lodge building there was one small cabin with four or five cabins on the west side of the lodge. At one time however, the former home of Gene and Bernie Waldorf was also part of the resort.

The main lodge building had seven guest rooms on the second floor. The main floor included a large dining room and living room that faced the lake. The owner's living quarters were on the



Kutter's Column

north end of the building. A cozy knotty pine entrance on the west served as the registration place for guests. The entrance was popular with lakeshore residents and children who went to the "hotel" to purchase treats—candy, popsicles, and pushups. The lobby also sold 3.2 beer.

Bass Creek was the western property line. Sometime after 1943, Doctor Ed Simons, who owned a cabin west of the resort, had a bridge constructed across the creek. Built on two telephone poles, the springy bridge provided children entertainment and a place to catch tadpoles.

In 1911, the Tanner family from Little Falls began staying on the North Shore in tents and eventually built a cabin. They were followed by folks from Troy and Atchison, Kansas, who came to vacation and escape the summer heat of Kansas. They would arrive by train at the Ward

Springs Depot and get a horse and buggy to transport them to Big Birch. Last names of those who came from Kansas included Hird, Brown, Clark, Bowman, Snowden, Mize, and Jackson.

Sally Hird Hughes remembers going to the Farview for treats in the 1940s and hearing the siren blow all day in Grey Eagle in 1945 at the US defeat of Japan in World War II. She also recalled how the grass was tall on the lake lots and was a fire hazard in the summer.

Knowing some history of the lake reassures us heaven seems closer in a house beside the water.

Volunteer list *continued from page 2*

Secchi disk readers

Bernie Brixius
Holly Hinnekamp
Leroy Blommel
Howard Pakola
Ken Meyer
Marv Dubiel
Vern Klasen
Chuck Schiemann

Trask pickup

Alex Beste
Cody Hatton
Brian Gordan & family
Renee & Bill Leider

Channel buoys & sign

Peter Rutherford
Jeff Zachman

Loon nests

Glenn Meyer
Jim Sinclair
Phil Osendorf
Tom Schanhaar
Chuck Schiemann

Fishing & Wildlife Committee

Steve Thelen
Chuck Barth
Barry Meyer
Ralph Mehr
Jim Loehr
Peter Rutherford

Beaver dam cleanup

Larry and Elain Hoeschen

Building maintenance & snow removal

Leroy Blommel

Various activities

John Roe
Lee Moening

Newsletter & Facebook editor

Bob Kutter

Altena updated BBLA about fishing

By Bob Kutter

Eric Altena, DNR Fisheries supervisor at Little Falls updated the audience at the annual meeting about fishing in BBL.

Altena said the lake has a good native plant population to support fishing.

Stocking the lake with walleye fry is the most cost effective use of funds because it puts more fish in the lake compared to stocking with fingerlings according to Altena. However he noted that fry stocking in lakes with zebra mussels seem less effective. Overstock-

Lake access plant checkers deserve big "thank you!"

By Deb Johnson

All the volunteer members of our lake access plant-checking program deserve a "Big Thank You" for all their work this past summer season. (See the team members' names in the general volunteer list.)

As you know, these volunteers spend time each month checking their assigned BBL accesses for invasive plants like starry stonewort and Eurasian water milfoil. We are happy to report that no new aquatic invasive species (AIS) have been found so far this season.

This summer season had some unique challenges: The dry weather and lower lake levels made boat launching more difficult. Also, after some team members' boats were damaged during the dangerous August storm, other teams stepped up to take their place to keep the access monitoring on track.

Thanks again to all the access plant-checkers for your efforts! We are interested in expanding the program next summer. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Deb Johnson at 320-285-5833.

News from the boardroom

The following committees are in need of a chair: Grants and Donations, Lake Area Improvements and Lake and Area Safety. These committees are chaired by a board member but association members may volunteer to help with the work of the committee. Please contact your area director if you would like to volunteer in some capacity for the lake association.

Boat inspectors are on duty regularly at the north bay access through most of October.

The state forest access was busy through September but inspection was spotty. Even though the BBLA offered to pay for additional inspection in October, the service does not have enough inspectors available.

Despite the disruption of the August 28 storm, the 21 plant inspectors continued to inspect the accesses.

Grant Niehaus, chair of the Fisheries and Wildlife Committee reminds everyone that the survey for changing the bag limit for walleyes and bluegills remains open on the association's website.

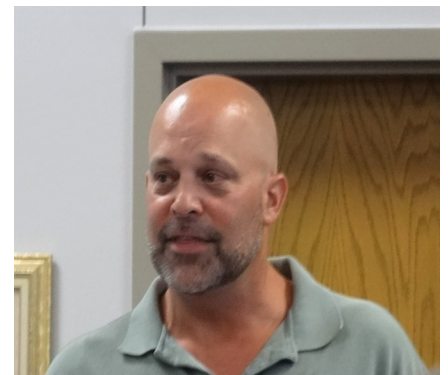
The committee is waiting for the final results from the August gill net survey. Initial indications show the walleye stocking of fingerlings is paying off.

The electrofishing survey later this fall will give the committee more information the health of the fishery.

ing just feeds large predator fish.

Altena, who has 30 years of fishing experience, said the northern population is down in BBL and encouraged anglers to keep northern under 22 inches. Walleye and perch numbers are increasing.

Regarding bag limits, Altena said public support is needed, and he encouraged people to take the fishing survey on the BBLA website to offer input to changing fish limit regulations.



Eric Altena, DNR Fisheries supervisor addressed the BBLA at the Aug. 21, annual meeting in Grey Eagle.

Big variety and big fish? Drop a line in Todd's Big Birch

By Glen Schmitt
Staff Writer for the Outdoor News
(Editor's note: Reprinted with permission from Outdoor News, Sept. 10, 2021)

Anytime anglers use the words "consistent" and "diverse" to describe a fishery, your ears should immediately perk up. That usually means it's a really good fishing lake, which is exactly the case with Todd County's Big Birch Lake.

Big Birch is a 2,108-acre system in west-central Minnesota that's loaded with a wide range of diverse structure that holds a variety of healthy fish populations. It's also an excellent year-round fish producer, adding consistency to the equation.

"Big Birch is the No. 1 destination lake and premier fishing lake in this area," said Rex Campbell, owner of Nancy's Bait and Tackle in nearby Grey Eagle. "It's also the biggest lake and the most consistent mixed-bag, year-round lake we have around here."

The lake is managed primarily for walleyes and is stocked annually via a tag-team effort between the DNR and the local lake association. The combination has been successful in maintaining a healthy walleye populations for more than 15 years—walleye numbers that currently are above management objectives.

According to Eric Altena, DNR Fisheries supervisor in Little Falls, the lake's walleye size structure also has remained consistent. During a survey early last month, gill nets averaged more than five walleyes per lift. Most fish were from 10 to 29 inches long, with an average length of 16 inches. "It's a very healthy walleye fishery, and people know that," Altena said. "But Big Birch is also unique from a structure standpoint. It has just about every type of structure you could want for all (fish) species."

Those species include the lake's largemouth and smallmouth bass, which often are found in similar locations. Both are present in strong numbers, and it's not a big surprise to put a 20-inch fish topside.

These are chunky bass that grow relatively fast. Altena says recruitment is consistent, which means there's always younger fish coming up in the system. As for catching bass, the lake's abundant structure provides plenty of options for both smallies and largemouths.

"It's a fun lake to fish bass on because of its wide variety of habitat," he said. "You might find them together, but there are plenty of weed lines for largemouth on rocks and humps for smallmouths."

Big Birch is well known as a consistent panfish lake as well. Bluegills are more prevalent than crappies, but it

crappies can run good-sized. Altena said "impressive" crappies are sampled each time the lake is surveyed.

While bluegills up to 9 inches are not out of the question, most will be somewhere in the vicinity of 7 to 8 inches long. An average age-size crappie from Big Birch will run about 11 inches in length.

"Most of the sunfish you catch will be about the size of your hand, and crappies between 11-13 inches are caught regularly, Campbell said. "There's nothing to whine about with the panfish in Big Birch."

If you're looking to catch a larger pike in this area, Big Birch would be one of the better options for doing so. Once riddled with an abundance of small fish, the size structure of the lake's northern pike has improved in recent years.

While a wide range of sizes still exist, those 5-to-8-pound pike seem to be more abundant than they once were. In the most recent survey, the number of northern pike over 25 inches was about as high as they've ever been.

Although the largest pike sampled last month topped out at just over 30 inches in length, you can be sure bigger pike are present.

"It was only one survey, so we'll see if the trend continues over time, but there is an indication that the size structure is shifting," Altena said.



A capsized pontoon boat and boat lift floated near the south shore after the Aug. 28, windstorm.

MEMBERSHIP AS OF OCTOBER 4TH 2021

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

SPONSORSHIP AS OF SEPTEMBER 21ST 2020



WALLEYE CLUB

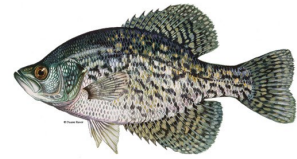
Engelmeyer Land Services LLC	Melrose
Kutter Agency Inc.	Grey Eagle
Hinman Lawn Service	Grey Eagle
Midwest Clinic of Dermatology	Grey Eagle

NORTHERN PIKE

Central Minnesota Credit Union - GE	Grey Eagle
Warrior Boats Inc.	Melrose

CRAPPIE CLUB

Freeport State Bank	Freeport
Double R Saloon Inc	Grey Eagle
Bitz Plumbing & Heating Services Inc.	Grey Eagle
Update Buiding Supplies, LLC	Grey Eagle
Guy Waymore's Musc Emporium	Grey Eagle
Thieschafer Accounting Ltd	Melrose
Kraemer Lumber Co Inc	Melrose
Lake Country Storage LLC	Melrose
Outdoor News Inc.	Plymouth
K&R Tax Service LLC DBA H&R Block	Sauk Centre
Coborn's Incorporated	St Cloud
St. Rosa Lumber Inc.	St Rosa
Amzen Construction Inc	St Rosa
Edina Realty-Jeff Piersak	St. Cloud



BASS CLUB

Shady's Golden Eagle	Burtrum
Hennen Lumber Co Inc.	Freeport
Triple J Restaurants Inc	Freeport
Hennen Floor Covering Inc	Freeport
Freeport Gas & Grocery-Sinclair	Freeport
Hennen Lumber Co Inc.	Freeport
Hennen Lumber Co Inc.	Freeport
Neville Hardware	Grey Eagle
Plumbing on the Side	Grey Eagle
Central Lakes Landscape & Construction	Grey Eagle
Central MN Realty-Brandon Kelly	Grey Eagle
Benchmark Real Estate-Judy Frieler	Grey Eagle
Grey Eagle Gas & Grocery-Sinclair	Grey Eagle
Lafayette Resort	Grey Eagle
Nancy's Bait & Tackle	Grey Eagle
Eagle Fabricating & Water Walker Dock Sys	Grey Eagle
American Family Insurance-Kyle Hoiun	Melrose
Spaeth Sodding & Landscaping Inc.	Melrose
Melrose Plumbing & Heating Services Inc	Melrose
Central Minnesota Credit Union	Melrose
Meadowlark Country Club	Melrose
Melrose 1 Stop-Sinclair	Melrose
Rahns Oil & Propane	Melrose
Joe Hellermann Repair	Melrose
Melrose Bakery	Melrose
Dan Schmidt Printing Inc	Melrose
Norwex - Karen Molitor (320) 249-8000	Melrose
New Munich Gas & Grocery-Sinclair	New Munich
Centre Powersports & Marine	Sauk Centre
All Stars Sports Bar & Grill	St Rosa
RJ's Country Store LLC	St Rosa
Nordman's Cabin, LLC	St. Paul



THANKS TO OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS bigbirchlakeassociation.org

U of M research center studies zebra mussel control

By Deb Johnson

The U of MN Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) has an amazing group of scientists from the U of MN and several other organizations all working on combating invasive species. These researchers presented their projects online at the Fall MAISRC Showcase on September 22nd of this year.

When choosing the presentations to view, I was especially interested in research involving zebra mussels. The most exciting and futuristic research involved manipulating zebra mussel (ZM) genes. A few years ago, the whole zebra mussel genome (DNA) was sequenced so scientists have a good idea of where the genes most vital for ZM life are located on their chromosomes. The focus of this research involves feeding the ZM's a foreign double-stranded piece of RNA called interference RNA or RNAi. RNAi interferes with the expression or "knocks out" one of the ZM's most important genes. The researchers have identified 20 possible gene targets for these RNAi "bullets." This research is still in its infancy, and there are many scientific, environmental, and safety questions to be answered before there would be trials done outside a lab.

A second presentation described actual lake trials using a low-dose copper

treatment to kill ZM larvae or veligers without wiping out other native populations. While early research in this area has been promising, these trials were inconclusive due to an experimental design flaw. These scientists will redesign their experiment based on the new knowledge gained from the trials.

Another promising MAISRC project, currently in lake trials, involves the use of an eco-friendly enzyme to prevent ZM's from attaching to structures like boats, docks, and lifts. This enzyme could be added to paints and would be safer for the environment than copper-based paints since copper stays in the lake indefinitely.

We will need to "stay tuned" for future results of these and many other AIS projects. If you would like to know more about this research, visit the MAISRC website (maisrc.umn.edu). There you'll find links to their YouTube channel with research involving many invasive species, from starry stonewort to invasive carp. I feel that Minnesotans are fortunate to have such a cutting-edge research facility here in MN. While boat and access inspections can slow the spread of AIS now, MAISRC and other research facilities hold the promise of stopping the destruction from selected AIS and improving the quality of all our lakes for future generations.

Association thanks organizers of summer social events

The BBLA sponsors two social events each summer—the annual golf outing and the ladies luncheon. Both are funded by entry fees.

Organizers of the ladies luncheon were Ann Costello, Vicki Sadlowsky, Deb Niehaus, Elaine Hoeshcen and Cheryl Enneking.

The organizers thank the Rock Tavern owners, John and Carol Engel and staff and some local businesses who provided donations: Unique Boutique, All Stars Bar and Grill and Warrior Boats.

The Annual golf outing was held on June 25th at the Meadowlark Golf Course in Melrose. 40 members enjoyed an afternoon of golf scramble play, and 53 members gathered for dinner following golf. Congratulations to the Mehr family team who took home first place. Attendees were treated to numerous prizes throughout the evening dinner event catered by the Greenwald Pub.

A big thank you to the Moenings who coordinated golf items from Taylor-Made, Kutter Insurance who donated gift cards and Meadowlark Country Club rounds of golf.

It was a great afternoon and evening meeting new and old BBL friends. Put next year's date of **Friday, June 24th** on your calendar to join in the fun.



Extensive property damage was sustained around the lake from the August 28 wind storm. Trees were uprooted, boats and boat lifts were overturned and docks ended up on distant shores. Photos by Mark Erdmann and Robert Kutter.

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
Mark Erdmann	Area G Director		
Matt Everding	Area F Director		320-492-5902
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
Gary Rothstein	Area H Director		320-290-7818
Mike Sadlowsky	Director At Large		
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.

PO Box 342

Grey Eagle, Minnesota 56336

Ben Ellering, President

Robert Kutter, Editor

E-mail: bbla@meltel.net

Web Site: www.birchlakeassociation.org

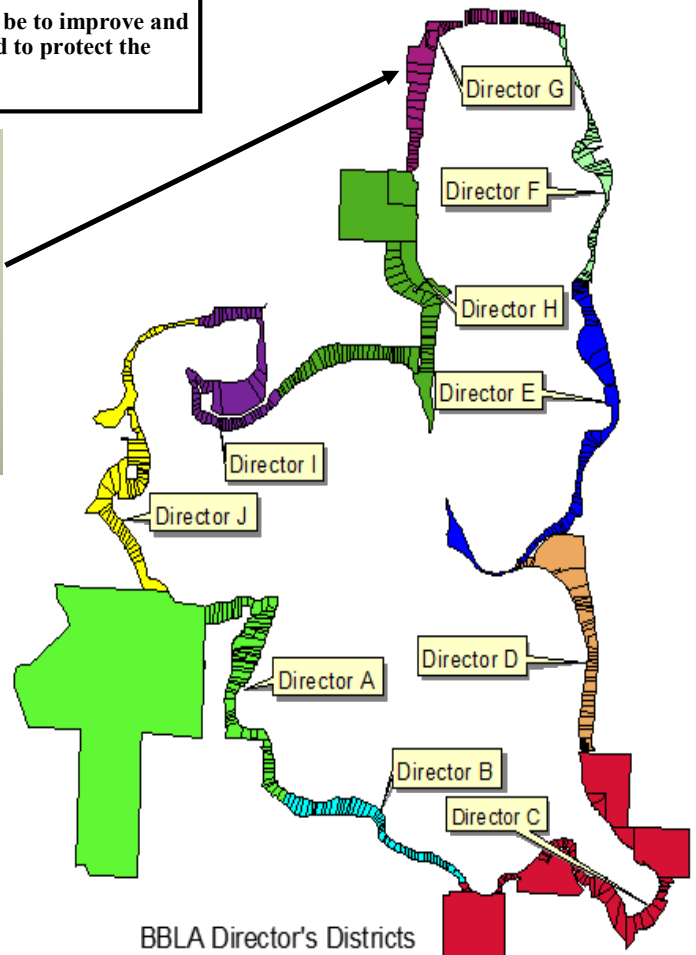
Mission Statement: The purpose of the Big Birch Lake Association shall be to improve and protect water quality, to advance the propagation and habitat of fish and to protect the welfare of all wildlife in Big Birch Lake and adjacent areas.



Mark Erdmann is the newly elected Area G Director.



Mike Sadlowsky is a newly elected Director-at-Large.



BBLA Director's Districts

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

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MAILED FROM
CODE 56352
PERMIT NO. 15



The sound of chain saws buzzed throughout September as crews cleared downed trees and restored power lines around the lake. The south shore was hit particularly hard by the strong northwest winds that roared through the area on Saturday, August 28, 2021. Photos by Robert Kutter and Mark Erdmann. See additional storm damage photos on the association's Facebook page.

