

Big Birch Lake Association NEWSLETTER



No 147

July, 2022

President's Letter

Welcome to summer at Big Birch Lake. If you have new neighbors please make an effort to welcome them to your area, and encourage them to become members of the Big Birch Lake Association.

In the good news department, The recent fundraiser for the \$10,500 fundraising goal for walleye stocking has been reached. Fingerling stocking will take place in the fall. Thanks to board member Grant Niehaus and his committee for their work on this project.

A second piece of good news is that all 20 AIS plant-checkers are volunteering again this summer. Thanks to board member Deb Johnson who trains these volunteers each year.

The BBLA runs on volunteers. If you would like to volunteer for some work for the association, talk to your area director or one of the at-large directors. You can find their contact information on page 4.

The association's annual meeting will be August 27, at 8:30 a.m. at the St. Joseph Parish Hall in Grey Eagle. Note the change of date this year from the third Saturday of August to

the fourth Saturday.

Ladies, sign up for the annual BBLA Ladies Luncheon August 20. See the ad on the back page for registration information.

We thank Jeanne Niehaus and Gary Rothstein for organizing the annual golf outing, one of the two social events sponsored by the BBLA annually. Read about the event and see photos on page 5.

Have a great summer everyone,

Kevin Costello, President

Calendar

BBLA Board Meeting

July 16, 2022

BBL Ladies Luncheon

August 20, 2022

BBLA Annual Meeting

August 27, 2022

BBLA Board Meeting

September 17, 2022

Annual meeting Aug. 27 at St. Joseph's, Grey Eagle

Four BBLA board members will be elected at the annual meeting on August 27, 2022.

Note the change of date!

The nominees are Brandon Kelly, Area E replacing Larry Welle. Gary Rothstein, Area H. Rothstein was elected previously to fill the incomplete term of Lynn Ersland who died. Hans Mische, at-large and Steve Thielen, Area B. Russ Sieben, current Area B director, reached the term limit of 12 years serving on the board.

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 meeting begins at 8:30 a.m. at St. Jo-

seph'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.

The guest speaker this year is Bob Kutter, the editor of the BBLA Newsletter and Facebook page. Kutter will speak about loons and new information about the history of BBL.

Inside this issue:

Annual Meeting Minutes	2
Kutter's Column	3
Annual Golf Outing	5
Membership	6
Balance Sheet	7
Contributing Sponsors	8



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**BIG BIRCH LAKE ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 21, 2021
ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH PARISH HALL GREY EAGLE, MN
56336**

Kevin Costello called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM.

Board of Directors Present: Kevin Costello, Craig Tweedale, Jay Anderson, Matt Everding, Bob Hughes, Adrian Johnson, Blake Johnson, Deb Johnson, Grant Niehaus, Jeanne Niehaus, Russ Sieben and Larry Welle.

Board of Directors Absent: Ben Ellering, Brian Gordon, and Gary Rothstien

Welcome

Minutes of 2019

It was moved that the BBLA Annual Meeting minutes from 2019 be approved.
Motion-Matt Everding 2nd-Jeanne Niehaus Motion was adopted.

Treasurer's Report

Craig Tweedale presented the treasurer report. It was moved that the financials be approved.
Motion -Bob Hughes 2nd -Russ Sieben Motion was adopted.

Annual Election of Directors

The following board positions for the BBLA 2021 were presented:

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

It was moved to approve these individuals for the BBLA Board.

Motion -Bob Kutter 2nd -Peter Rutherford Motion was adopted.

Dues

The board has recommended that the dues remain at \$50.

Kevin Costello asked for a motion to maintain the membership dues at \$50.

Motion-Grant Niehaus 2nd Larry Welle Motion was adopted.

Membership Committee Report

Discussion about who gets a copy of the physical newsletter. Going forward it is hoped that there will be an opportunity for members to choose whether or not they receive the BBLA Newsletter.

AIS Committee Report

It was reported that there will be inspectors at the St. Rosa access only on weekends through Labor Day. It is planned to try to continue with inspections at said access through September.

It was reported that there are presently 22 volunteers inspecting the public accesses for invasive species of weeds. To date every access has been inspected 7 times.

Deb Johnson gave an update on Starry Stonewort. It has spread to 17 lakes in Minnesota and there is no way to eliminate (it can only be contained) it once it appears.

There was question regarding Zebra mussels. There is still no way to eliminate
Annual meeting minutes continue on page 9

Obituaries of lake residents

Bernard Theodore Wiebolt was born May 28, 1930 in New Munich to Theodore and Clara (Klaphake) Wiebolt. He attended grade school in New Munich at the catholic school, then graduated from Melrose High School in 1948. Bernie proudly served in the United States Army from 1953 to 1955 during the Korean War. He married Dorine Sand on October 15, 1957 in New Munich. Bernie farmed in Mew Munich for three years and in 1960 he purchased a farm near Greenwald and later retired in 2001. He and Dorine moved to their lake home in 2010.

He was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church and St. Andrew's Catholic Church. Bernie served as a trustee for 10 years at St. Andrew's Parish, the treasurer of Grove Township for 40years, and was a lifetime member of the Lake Henry Legion.

Bernie passed away peacefully on Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at CentraCare Pine Villa Care Center in Melrose at the age of 91 years, 10 months, 8 days.

Bernie will be deeply missed by his children, Karen (Mark) Sunderman of Melrose, Janelle (Brian) Fleischhacker of St. Stephen, Marla Wiebolt (art Williams) of Charlotte, North Carolina, and Ted Wiebolt (Melanie Marion) of Maple Grove; five grandchildren, Jenna (Sam) Straate, Derek Sunderman Ryan (Kim) Kortuem, Jake Fleischhacker, and Sam Fleischhaker (fiancé Sammy Schneider); great grandchildren, Weston Straate, Logan, Kevin, and Kamara Kortuem and one great grandson on the way; and sister-in-law, Clara Thull of New Munich.

Bernie was preceded in death by his parents, wife, Dorine Wiebolt on March 5, 2017; brothers Wilfred and Herbert; and sisters Irene, Mary Ann, Cyrilla, Lorinda, and Loretta.

Mildred "Millie" Kociemba was born September 11, 1927 in Oak Township, Stearns County to Frank and Anna (Schulzetenberg) Hoppe. She grew up in New Munich, and Married Edward Kociemba in June 24, 1947 in New Munich. Millie and Ed owned the Kociemba Grocery in Bowlus before moving to Big Birch Lake in 1967.

Millie enjoyed reading, music and attending daily mass. She also enjoyed being with her family and watching her grandchildren play baseball and football. She was a member of the St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church and the Christian Women's Group.

Mille is survived by her children; Renee Hennemann, Avon; Jerry (Gail) Kociemba, Andover; Jim (Terry) Kociemba, Citrus Heights, CA; Carol (Pat Kavaney,
Obituaries continue on page 4

Residents mark spring with changing miracles of nature

Birdwatching favorite pastime of many

Many readers of this newsletter and followers of the BBLA Facebook page are fascinated by the recorded observations of lake activity whether it be the loon count or ice out. Knowing when natural events occur each year gives us a sense of place and time. When the world we live in seems crazy, knowing nature will be on schedule to gradually change the seasons is comforting.

I love the summer solstice, the day when the most daylight is recorded as it was this year on June 21. I marvel at the light lingering in the northwest sky until nearly 11 p.m. and wish that I could follow the dying light around the world. That is just one of the markers that informs us about the natural changes occurring without our input.

Ice-out occurred on April 24, 2022. There are those around the lake who place bets on when the ice will go out. Back in the 1950s, the Grey Eagle School District had a fundraiser for summer recreation by placing an old car on Big Birch Lake and selling chances as to when the car would sink. I remember going with my dad to sell tickets even though I did not know why they were being sold. After just one year on BBL, the site was moved to Bass Lake just east of Grey Eagle. Ice-out brings joy for people as they have permission to imagine time on the water.

April was never warm but rain and strong winds loosened the ice. Meteorologist reported recently that we are not imagining that the winds have been stronger than normal. They indeed have been since the beginning of 2022. June alone was reported to have winds at 16 percent above normal for the month.

With the lake free of ice, the loons returned and set about the business of reproduction. Those responsible for placing the floating loon nests were met with loons ready to get on board. Many other waterfowl stopped by on their way to nesting sites and provided us glimpses of birds seldom seen.

Loon are the favorite harbingers of spring because they arrive just as the ice is leaving, and they stay visible for the duration of summer. However, the arrival of other birds also sets the stage for the season. The American robins, of course, are synonymous with spring. I

recently saw a robin attack a squirrel. The robin charged the squirrel three times before the squirrel headed for a tree.

The redwing blackbird arrives at the feeder to get a sunflower seed and then takes it back to its home in the bull rushes. Sometime the yellow-headed blackbird also puts in an early appearance. I counted over 100 American goldfinch feeding on the ground in April. I had never seen so many gathered in one place in search of food. They love this seed as do their cousins the purple finch and house finch.

The songbirds we most enjoy arrive in May. Who doesn't notice the distinctive song and beautiful plumage of the rose-breasted grosbeak. They are attracted to the insects, fruits, seeds and to plenty of room to build a nest. Traveling from Mexico and Central America, they often nest high in a tree to prevent predators from reaching the nest.

The Baltimore and orchard orioles arrive about the same time as the grosbeaks. They love grape jelly. In fact, we have had them line up in the branches five deep to await their turn at an energy boost provided by humans.

The arrival of the ruby-throated hummingbird is met with awe. The buzz created by their rapidly beating wings lets one know their presence. With the ability to fly backward, they easily find nectar in flowers and feeders. The hummingbird uses its tongue 15 to 20 times per second to retrieve nectar from a flower.

If we are lucky, we may also get a glimpse of a scarlet tanager, as I did this year, or an indigo bunting, the stunning blue bird.

One of my favorite birds is the purple martin because they come, look for housing and then stay and sing and go about their business of raising young. The first summer I moved to the lake, I purchased a purple martin house from Mr. Anderson of Ward Springs. He and his wife were avid observers of martins. They sold me the house, the pole to install it on and offered instructions about placement to attract the birds. For 16 years I only attracted sparrows. However, the past three years the martins have examined my house and determined it met their standards. The original house



Kutter's Column

is long gone, but now I can work in my yard with the accompaniment of martins, who, by the way, like having humans present. They are voracious insect eaters and thus help control the mosquito population.

Docks were rolled into the water shortly after ice-out. With such a late spring, people were anxious to see signs of the approaching season. Spring never took hold until late May and early June. Rainfall, measured at 5.81 inches for May, on the north shore was welcome but raised the water level considerably causing shoreline erosion and displacement of docks, lifts and other items located near shorelines. When storms came, the high water only exacerbated the erosion issues not to mention all of the displaced dock sections. Some residents said the spring storms raised havoc with loon nesting as well.

The first half of June had pleasant weather with minimal rain. However, beginning on June 19, a three-day heat wave with temperatures in the mid-to upper 90's and strong south winds, made time outside miserable. The strong winds cut into the amount of time people could be on the water. Even with high fuel prices, people were on the water in droves when the weather permitted which was not the case most of the time. June rainfall was 2.08 recorded on the North Shore of BBL.

The young hatchlings of all sort are visible at the end of June. For the first time, I saw a red-breasted woodpecker fly to a feeder, pick up a sunflower and return to the crotch of tree where it opened the sunflower and fed the nut to a fledgling.

With all the wonders of spring, it is no wonder that heaven seems closer in a house beside the water.

Obituaries continued from page 2

St. Cloud and Mary (Dan) Sand, Grey Eagle. She is also survived by her sister, Jeanette Kaschmitter, St. Martin, 9 grandchildren and 13 great-grand children.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Frank and Anna Hoppe, her sister, Lucille Meyer; son-in-law, Fred "Rick" Hennemann and great-grandson, Patrick Mahoney.

James W. "Jim" Chirhart age 84 of Melrose, passed away on Monday April 18, 2022 at the CentraCare Care Center in Long Prairie, Minnesota.

James William Chirhart was born March 31, 1938 in St. Cloud, Minnesota to George and Ilene (Heaton) Chirhart. Jim graduated from Elbow Lake High School and furthered his education at St. John's University and the University of Minnesota. On June 20, 1959 he married Juanita "Penny" Meinz at St. Mary's Cathedral in St. Cloud. Jim was an independent insurance agent for many years prior to his retirement in 1997. He was member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Grey Eagle and the Knights of Columbus. Jim was president of the Certified In-

surance Agent Association for two years, board member of the Big Birch Lake Association for 13 years and 23-year member of the St. Louis Park Police Department. Jim enjoyed hunting, fishing, boating, wintering in Florida and spending time on Big Birch Lake.

Survivors include his living wife of 62 years, Penny Chirhart of Melrose, son, Jay Chirhart of Little Falls; four grandchildren, Taylor (max) Grant (Tessa) Marissa and Danielle; brothers and sisters, Don (Marlene) Chirhart, Jean Heying and Kathleen Chirhart.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents and daughter, Janelle Olsen.

Ron "Blackie" Wolters of Grey Eagle, MN passed away on Saturday, May 28 in CentraCare Health in Sauk Centre with Kat by his side.

Ron Matthew was born on September 25 1936 in Sisseton, South Dakota. He married Kathy "Kat" Hinnenkamp on May 6, 2006 in Alexandria, MN.

Ron had a strong sense of adventure in his early years. After leaving middle school, he worked in the shipyards in Duluth, making many trips on the Great Lakes to and from Detroit, Michigan.

After leaving the shipyard, he worked at Arlington Bar by the Old Hamm's Brewery where served up \$.35 beers with a short. That is where he found his passion and strong sense to own his own business. He became the owner of a liquor store in Vadnais Heights and proudly named it Wolters Liquor. Ron enjoyed life to the fullest extent riding his Harley Davidson, snowmobiling and his many trips to Nome, Alaska where he enjoyed catching salmon and cod.

He also enjoyed golfing at three courses he had memberships to. He recorded the number of rounds he golfed every year, some years it was over 100. He could tell you how well he did without keeping score, the 19th Hole was his finest. He also enjoyed spending time with "Kat" at their home on Big Birch Lake. He welcomed family and friends to their home as they would visit over a cocktail and play the jukebox on the garage. Ron was well known for saying, "If the Grain Belt Sign is lit, stop on over."

Survivors include his children Mike (Marcia) Wolters, Maureen (Hans) Miezienger and twin daughters Marilyn and Michelle. Also, his beloved wife Kat and her children Jeff (Sharon) Wesel and Lyn (Tom Brinkman) along with many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Big Birch Lake Association Board of Directors

Director	Representing	Phone
Kevin Costello, Pres.	Area C Director	480-250-3698
Matt Everding, V. Pres.	Area F Director	320-492-5902
Craig Tweedale, Treas.	Area J Director	608-317-6647
Jay Anderson, Sec.	Area I Director	763-482-1926
Mark Erdmann	Area G Director	612-386-9254
Blake Johnson	Area D Director	612-910-3871
Deb Johnson	Director At Large	320-285-5833
Adrian Johnson	Area A Director	952-939-0939
Brandon Kelly	Area E Director	320-491-6107
Hans Mische	Director At Large	320-250-9002
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	612-366-5494
Russ Sieben	Area B Director	320-256-3936

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

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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.

The BBLA thanks Grey Eagle Update Building Supplies for its generous donation of wood stakes used to hold floating bogs in place.

The business takes its warped 2x4's, rips them in half, sharpens one end and delivers them to the BBLA for use in staking bogs.

This year the stakes have been in demand as the water level was high and the winds strong.

Thank you Update!

Golfers enjoy annual BBLA outing at Meadowlark, June 24

Forty golfers participated in the 2022 BBLA Golf Outing at Meadowlark Golf Club in Melrose on June 24. Nine teams competed in the nine hole best ball scramble. The competition was followed by lunch and an awards program.

The first place team included Dean Elfering, Brian Elfering, Ryan Elfering and Kate Maus. Each were awarded a \$25 gift certificate for All Stars Bar of St. Rosa offered by Central Minnesota Insurance.

The longest drive in for the men was Bob Hughes. The longest drive for the women was Sandy Brageleman.

Closest to the pin for men was Ryan Elfering; for women it was Kate Maus.

The longest putt for men was Lee Moening; and for women it was Christine Gagne.

The drawing for various prizes was held during the lunch. We thank Lee and Judy Manning for securing Taylor Made clubs and gifts, Meadowlark Golf Club for four golf and cart passes and Pat and Sandy Brageleman for two tickets for a future Guy Waymore Concert.

Put next year's date of June 23rd on your calendar and join fellow members for a morning of golfing fun and friendship.



First place team above: Dean, Brian, and Ryan Elfering and Kate Maus.

The BBLA Board thanks Jeanne Niehaus and Gary Rothstein for organizing the golf outing.



Longest drive winners: Sandy Bragelman and Bob Hughes.



Closest to the pin: Ryan Elfering and Kate Maus.

MEMBERSHIP AS OF JULY 2022

Althaus, Kurt & Lori	Fox, Thomas & Laurie	Lafayette Resort	Rutherford, Peter & Lourel
Anderson, Chadyienne	Frerichs Frank, Jane	Lambrecht, Craig	Rutherford, Tyler & Amy
Anderson, Jean	Froehling, Joseph	Langer, Denise	Sadlowsky, Mike & Vicki
Anderson, Stephen & Lisa	Fuchs, Lori	Larson, Brendan & Debi	Sand, Daniel & Mary
Anderson, Todd & Debbie	Gagne, Bob & Christine	Larson, Gayle & Karen Lemons	Savage, William & Sharon
Arulfo, Michelle	Gallagher, Pat & Caryn	Larson, Maxwell & Brenda	Schanhaar, Tom & Deb
Auger, John & Karen	Gangl, Dale	Lemieux, BJ & Rachel	Schiemann, Charles & Ellie
Austing, April	Gerads, Dale & Mary Lou	Lieder, William & Renee	Schiffler, Dean & Carla
Austing, Dick & Jane	Gerding, Dewayne & Alvina	Lilligren, Kirk & Cathy	Schlough, Thomas & Joyce
Becker, Isaac & Nancy St. Pierre	Gerner, Robert & Charlene	Linz, Curtis & Mary	Schmid, Judith
Becker, Virginia	Gordon, Brian & Kristen	Loehr, Jim & Renee	Schmid, Ted & Julie
Beckermann, Fran & Linda	Grossman, Jim & Jan	Logan, Guy & Suzanne	Schmidt, Thomas & Joann
Beekhuizen, Steven & Julie	Grutsch, John & Jan	Mack, Murray & Sue	Schnettler, John & Jan
Benning, Ken & Mary Pat	Hammerstrom, Malia	Matchinsky, James & Roselyn	Schrivier, John & Lezie
Benolken, Sue	Hatton, Rene & LuAnn	McConnell, David & Ann	Schwantes, Mike & Amy
Berg, Ken & Bev	Heinen, Nancy	Mehr, Mike & Lori	Schwartz, Dick & Ellen
Berg, Aaron & Becky	Helget, Ron & Becky	Mehr, Ralph & Mary Ann	Schwartz, Stephen & Joan
Berg, Dwaine & Louise	Hendrickson, David & Colette	Messerich, Steve & Char	Schwieters, Charles & Beatrice
Bergmann, Ken & Marilyn	Hennemann, Kitty	Meyer, Barry	Sealock, Donald & Jennie
Beuning, James & Judine	Hess, Herb & Mary Kay	Meyer, Glenn & Dianne	Seep, Terry & Kimberly
Blommel, Mike	Hinnenkamp, Ben & Pam	Meyer, Ken & Sherry	Seitzer, Jim & Belinda
Blommel, Leroy & Marilynn:Member	Hinnenkamp, Hollis & Mary Jo	Meyer, Juel	Shafer, Tom & Bonnie
Blommel Family	Hoffman, Dan & Janell	Meyer, Roy	Sieben, Kevin & Beth
Boecker, Elmer & Juliana	Holthaus, Ken	Meyer, Virg & Joyce	Sieben, Russell & Mary
Bomstad, Gary & Susan	Howe, Michael & Jeanne	Miley, Rod & Nancy	Sieloff, Justin
Borgerding, Clarence	Hughes, Bob & Sally	Mische, Hans & Julie	Silbernagel, John & Marie
Braegelmann, Pat & Sandy	Hughes, Dan & Liz	Moening, Lee & Judy	Sinclair, Ken & Jan
Brattensborg, Ruth	Hughes, Parry & Kathy	Mohr, Marilyn	Sinclair, James & Carolyn
Brixius, Bernie & Lisa	Humbert, Rick & Lois	Mohs, Dean & Sandy	Spanier, Eric & Jana
Broman, Mark & Marcia	Humbert, Ryan & Stacy	Molitor, Chick & Karen	Spears (Moening), Heather
Brunner, Paul & Lauri	Huseby, Robert & Christina	Molitor, Jon	Spence, Jim & Christine
Bruyere, James Jr	Ingold, Linnea	Moser, Scott & Helen	Stalboerger Family, Lorraine
Bullock, Lou & Debbie	Iverson, Ron & Jennifer	Moser, Jean	Starfield, Glenn & Katy
Bushman, Wayne	Jacobsen, James & Marjorie	Nathe, Mark & Ann	Steinbring, Brad & Denise
Butte, Rick	Jansen, Jeff & Teri	Nathe, Mike & Laura	Steinbring, John & Sandy
Campbell, Mel & Sherry	Jarsko, Judy	Neibling, Tim & Sue	Stomberg, Chuck & Nancy
Carlson, Shirley	Jepperson, Craig & Mary	Neville, Steve	Strack, Robert & Laurie
Carpenter, Todd & Laura	Jeske, Nancy	Niehaus, John & Mary	Tanner, Lucy
Carstens, James & Brenda	Jim Lind Family	Niehaus, Bob & Deb	Tembrock, Henry & Marion
Casper, Paul & Deb	Johnson, Adrian & Kay	Niehaus, Grant	Thelen, Steve & Amy
Caspers, John & Allyson	Johnson, Leonard & Amy	Niehaus, Anthony & Carol	Thielen, Marvin & Judy
Cavello, Butch & Amy	Johnson, Craig & Debra	Nohner, Kevin & Mary	Thompson, Rod & Sally
Cebuhar, Charles & Mary	Johnson, Don & Julie	Orth, David & Linda	Timmermann, John & Molly
Chaput, Larry & Bradley Johnson	Kadri, Abdu & Janice	Osendorf, Phil & Gail	Tomsche, David & Molly
Chirhart, James & Juanita	Kalgren, Rick & Ann	Osendorf, Rosemary	Tomsche, Dr. Ed & Theresa
Chmielewski, Daniel & Barb	Kappes, Mike & Jannie	Ostendorf, Mark & Lisa	Tschida, Stewart & Amy
Claussen, Kim	Kelly, Brandon & Becky	Ostendorf, Lenore	Tschida, Wayne & JoAnn
Collins, Jim & Crystal	Kemper, Jeff & Linda	Ostrem, Justin & Amy	Tweedale, Craig & Mary Lou
Collins, Joyce	Kennedy, Dennis & Holly	Pakola, Howard & Barb	Uphoff, Jim & Lee
Comfort, Jeff & Julie	Kerfeld, Art & Rosie	Patch, Bruce	Van Beck, Chad & Brenda
Costello, Kevin & Ann	Kerfeld, Cheryl	Pavlivek, John & Kathryn	VanDrehle, Donald & Helen
Coulson, Brad & Jane	Kerfeld, Donald & Diane	Pelo, Rod & Phyllis	Vener, Mike & Kim
Czap, Neil & Catherine	Kerfeld, Glenn	Peterson, Dr Thomas & Virginia	Vener, John & Corinne
Damrow, Paul & June	Klaphake, Deb	Phillips, Rev Roger & Rosemary	Waldorf, Bernadine
Davis, Scott & Marjo	Klaphake, Florian & Doreen	Piersak, Jeff & Kim	Waldvogel, Dennis
Denne, Marv & Mary Beth	Klapperich, John & Suzy	Piersak, Thomas	Walker, Tom
Dinndorf, Don	Klasen, Kyle & Stacy	Pladson, Dr & Mrs Terence	Wander, Dave & Joan
Dobesh, Jeff & Jill	Klasen, Vern & Marlene	Plombon, Roger & Gloria	Ward, Rick & Missy
Dougherty, Tim	Klocker, Barbara	Poganski, Rock & Marcia	Warnert, Ron & Lee Meyer
Dubiel, Marvin & Pam	Kloos, Mike & Becky	Powers, Robert & Kathleen	Weinman, Roger & Constance
Duevel, Jerome	Kluempke, David	Provinzino, Chuck & Jannine	Weitzel, John & Mary
Duncomb, Bruce & Vicki	Kluempke, Jim & Cathy	Pundsack, Craig & Lisa	Weitzel, Michele
Elfering Family, Evelyn	Koch, Bob & Connie	Rahn, Dave & Lisa	Welle, Larry & Rose
Elieff, Daniel & Julie	Kohorst, Don & Loni, Bob & Joan	Rasmussen, Steve	Wiebolt, Bernard
Enneking, Gene & Cheryl	Konsor, Stephen & Karen	Refsland, Curt & Mary	Wolters, Ronald & Kathy Hinnenkamp
Erdmann, Mark & Summer	Kotsmith, Randy & Karen	Rieger, Joel & Pamela	Zaborski, Tom & Julia
Erickson, Russell	Kotsmith, Terry & Sharon	Rieland, Shirley	Zachman, Jeff & Linda
Ersland, Mary Kay	Krig, Gary	Rieland, Chuck & Lucy	Zackoski, Michael & Kimberly
Everding, Matt & Missy Kotzer	Kuehne, Robert	Rieland, Matt & Shari	Zaczkowski, Marie
Eveslage, Steve & Sarah	Kuehne, Ron & Midge	Rieland, Mike & Mary	Zenzen, Art & Marilyn
Falk, Jeremy & Jennifer	Kunkel, Phil & Rose	Ritter, Greg & Barb	Zimmer, Chris & Sarah
Family of Lovell & Bertty Richie	Kutter, Robert & Nancy	Roe, John & Janet	Zimmerman, Larry & Marion
First, Pete	Kutter, Wayne & Sherry	Rothstein, Gary & Ruth	Zimmerman, Lowell & Kris
Flaws, Michael & Marilyn	Kyllo, Carole	Rudolph, Jerry & Deb	
		Russell, Jim & Mindy	

Jackson's recollections of early North Shore property ownership

Jim Jackson, who died this past year, loved the history of Big Birch Lake. What follows are some of his recollections of property ownership on the North Shore. Most of the early owners had a connection to Kansas.

He shared the following information with Sally and Bob Hughes, who are residents of the North Shore, and longtime friends of the Jackson family.

According to Jackson, Kamp Kansas Tent Camping began on the North Shore about 1905.

In circa 1910, W.A. Jackson purchased an ice house from the shore of Sliter Island. (Who knew there was an ice house on that island at one time?) He skidded it across the ice to the North Shore where it became Jackson's first cottage.

A resort called the O Joy Resort was wrecked by a tornado in 1922 in which Mrs. Wilke was killed. Her husband and son were not home at the time as they were in the banking business in Grey Eagle.

G.T. Bohman, (another Kansas resident) and WA Jackson purchased the O Joy property and built two cottages in 1924 from the remains of the building destroyed in the tornado.

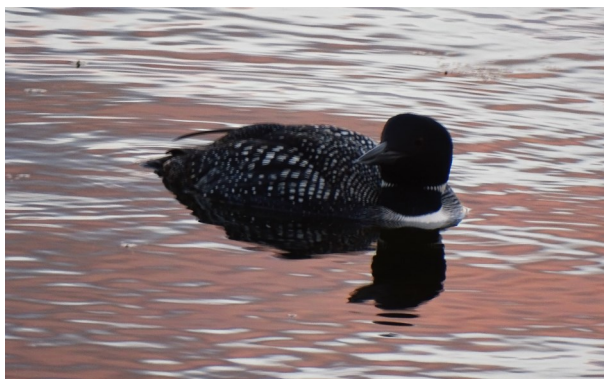
One cabin was owned by the Wetzel, Wozniaks, and Fellings among other owners.

The other cabin was owned by Bohman and then owned by Searles, Lee Kutter and Terry Schmid. Ted Schmid, the current owner, tore that cabin down and built a new home.

W.A. Jackson's property was passed to Ed V. Jackson in 1941 and he sold it to Flora Mize in 1957. Ed also purchased the Dewey Fuller cottage in 1950 and rented it to Sara Snowden of Kansas who then purchased it in 1957. That home is currently owned by Steve Neville, which his parents had owned previously.

Big Birch Lake Association Balance Sheet As of May 31, 2022

	May 31, 22
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1005 · Checking-CMCU	2,407.25
1010 · Share Account-CMCU	35.90
1015 · My Goal Savings	2,816.64
1020 · Money Markey-CMCU	40,597.58
1050 · Cert of Deposit-12 Month #1	111,180.04
1055 · Cert of Deposit-12 Month #2	10,632.55
Total Checking/Savings	167,669.96
Other Current Assets	
1080 · Initiative Foundation Fund	45,817.34
1499 · Undeposited Funds	210.00
Total Other Current Assets	46,027.34
Total Current Assets	213,697.30
Fixed Assets	
1200 · Building & Land	35,300.00
Total Fixed Assets	35,300.00
TOTAL ASSETS	248,997.30
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Long Term Liabilities	
2550 · Reserve	
2551 · Aquatic-Invasive Species	100,000.00
2552 · Future Buffer Strips	14,495.72
Total 2550 · Reserve	114,495.72
Total Long Term Liabilities	114,495.72
Total Liabilities	114,495.72
Equity	
3990 · Unrestricted Net Assets	120,443.92
Net Income	14,057.66
Total Equity	134,501.58
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	248,997.30



An adult male loon rested near the North Shore in late June in the light of the setting sun. Photo by Robert Kutter.

SPONSORSHIP AS OF MARCH 22ND 2022



PLATINUM

Opatz Metals & Rolloffs	Holdingford
Spirit Liquor	Melrose
Warrior Boats Inc.	Melrose



GOLD

Central Minnesota Credit Union - GE	Grey Eagle
Central MN Realty-Brandon Kelly	Grey Eagle
Rahns Oil & Propane.	Melrose



SILVER

Freeport Trucking	Freeport
Grey Eagle Electric Inc.	Grey Eagle
Double R Saloon Inc.	Grey Eagle
Nancy's Bait & Tackle	Grey Eagle
Lake Country Storage LLC.	Melrose
Proliant Dairy Inc.	Melrose
Kemper Excavating	Melrose
Melrose Electric Inc.	Melrose
Meadowlark Country Club.	Melrose
Melrose Plumbing & Heating Services Inc	Melrose
North Risk Partners	Melrose
Kraemer Lumber Co Inc	Melrose
Freeport State Bank.	Melrose
Hoffman Tree Service	Sauk Centre
Main Street Title & Closings LLC	Sauk Centre



BRONZE

All Stars Sports Bar & Grill	Freeport
Hennen Floor Covering Inc.	Freeport
Hennen Lumber Co Inc.	Freeport
Neville Hardware	Grey Eagle
Update Buiding Supplies, LLC	Grey Eagle
Econ-O-Wash Laundromats	Melrose
Engelmeyer Land Services LLC	Melrose
Bussmann Properties LLC	Melrose
Bueckers, Ervin	Melrose
Mayers Inc.	Melrose
CAP Enterprises of Melrose Inc	Melrose
Grey Eagle Gas & Grocery-Sinclar	Melrose
Spanier/Nathe Cabinets LLC	Melrose
Munson Feed Co Inc.	Melrose
Minnesota National Bank.	Sauk Centre
Tim Kampsen Agency	Sauk Centre
Centre Powersports & Marine.	Sauk Centre

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Annual meeting minutes continued from page 4

the mussels. There is a bio film being worked on to apply to docks and boat lifts to prevent Zebra mussels from being able to attach.

Caleb of the DNR confirmed that the BBLA cannot shut down accesses to help with invasive weed spread. He explained that access closure by the DNR is a violation of Federal law.

Caleb discussed in greater detail the legal use of Aqua Thrusters, weed rollers and the use of chemicals in the elimination of weeds.

Keynote Speaker

Eric Altena DNR Fisheries Manager spoke on the present efforts of stocking BBL.

Special Recognitions

Bob Kutter presented a special recognition of two outstanding BBLA volunteers who have recently passed. Lynn Ersland and Jim Kluempke and their efforts will be greatly missed.

Jonelle and Gerald Kirchner were also recognized.

Adjournment

Movement for adjournment at 10:05AM.

Motion-Matt Everding

2nd-Blake Johnson

Motion was adopted

Jay Anderson, Recording Secretary

Website is www.bigbirchlakeassociation.org





BIG BIRCH LAKE ASSOCIATION, INC
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Longest putt winners, Lee Moening and Christine Gagne, at the annual BBLA Golf Outing on June 24.



SATURDAY, AUGUST 20TH, 2022

BIG BIRCH LAKE LADIES BRUNCH

DOUBLE R BAR & GRILL

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

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

\$19 Gratuities & Taxes Included
CASH BAR AVAILABLE

Come start the day off with friends and neighbors.

DOOR PRIZES



Please use easy registration online www.bigbirchlakeassociation.org or make check payable to **Big Birch Lake Association**. Return registration with payment by **August 13th** 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: _____