



Big Birch Lake Association NEWSLETTER

No 154

April, 2024

Calendar

- BBLA Board Meeting
4/20/24
- BBLA Board Meeting
5/18/24
- BBLA Board Meeting
6/15/24
- BBLA Board Meeting
7/20/24

The winter that wasn't

Ice-in and Ice-out has never been reported in the same issue of the newsletter until this year. Ice finally formed on the lake January 12 and it disappeared two months later on March 16.

This is the same story for most lakes in the Upper Midwest this year. The lowest temperature record on the North Shore of BBL was minus 22 in the third week of January. Other than one week of normal January weather, most all weeks in December, January and February had above normal temperatures.

The only vehicles on the ice this winter were ATV's. While few people fished due to uncertain ice conditions, those that did mostly walked out from shore. People reported that ice could be 8 inches thick in one place and just three inches thick a short distance away.

Board member Grant Niehaus reported that "due to the abnormal ice conditions this year and the lack of wheeled ice houses, there was minimal trash left out on the ice this winter. However, a few items that were found were: human feces/toilet paper, beer cans, wood blocks, plastic minnow bags, spray foam, candy wrappers, and even a spear house that fell through the ice and was abandoned by its owner."

It is unfortunate that anyone should have to clean up after others on a body of water, but that has become the norm in recent years.

With hardly any snowfall through the winter months, the area received a foot or more of compacted wet snow the last week of March.

The 2 inches of moisture in the snow should do much to replenish the land and bring the lake up just a little.

Ice-in Record		Ice-out Record	
2024	January 12	2024	March 16
2023	<u>None</u>	2023	April 30
2022	December 4	2022	April 24
2021	December 7	2021	April 1
2020	December 15	2020	April 12
2019	December 2	2019	April 20
2018	November 20	2018	May 5
2017	December 7	2017	March 31
2016	December 10	2016	March 27
2015	December 19	2015	April 10
2014	November 21	2014	April 27
2013	November 27	2013	May 11
2012	December 10	2012	March 20
2011	December 6	2011	April 21
2010	November 27	2010	April 2
2009	December 10	2009	April 20
2008	December 7	2008	April 30
2007	December 1	2007	April 16
2006	December 1	2006	April 10
2005	November 30	2005	April 9
2004	December 14	2004	April 7
2003	November 29		

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Lake associations offer education day April 13

The Big Birch Lake Association and the Little Birch Lake Association collaborated to offer the second annual Little Birch and Big Birch Education Day on April 13.

The half-day event will feature topics related to lake members' properties and lake resources.

The event will be held at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Grey Eagle. Doors will open at 8 a.m. with coffee, donuts and fruit available. The program will begin at 8:20 and wrap up at 11 a.m.

The speakers will talk about shoreline health, landscaping, rain gardens, ways to control run-

off and the permitting needed for projects near the lake.

Speakers will be Adam Ossefoort and Deja Anton from Todd County Soil and Water Conservation and Development and Chris Stumvoll from Minnesota Native Landscapes Ecological Restoration and Landscapes Company.

BBLA Board of Directors

Names	Areas	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	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
Steve Thelen	Area B Director	320-309-9881

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Kevin Costello, President
 Robert Kutter, Secretary and Newsletter 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.

Big Birch Lake Association Balance Sheet

	Feb 29, 24	Feb 28, 23
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
1006 · Checking - Stearns Bank	2,503.40	0.00
1060 · Certificate of Deposit	126,749.65	0.00
1005 · Checking-CMCU	1,185.18	2,804.74
1010 · Share Account-CMCU	35.90	35.90
1015 · My Goal Savings	0.00	1,606.14
1020 · Money Markey-CMCU	47,640.30	37,424.32
1050 · Cert of Deposit-12 Month #1	0.00	112,083.20
1055 · Cert of Deposit-12 Month #2	0.00	10,682.19
Total Checking/Savings	178,114.43	164,636.49
Other Current Assets		
1080 · Initiative Foundation Fund	49,548.29	46,225.32
1499 · Undeposited Funds	250.00	244.00
Total Other Current Assets	49,798.29	46,469.32
Total Current Assets	227,912.72	211,105.81
Fixed Assets		
1200 · Building & Land	35,300.00	35,300.00
Total Fixed Assets	35,300.00	35,300.00
TOTAL ASSETS	263,212.72	246,405.81
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	134,031.55	133,848.96
Net Income	14,685.45	-1,938.87
Total Equity	148,717.00	131,910.09
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	263,212.72	246,405.81

Walleye stocking fundraiser underway

By Grant Niehaus
 Mailers have been sent out to lakeshore owners and area businesses for fundraising for walleye stocking this upcoming fall of 2024.

This stocking of walleye fingerlings by the BBLA will be in conjunction with walleye fingerling stocking done by the DNR.

Please consider donating and encourage others who walleye fish BBL to donate to this effort to help improve the walleye fishery of BBL.

Donations can be made either on the BBLA website under the payment/donate portal in the Fishing/Wildlife Category, or by mailing a check with "Walleye Stocking" in the memo line to :

Big Birch Lake Association
 (Attn: Walleye Stocking)
 PO Box 342
 Grey Eagle, MN 56336

15th Annual BBL Junk Clean Up Day

9 am to 12 noon,
Sat., June 1, 2024

Lake Country Storage Parking Lot
(East of Rock Tavern on Todd County 2)

Provided by Opatz Metals & Rolloffs and Lake Country Storage

Miscellaneous junk, old appliances, etc.
Individuals responsible for fees for large items.
Couches, furniture, TVs mattresses are \$25 each

Call ahead for details
320-746-2819

No chemicals, paint or oils accepted.

Basic information about Big Birch Lake

When you tell people about Big Birch Lake, what do you include in your story?

Editor's Note: This column is what I submitted to the Todd County Soil and Water Conservation District Office at its request for a description of Big Birch Lake. The office sought descriptions of all 127 lakes in Todd County.

Big Birch Lake is a 2108-acre body of water located in Grey Eagle and Birchdale Townships in Todd County and Millwood Township in Stearns County, Minnesota. The lake's depth reaches 81 feet.

Designated as a recreation lake, it offers many resources for enjoyment. Fishing, both open water and ice fishing, swimming, and boating are popular forms of leisure.

Fish species include black bullhead, black crappie, bluegill, brown bullhead, crappie, green sunfish, hybrid sunfish, largemouth bass, northern pike, pumpkinseed, rock bass, smallmouth bass, tullibee (cisco), walleye, yellow bullhead, yellow perch, bowfin (dogfish), common carp, shorthead redhorse, and white sucker.

The lake was formed by a melting glacier about 10,000 years ago. Surrounded by hills and forest, the lake has an attractive shoreline. Most of the 15 miles of shoreline is occupied by housing. About one fourth of the over 500 hundred properties are occupied year around by homeowners.

The lake has two islands, the smaller one, Sliter Island is in the upper basin and Hammarsten Island which divides the upper basin from the lower basin. A unique characteristic of each island is that roads were built to them in the 1920s. Washed out long ago, what remains is a rock bed upon which the roads were constructed.

Fortunately, some forward-thinking people in the 1960s decided some of the land adjacent to the lake should be set aside for public recreation. The result is the Big Birch Lake State Forest located on the southwest area of the lake in Millwood Township. Managed by the De-

partment of Natural Resources (DNR) at Lindbergh State Park in Little Falls, the state forest is popular for camping and hiking.

There are three public DNR accesses on the lake including one in the state forest. The Parks and Trails division of the DNR manages the accesses. Boaters are expected to clean their boats thoroughly on the outside before launching and after landing them to prevent the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) such as zebra mussels and spiny stone-wort.



The ice disappeared from Big Birch Lake on March 16, 2024. Photo by Robert Kutter

The Big Birch Lake Association was organized in 1969 to improve fishing and protect wildlife of the adjacent area. The mission of the Big Birch Lake Association is 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.

Today, that association actively monitors the water quality of the lake, has an AIS committee that works to keep invasive species out of the water. Through education and weed checking, the association helps people stay informed about



Kutter's Column

AIS and what to look for on boats and in the water.

Working with Todd County and a provider of access inspectors, the association has made sure boats entering and leaving the water are inspected for invasive species for over 10 years.

In 2014 zebra mussels were discovered in the water and the association has worked to inform residents about the effect of the species on water clarity, fishing, and vegetation.

In concert with the DNR, the association has been raising funds to purchase walleye fingerlings to improve the walleye population.

Other recent projects of the BBLA are the installation of weed cleaning stations at the three DNR accesses, paying farmers to have buffer zones on land adjacent to tributaries, putting wood duck houses around the lake area, maintaining the channel, doing roadside and winter ice cleanup, and educating its members through its newsletter, webpage (bigbirchlakeassociation.org) and a Facebook page, which has over 1000 followers.

The lake is in the Sauk River Watershed District. It drains through Adley Creek which begins in Goose Lake, northeast of Big Birch, then through Big Birch, into Little Birch, Lake Sylvia and empties into the Sauk River near Melrose. The water level is monitored by the lake association, and it reports the level to the state. Control of the water level is by a dam between Big and Little Birch Lakes.

Factual information about the lake doesn't capture its spirit. That come from knowing heaven seems closer in a house beside the water.

MEMBERSHIP AS OF MARCH 2024

Strack, Robert & Laurie	Freeman, Dave & Sue	Larson, Maxwell & Brenda	Russell, Jim & Mindy
Althaus, Kurt & Lori	Frerichs Frank, Jane	Lemieux, BJ & Rachel	Rutherford, Peter & Lourel
Costello, Kevin & Ann	Froehling, Ronald & Lisa	Lilligren, Kirk & Cathy	Sabrowsky, Gary
Anderson, Jean	Fuchs, Brian & Lori	Lind, James & Maryellen	Sand, Daniel & Mary
Anderson, Stephen & Lisa	Gagne, Bob & Christine	Linn, Mike & Denise	Savage, William & Sharon
Anderson, Todd & Debbie	Gangl, Dale	Linz, Curtis & Mary	Schanhaar, Tom & Deb
Arulfo, Michelle	Gasow, Ralph & Lori	Loehr, Jim & Renee	Schiemann, Charles
Atkinson, Dan & Jan	Gerads, Dale & Mary Lou	Logan, Guy & Suzanne	Schlough, Thomas & Joyce
Atwood, Duane & Jody	Germer, Robert & Charlene	Mack, Murray & Sue	Schmid, Judith
Auger, John & Karen	Gordon, Brian & Kristen	Marshall, Karin	Schmid, Ted & Julie
Austing, April	Goulet, Evan & Emily	Martland, Richard & Marge Anderson	Schmidt, Jane
Austing, Dick & Jane	Grutsch, John & Jan	Matchinsky, James & Roselyn	Schmidt, Thomas & Joann
Baywatch Villas Association	Hammerstrom, Malia	McConnell, David & Ann	Schmit, Nick & Karen
Beckermann, Fran & Linda	Hatton, Rene & LuAnn	McQueen, Kathy	Schnettler, John & Jan
Beehler, Robyn & Roxanne Olsen	Helget, Ron & Becky	Mehr, Ralph & Mary Ann	Schwantes, Mike & Amy
Beekhuizen, Steven & Julie	Hendrickson, David & Colette	Meyer, Barry & Denise Langer	Schwartz, Dick & Ellen
Benning, Ken & Mary Pat	Hennemann, Kitty	Meyer, Glenn & Dianne	Schwartz, Steve & Joann
Benolken, Sue	Hinman, John & Kathy	Meyer, Juel	Seitzer, Jim & Belinda
Berg, Dwaine & Louise	Hinnenkamp, Ben & Pam	Meyer, Ken & Sherry	Sexton Family Cabin
Berg, Ken & Bev	Hoeschen, Larry & Elaine	Meyer, Virg & Joyce	Shafer, Tom & Bonnie
Bergmann, Ken & Marilyn	Hoffman, Dan & Janell	Miley, Rod & Nancy	Sieben, Kevin & Beth
Bertram, Steve & Pam	Hotzler, Mark & Jane	Mische, Hans & Julie	Sieben, Russell & Mary
Beuning, James & Judine	Howe, Michael	Moening, Lee & Judy	Sinclair, James & Carolyn
Blommel Family	Hughes, Bob & Sally	Mohr, Marilyn	Sinclair, Ken & Jan
Blommel, Leroy & Marilynn:Member	Hughes, Dan & Liz	Mohs, Dean & Sandy	Spanier, Eric & Jana
Bondhus, Adam	Hughes, John & Susan	Molitor, Chick & Karen	Spears (Moening), Heather
Borgerding, Clarence	Hughes, Tim & Kristine	Molitor, Jon	Spence, Jim & Christine
Brattensborg, Ruth	Humbert, Rick & Lois	Moser, Helen	Starfield, Glenn & Katy
Brixius, Bernard	Huseby, Robert & Christina	Moser, Jean	Steinbring, John & Sandy
Broman, Brad & Charlene	Ingold, Kirk & Mandi	Mueller, Jerry	Stomberg, Chuck & Nancy
Brunner, Paul & Lauri	Ingold, Linnea	Nathe, Mark & Ann	Studniski, Adam & Jolene
Bruyere, James Jr	Iverson, Ron & Jennifer	Nathe, Mike & Laura	Tembrock, Henry
Bruyere, Scott	Jacobs, Dave & Diane	Neville, Steve	Thelen, Steve & Amy
Bullock, Lou & Debbie	Jarsko, Judy	Niehaus, Anthony & Carol	Thielen, Marvin & Judy
Bushman, Wayne	Jepperson, Craig & Mary	Niehaus, Bob & Deb	Thompson, Rod & Sally
Bussmann, Scott & Andrea	Johnson, Adrian & Kay	Niehaus, Grant	Timmermann, John
Butte, Rick	Johnson, Blake & Ruth	Niehaus, Jeanne	Tomsche, David & Molly
Campbell, Mel & Sherry	Johnson, Craig & Debra	Niehaus, John & Mary	Tomsche, Dr. Ed & Theresa
Carpenter, Todd & Laura	Johnson, Dan & Julie	Olson, David & Cathy	Tschida, Wayne & JoAnn
Carstens, James & Brenda	Kadri, Abdu & Janice	Orth, David & Linda	Tweedale, Craig & Mary Lou
Caspers, John & Allyson	Kalgren, Rick & Ann	Osendorf, Phil & Gail	Uphoff, Jim & Lee
Cavello, Butch & Amy	Kappes, Mike & Jannie	Ostendorf, Lenore	Van Beck, Chad & Brenda
Cebuhar, Charles & Mary	Kemper, Jeff & Linda	Ostendorf, Mark & Lisa	VanDrehle, Donald & Helen
Chaput, Larry & Bradley Johnson	Kerfeld, Cheryl	Ostrem, Justin & Amy	Vener, John & Corinne
Chmielewski, Daniel & Barb	Kerfeld, Donald & Diane	Pakola, Howard & Barb	Vener, Mike & Kim
Citrowske, Cheri	Kerfeld, Glenn	Pavlivek, John & Kathryn	Viere, Kevin & Ann
Collins, Joyce	Klaphake, Deb	Pelo, Rod & Phyllis	Voigt, Kenneth & Joan Zirbes-Voigt
Collins, Margaret	Klaphake, Florian & Doreen	Peterson, Dr Thomas & Virginia	Von Wahlde, Dan & Brenda
Comfort, Jeff & Julie	Klaphake, Steve & Pam	Phillips, Rosemary	Waldvogel, Dennis
Coulson, Brad & Jane	Klapperich, John & Suzy	Piersak, Jeff & Kim	Walker, Tom
Damrow, Paul & June	Klasen, Kyle	Piersak, Thomas	Walters, George & Sue
Davis, Scott & Marjo	Klasen, Vern & Marlene	Pladson, Dr & Mrs Terence	Ward, Rick & Missy
Denne, Marv & Mary Beth	Klocker, Barbara	Plombon, Roger & Gloria	Warnert, Ron & Lee Meyer
Dinndorf, Don & Vi	Kloos, Mike & Becky	Poganski, Rock & Marcia	Wehlage, Mike & Julie
Dobesh, Jeff & Jill	Kluempke, Cathy	Powers, Robert & Kathleen	Weitzel, John & Mary
Dubiel, Marvin & Pam	Koch, Bob & Connie	Provinzino, Chuck & Jannine	Weitzel, Michele
Duncomb, Bruce & Vicki	Konsor, Stephen & Karen	Pundsack, Craig & Lisa	Welle, Larry & Rose
Elfering Family, Evelyn	Kotsmith, Randy & Karen	Rahn, Dave & Lisa	Westbrock, Bruce & Linda
Enneking, Gene & Cheryl	Kotsmith, Terry & Sharon	Rasmussen, Steve	Worms, Steven & Shirley
Erickson, Russell	Krig, Gary & Peg	Refsland, Curt & Mary	Zaborski, Tom & Julia
Ersland, Mary Kay	Kuehne, Robert	Richardson, David & Anna	Zackoski, Michael & Kimberly
Everding, Matt & Missy Kotzer	Kuehne, Ron & Midge	Rieger, Joel & Pamela	Zaczkowski, Marie
Eveslage, Steve & Sarah	Kuhlmann, Mary	Rieland, Chuck & Lucy	Zehrer, Bill & Pam
Falk, Jeremy & Jennifer	Kunkel, Phil & Rose	Rieland, Matt & Shari	Zenzen, Art & Marilyn
First, Pete & Nicole	Kutter, Robert & Nancy:Member	Rieland, Mike & Mary	Zimmer, Chris & Sarah
Flanders, Josh & Stacy	Kutter, Wayne & Sherry	Rieland, Shirley	Zimmerman, Lowell & Kris
Flaws, Michael & Marilyn	Lafayette Resort	Rolfes, Chuck	
Fox, Thomas & Laurie	Larson, Brendan & Debi	Rudolph, Jerry & Deb	

SPONSORSHIP AS OF MARCH 27TH 2024



PLATINUM

Opatz Metals & Rolloffs	Holdingsford
Leedstone	Melrose
Warrior Boats Inc	Melrose



GOLD

Atkinson Well Drilling LLC	Freeport
Double R Saloon Inc	Grey Eagle
The Rock Tavern LLC	Grey Eagle
Neville Hardware	Grey Eagle
Central MN Realty-Brandon Kelly	Grey Eagle
Hinman Lawn Service	Grey Eagle
Kraemer Lumber Co Inc	Melrose
Meadowlark Country Club	Melrose
Melrose Plumbing & Heating Services Inc	Melrose
Lake Country Storage LLC	Melrose
North Risk Partners	Melrose



SILVER

Magnifi Financial - GE	Grey Eagle
Spiritz Liquor	Melrose
Freeport State Bank	Melrose
Rahns Oil & Propane	Melrose
Bitz Plumbing & Heating Services LLC	Sauk Centre



BRONZE

All Stars Sports Bar & Grill	Freeport
RJ's Country Store LLC	Freeport
Hennen Floor Covering Inc	Freeport
Hennen Lumber Co Inc	Freeport
Freeport Trucking	Freeport
Update Buiding Supplies, LLC	Grey Eagle
Becky's Salon	Grey Eagle
Nancy's Bait & Tackle	Grey Eagle
CAP Enterprises of Melrose Inc	Melrose
Econ-O-Wash Laundromats	Melrose
Engelmeyer Land Services LLC	Melrose
Dan Schmidt Printing Inc	Melrose

THANKS TO OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS bigbirchlakeassociation.org

Bedding changed in wood duck houses

The bedding in the wood duck houses and mallard tubes have been changed.

It is noted that 6 out of the 13 wood Duck houses were nested in and none of the mallard tubes were nested in.



Annual road ditch cleanup

By Grant Niehaus

The BBLA Annual Road Ditch Clean Up will take place on Saturday April 27th starting at 9am.

If the weather is unfavorable, the make up date will be on Sunday April 28th.

Please consider participating in this great event! For those participating, bags of collected trash can either be disposed of in your local trash receptacle or taken to Kevin Costello's and he will take the trash to Opatz Metals and Rolloffs.

The BBLA would like to thank Opatz Metals and Rolloffs for accepting the trash collected from this event. Any other questions about this event, please reach out to your area director.

BBLA Directors Responsible for 2024 Road Ditch Clean Up

- Red:** Craig Tweedale, Jay Anderson
- Dark Blue:** Jeanne Niehaus, Gary Rostien
- Green:** Mark Erdmann and Matt Everding
- Yellow:** Deb Johnson, Brandon Kelly, Blake Johnson
- Light Blue:** Kevin Costello, Hans Mische
- Pink:** Adrian Johnson, Grant Niehaus, Steve Thelen, Mike Sadlowsky

Look for mailer on two invasive species

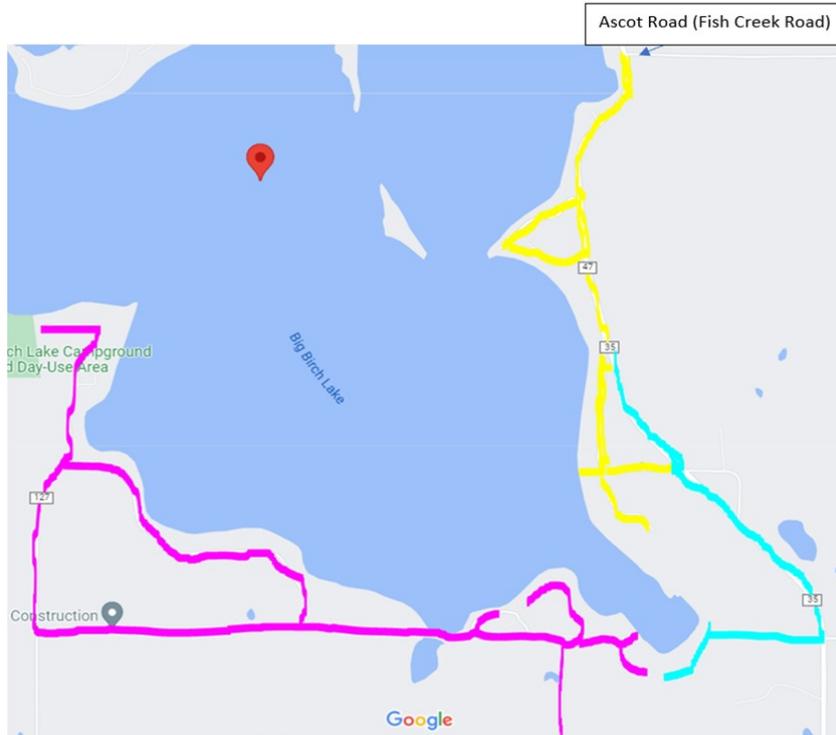
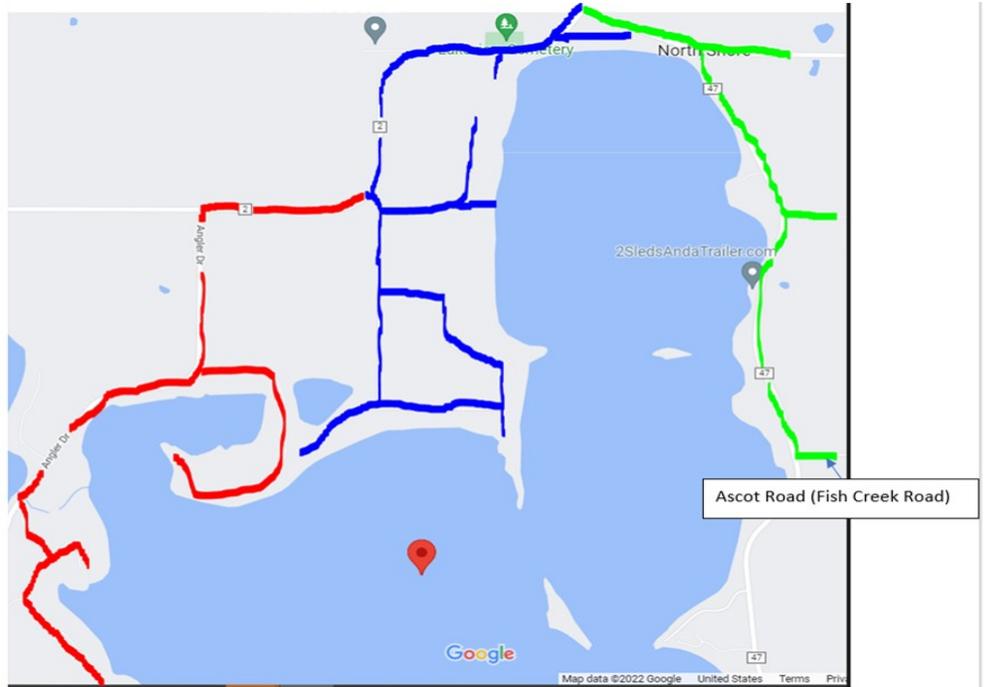
A mailing with pictures of starry stonewort and Eurasian water milfoil will be sent out this Spring to Big Birch Lake property owners.

The mailing will also provide descriptions of these two AIS and warn BBL owners of their dangers.

Reminders about lawns, runoff

People who choose to fertilize lawns should use phosphorus free fertilizer with the middle number being zero ie: (10-0-5).

Also, place yard and beach waste (ie: grass clippings, leaves, lake weeds, etc..) in areas away from the lake and creeks that flow into the lake to prevent nutrient runoff.



BBLA requests change on North Shore access usage in summer

Citizens misunderstood the request

By Robert Kutter

The Big Birch Lake Association has never proposed closing the North Shore access for winter use. The only request made to Grey Eagle Township from the BBLA is a sign that reads: "This shallow water access is not suitable for boat launching and is closed to motorized watercraft. Please use the DNR access that is 1.2 miles away. Thank you."

People showed up at the annual meeting of the Grey Eagle Township on March 5 to protest the closing of the access year around. Many people had misunderstood the request of the BBLA and repeated incorrect information. The request to the Grey Eagle Township Board of Supervisors applies only to summer access use. The BBLA did not request any change to winter usage.

Big Birch Lake is 2,108 acres and has 6 lake accesses. The Department of Natural Resources recommends that each access has monitors from government agencies to prevent invasive species from entering. This is the only way to prevent infestation. BBLA cannot inspect boats at six accesses. There are not enough resources to go around, and furthermore, there are three DNR accesses on the lake with each having parttime inspection.

In comparing BBL to area lakes, one can see the number of accesses per size of the lake.

Little Birch Lake - 838 acres - 1 access.

Sauk Lake - 2,126 acres - 3 accesses

Koronis - 3,106 acres - 3 accesses

Lake Osakis - 6,270 acres - 3 accesses

Green Lake - 5,560 acres - 3 accesses

Big Birch Lake - 2,108 acres - 6 accesses

There is no lack of access on Big Birch Lake and there is no plan to curtail winter access on the North Shore.

The North Shore access may be the oldest access on the lake, but there is no one living who can confirm that. It originated as a cartway and was used in the winter by men harvesting ice from the lake for household and business refrigeration. Teams of horses pulled sleds onto the ice, then two-man ice saws were used to cut large chunks of ice from the lake and then extract the ice using hooks. The ice was hauled to an icehouse where it was covered with sawdust to keep it cold. During warm weather, the ice was sold to people for their summer refrigeration.

When electricity and refrigeration came to the area, the business of harvesting ice was done. In the 1950s, I recall some of the cabin owners along the North Shore continued to make use of the ice service for their "ice box" refrigeration.

Coming Soon: BBL custom clothing

Opening Date:
April 8, 2024

Closing Date:
May 5, 2024

Shipping:
May 20, 2024

How To Access Your Online Store:

1. Go to: www.midwestscreenprint.com
2. Find: "online store" in menu bar, click on it.
3. Find BBL, click on it.
4. Enjoy shopping.

Return Policy:

All items are custom made to order, all sales are final, no exchanges or returns.

For All Inquiries Contact:

Tony | 320.260.6668
Kris | 320.256.3924

**SORRY.
CAN'T.
LAKE.
BYE.**



Offering:

Hoodies, Caps, V-neck, 1/4 zippers, T-shirts, Long Sleeve Tees, Crews and more

In the early days of white settlement, the cart way became the local swimming beach in the summer and the way to get onto the lake in the winter to go ice fishing.

A piece of property further east along the shore became a public swimming beach in the 1950s where swimming lessons were taught for many years. The beach and the adjacent park across 124th Street were efforts by Grey Eagle citizens to maintain a place for public recreation on the lake. The park is owned and maintained by the City of Grey Eagle. The swimming beach is owned and maintained by Grey Eagle Township.

In the 1950s and 1960s, the access was where people launched their boats until the DNR access was created on the west side of the upper bay in the late 1960s. Back then boats were smaller and lighter. The water was shallow and the lake bottom sand. It was not uncommon for people to get their vehicles stuck in the sand. My brothers and I pulled many stuck cars and trucks out with the WD Allis Chalmers tractor. We kept a log chain on the tractor just for that purpose.

Drivers unfamiliar with the road coming from Grey Eagle and traveling south sometime drove into the lake. I recall a time in the 1950s when one car

followed another into the lake at night.

The gravel road was different back then as well. What is called County 2 now, made a 90 degree turn at the access road. The access road was very short. On the north side of County 2 road was the Kutter dairy farm night pasture. On the south side of County 2, was a very narrow strip of lakeshore and a business known as the Dew Drop Inn. I currently live in a house built on the foundation of the tiny bar and grill. On the east side of County 2 was a cabin owned by the Hart family from Long Prairie.

In 1961 Todd County rebuilt the road slicing through the pasture making the south half useless. Eventually the road was paved, and driver speeds picked up along the North Shore.

The last time the county reengineered the road was in 2001. At that time a stretch of County 2 was rerouted to meet County 33, and the abandoned quarter mile became a dead end street, which now serves the homes and public beach along the North Shore.

With the popularization of snowmobiles in the 1960s, the access became the preferred way to ride across the frozen lake and access trails that led into Grey Eagle or turned east and led to Mound Lake and points north.

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

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



SATURDAY, JUNE 8TH, 2024
BIG BIRCH LAKE LADIES BRUNCH
SHATTUCK'S HUB SUPPER CLUB
 30905 Co Rd 13, Burtrum, MN 56318



FRIDAY JUNE 21, 2024
26TH ANNUAL BIG BIRCH LAKE RESIDENTS 9 HOLE GOLF OUTING
MEADOWLARK COUNTRY CLUB
 837 COUNTRY CLUB DR, MELROSE, MN 56352

SOCIAL HOUR AT 10 A.M. & BRUNCH AT 11 A.M.
 Loaded egg bake, fresh fruit, yogurt parfait, rolls & coffee

\$20 Gratuities & Taxes Included
CASH BAR AVAILABLE

Come start the day off with friends and neighbors.
DOOR PRIZES



\$35 ENTRY FEE • MELROSE GOLF OUTING

Entry fee includes GOLF, CART and LUNCH.

DON'T WANT TO GOLF?
 \$10 Entry fee includes LUNCH ONLY, NO GOLF & is non-refundable for no-shows.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
 9:00 am Sign in
 10:00 am Tee off
 12:00 pm Attitude Adjustment
 12:30 pm Lunch
LIMIT 90 GOLFERS.

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

Please use easy registration online www.bigbirchlakeassociation.org or make check payable to **Big Birch Lake Association**. Return registration & payment by **June 7th** 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: _____

Please indicate if you wish to golf with a 4 some:

Name: _____ \$35 Golf \$10 Lunch Only
 Name: _____ \$35 Golf \$10 Lunch Only
 Name: _____ \$35 Golf \$10 Lunch Only
 Name: _____ \$35 Golf \$10 Lunch Only