

No 158

April, 2025

### Calendar

- BBLA Board Meeting  
4/26/25
- BBLA Board Meeting  
5/17/25
- Ladie's Brunch  
6/7/2025
- BBL Golf Outing  
6/20/25
- BBLA Board Meeting  
6/21/24
- BBLA Board Meeting  
7/19/24

### President's Message

Greetings Big Birch Lake Residents and families, I would like to begin by mentioning that we are hosting the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Spring Education Day at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Grey Eagle on May 3. This is a collaborative effort between the Big Birch Lake Association and the Little Birch Lake Improvement Association. These meetings focus on many of the lake issues that confront us. Please see the announcement inside this newsletter for more details. Please mark your calendars and bring your friends, family and neighbors. Everyone is welcome.

Deb Johnson and I had the opportunity once again to attend the Annual Todd County AIS Committee 2024 Re-cap meeting in January. I would like to share a number of items that were presented at this meeting.

There is a grant money available for cost sharing projects that you may be facing on your shoreline. If you are experiencing an erosion problem on your shoreline, Todd County has cost sharing (50%) to help you mitigate this issue. For more information contact Josh Votruba (Resource Conservationist, Conservation Technician) at the Todd County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Todd County also has grant money to offer Free Well Water Testing and help home owners properly cap an

“unused well.” Again, you can contact the Todd County Soil and Water Conservation District in Long Prairie for additional details.

Todd County has increased the amount of lake access inspection hours for 2025. This is great news for the lakes in the area. This will certainly help keep our lakes free of invasive species. So when you see those inspectors at the water access points, please remember to thank them.

**Special Note:** I mentioned above that Todd County has extra inspection hours to allocate in the area. There is an unprecedented move by Governor Tim Walz to cut Aquatic Invasive species (AIS) Prevention Aid in half. Minnesota Counties share 10 million dollars annually for AIS inspections for watercraft moving into and out of Minnesota waters. This initiative would be devastating to all the public waters in Minnesota.

**Please show your support against this initiative by writing to our governor at the following address.**

**Office of Governor Tim Walz  
130 State Capitol  
75 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St Paul, MN 55155**

I am sure most of you will be busy with spring chores, and preparing for another great season at the lake. Hopefully we will see you out enjoying the water.

Craig Tweedale  
BBLA President

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## Lake associations offer education day May 3

The Big Birch Lake Association and the Little Birch Lake Improvement Association collaborated to offer the third annual Little Birch and Big Birch Education Day on May 3.

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, pastries and fruit. The program will begin at 8:20 and wrap up at 11 a.m.

Deja Anton, District Manager of Todd County Soil and Water, will present information on Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS).

Nick Newman, Senior Environmental Specialist for Stearns County, will discuss shoreline permitting guidelines and other information for property owners.

Greg Berg, of Stearns County Soil and Water, will discuss grants and funding sources.

This is a great opportunity to learn about your lake, about what you can and cannot do with your shoreline.

# BBLA Board of Directors

Names	Areas	Phone
Craig Tweedale, Pres.	Area J Director	608-317-6647
Kevin Costello Treas.	Area C Director	480-250-3698
Matt Everding, V. Pres.	Area F Director	320-492-5902
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
Brandon Kelly	Area E Director	320-491-6107
Bill Lieder	Director At Large	320-733-2777
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 A&B Director	320-309-9881

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

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 Robert Kutter, Secretary and Newsletter Editor  
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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.**

## Obituary of lake resident

**Raleigh Norman Broman** died December 29, 2024. He was born April 9, 1928. He was preceded in death by his parents Ralph and Agnes, siblings, Betty, Robert, and Eugene and grandsons Ben and Joey.

He is survived by his loving wife of 73 years, Ruth and sons Mark (Marcia), Craig (Karen), Brad (Charlene), and Eric (Terry), nine grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

# Big Birch Lake Association Balance Sheet

	Feb 28, 25	Feb 29, 24
<b>Current Assets</b>		
<b>Checking/Savings</b>		
1006 · Checking -Stearns Bank	2,609.84	2,503.40
1060 · Certificate of Deposit	133,172.23	126,749.65
1005 · Checking-CMCU	13,857.76	1,185.18
1010 · Share Account-CMCU	35.90	35.90
1020 · Money Markey-CMCU	38,578.78	47,640.30
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<b>188,254.51</b>	<b>178,114.43</b>
<b>Other Current Assets</b>		
1080 · Initiative Foundation Fund	55,155.46	49,548.29
1499 · Undeposited Funds	0.00	250.00
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<b>55,155.46</b>	<b>49,798.29</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>243,409.97</b>	<b>227,912.72</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
1200 · Building & Land	35,300.00	35,300.00
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>35,300.00</b>	<b>35,300.00</b>
	<b>278,709.97</b>	<b>263,212.72</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Long Term Liabilities</b>		
2550 · Reserve		
2551 · Aquatic-Invasive Species	100,000.00	100,000.00
2552 · Future Buffer Strips	14,495.72	14,495.72
<b>Total 2550 · Reserve</b>	<b>114,495.72</b>	<b>114,495.72</b>
<b>Total Long Term Liabilities</b>	<b>114,495.72</b>	<b>114,495.72</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>114,495.72</b>	<b>114,495.72</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
3990 · Unrestricted Net Assets	162,144.94	134,031.55
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>2,069.31</b>	<b>14,685.45</b>
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>164,214.25</b>	<b>148,717.00</b>
	<b>278,709.97</b>	<b>263,212.72</b>

Call ahead for details  
 320-746-2819

## 16th Annual BBL Junk Clean Up Day

9 am to 12 noon,  
 Sat., June 7, 2025

No paint  
 Chemicals, oils

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

Provided by Opatz Metals & Rolloffs and Lake Country Storage  
 Free drop off for appliance..  
 \$25 for TV, mattress, furniture  
 Small charges for other small items

# Lundeen's enjoy year-around life at BBL

## Fishing, hunting, speedboat racing mainstays Of Lundeen's experiences at Big Birch



### Kutter's Column

Darrell Lundeen has been familiar with Big Birch Lake all his life. His Dad's family and grandfather built a cabin on Aspen Drive in the 1930s. Of course, it was not known as Aspen Drive back then. The road led to the resort at the bottom of the hill which was uniquely located on a peninsula, one shore facing the upper bay and another facing the lower bay. The name of the resort was Turner's Resort. The resort later was known as the Nestle Inn Resort, owned by the Nestlebush family and finally by the Wright family.

The Lundeen cabin faced the upper bay complete with an outhouse, a common structure at cabins in those days. Rocks from the lake were used to build foundations and fireplaces. The photo of the cabin shows a typical structure of cabins built in the 1930s. The original Lundeen cabin was recently torn down.

Darrell and his dad were known for netting whitefish on the upper bay in the winter. The fish were smoked and reputed to be the best anyone had ever tasted. Whitefish netting, once a common practice, has mostly disappeared.

Darrell and his wife Marlys live up the hill from the original place in a home constructed in the 1970s. They claimed a stone bench from the original place. This home became their permanent residence after Darrell retired from the job he worked for 42 ½ years. You could say Darrell was a climber. He worked for Thompson Lightning Protection Company, as an installer on roofs including the IDS building, the Humphrey dome stadium, and church steeples all over the Twin Cities and beyond. A dangerous job, he often worked solo all over Minnesota, other states, and Mexico. He grew up in the Central Avenue area of Minneapolis.

Marlys, proud defender of her Finish heritage, grew up in the South Haven, Kingston and Dassel area. She retired from Cub Foods.

Darrell's dad was an inspector of ship-docks all over the country including

the ore docks along Lake Superior. One of the stories he liked to tell was about the duck hunters who camped on Hammarsten Island, got cold and started a fire that burned down Turner's cabin.

When Darrell was a child, he was afraid of Blackjack. Blackjack was a Native American who lived somewhere on the Lafayette property next door to the Nesle Inn Resort. His real name was Jack Glider, who lived alone in a tar paper shack.

Glider was known to walk along As-



**This is the original Lundeen cabin typical of cabins built in the 1930s-1950s. The cabin was recently torn down.**

pen Drive and stop at the cabins to ask people if they had leftover food when they were packing to go home after the weekend. Darrell recalls one time when a neighbor's chicken got run over on the road. Blackjack picked it up supposedly for a roadkill dinner. Glider also taught Darrell that he need not fear poison ivy. Blackjack picked the poison plant and rubbed it on his arms and legs. Darrell didn't buy it.

Ralph and Adolph Kutter would look after Glider, and when he died, they buried him in Lakeview Cemetery from the back of a 48 Ford pickup. Today it would be called a green burial.

When Lundeen was a teen, his dad built him a speedboat. Marlys chimed in that he liked speed. One of his buddies was Rick Powers, who also had a speed boat. Together they sped around the lake and maybe raced a time or two. Darrell also recalled the time one winter

when Powers wanted a drink, and he drove his snowmobile up the steps and into the Rock Tavern.

The Lundeen's have one son and one grandson, who now own the 33 acres of forest east of Todd County #47. Darrell's dad did not want the forest when he purchased the lakeshore, but the seller insisted and would not separate the two properties. Lundeen eventually agreed, and Darrell is very happy he did because the forest has become a treasured part of the family's hunting and hiking experience.

The Lundeens appreciate their neighbors who look after them and help them out year around. Keeping the road cleared in the winter was once done with an old John Deere tractor. Now another neighbor uses his pickup with a plow mounted on the front.

Nearly all of the original property owners are gone, and many passed their property down to the next generations. One of the things the Lundeen's regret is seeing the old cabins replaced by massive homes on the lakeshore.

There were many Finnish families who lived along the east side of the lake. One of the families that Darrell got to know was the Hemi family. They owned a farm just up the way on Ascot Road, and Fish Creek ran through their property. Darrell and his Dad would visit them and were invited to take a sauna. In the summer they would come out of the sauna and jump in Fish Creek. In winter they would roll in the snow.

Whether you are new to Big Birch Lake or have lived here a lifetime, heaven seems closer in a house beside the water.

## MEMBERSHIP AS OF APRIL 2025

Althaus, Kurt & Lori	Freeman, Dave & Sue	Kyllo, Carole	Roy, Robert & Barbara
Anderson, Jean	Frerichs Frank, Jane	Lafayette Resort	Rudolph, Jerry & Deb
Anderson, Stephen & Lisa	Froehling, Joseph	Larson, Brendan & Debi	Russell, Jim & Mindy
Arullo, Michael & Michelle	Freudenrich, Jeremy & Holly	Larson, Gayle & Karen Lemons	Rutherford, Peter & Lourel
Atkinson, Dan & Jan	Fuchs, Brian & Lori	Larson, Maxwell & Brenda	Sadlowsky, Mike & Vicki
Atwood, Duane & Jody	Gagne, Bob & Christine	Lemieux, BJ & Rachel	Sand, Daniel & Mary
Auger, John & Karen	Gangl, Dale	Lesetmoe, Orlin & Aprile Barton	Savage, William & Sharon
Austing, Dick & Jane	Gasow, Ralph & Lori	Lieder, William & Renee	Schanhaar, Tom & Deb
Beckermann, Fran & Linda	Gerads, Dale & Mary Lou	Lilligren, Kirk & Cathy	Schiemann, Chuck & Ellie
Beekhuizen, Steven & Julie	Gerding, Dewayne & Alvina	Linn, Mike	Schmid, Judith
Benolken, Sue	Germer, Robert & Charlene	Loehr, Jim & Renee	Schmid, Ted & Julie
Berg, Dwaine & Louise	Giles, Henry	Logan, Guy & Suzanne	Schmidt, Thomas & Joann
Bergmann, Ken & Marilyn	Gordon, Brian & Kristen	Mack, Murray & Sue	Schnettler, John & Jan
Bertram, Steve & Pam	Grutsch, John & Jan	Malm, Scott & Ann	Schnettler, Mike & Deb
Blommel Family	Hatton, Rene & LuAnn	Marshall, Karin	Schwantes, Mike & Amy
Blommel, Leroy & Marilyn	Heinen, Nancy	McQueen, Kathy	Schwartz, Steve & Joann
Bohlig, Bob & June	Helget, Ron & Becky	Mehr, Mike & Lori	Schwieters, Charles & Beatrice
Bonacci, Dereck	Hendrickson, David & Colette	Mehr, Ralph & Mary Ann	Seitzer, Jim & Belinda
Bondhus, Adam	Hinman, John & Kathy	Meyer, Barry & Denise Langer	Shafer, Tom & Bonnie
Borgerding, Clarence	Hinnenkamp, Ben & Pam	Meyer, Glenn & Dianne	Sieben, Kevin & Beth
Brandt Family	Hoeschen, Larry & Elaine	Meyer, Virg & Joyce	Sieloff, Justin & Sarah
Brattensborg, Ruth	Hoffman, Dan & Janell	Miley, Rod & Nancy	Sinclair, James & Carolyn
Brixius, Bernie & Lisa	Hotzler, Mark & Jane	Moening, Lee & Judy	Sinclair, Ken & Jan
Broman, Brad & Charlene	Hughes, Bob & Sally	Mohr, Marilyn	Smith, Patrick
Bruyere, Scott	Hughes, Dan & Liz	Mohs, Dean & Sandy	Spanier, Eric & Jana
Bueckers, Ervin	Hughes, John & Susan	Molitor, Chick & Karen	Spence, Jim & Christine
Bullock, Lou & Debbie	Hughes, Parry & Kathy	Molitor, Jon	Stalboerger Family, Lorraine
Bushman, Wayne	Humbert, Rick & Lois	Mueller, Jerry	Starfield, Glenn
Bussmann Properties LLC	Humbert, Ryan & Stacy	Nathe, Mark & Ann	Steinbring, John & Sandy
Butte, Rick	Ingold, Kirk & Mandi	Neville, Steve	Stomberg, Chuck & Nancy
Campbell, Mel & Sherry	Ingold, Linnea	Niehaus, Anthony & Carol	Strack, Bob & Laurie
Carpenter, Todd & Laura	Iverson, Ron & Jennifer	Niehaus, Bob & Deb	Studniski, Adam & Jolene
Cavello, Butch & Amy	Janak, Roger & Julie	Niehaus, Grant	Taylor, Dennis & Trish
Cebuhar, Mary	Jansen, Jeff & Teri	Niehaus, John & Mary	Tembrock, Henry
Chirhart, Penny	Jepperson, Craig & Mary	Niehaus, Mitchel & Erin	Thelen, Steve & Amy
Citrowske, Cheri	Johnson, Adrian & Kay	Nohner, Kevin & Mary	Thompson, Rod & Sally
Collins, Jim & Crystal	Johnson, Dan & Julie	Olmscheid, Curt	Timmermann, John
Collins, Joyce	Kadri, Abdu & Janice	Orth, David & Linda	Tomsche, Dr. Ed & Theresa
Costello, Kevin & Ann	Kalgren, Rick & Ann	Ostendorf, Mark & Lisa	Tschida, Amy
Costello, Scott	Kappes, Mike & Jannie	Ostrem, Justin & Amy	Tweedale, Craig & Mary Lou
Collins, Margaret	Kaufman, Robert & Josephine	Pakola, Howard & Barb	Uphoff, Jim & Lee
Davis, Scott & Marjo	Kelly, Brandon & Becky	Pavlivek, John & Kathryn	Van Beck, Chad & Brenda
DBW Family LLC	Kemper, Jeff & Linda	Pelo, Rod & Phyllis	VanDrehle, Donald & Helen
Denne, Marv & Mary Beth	Kerfeld, Donald & Diane	Peterson, Dr Thomas & Virginia	Vener, John
Dinndorf, Don & Vi	Kerfeld, Glenn	Phillips, Rosemary	Vener, Mike & Kim
Dobesh, Jeff & Jill	Klaphake, Deb	Piersak, Thomas & Jeffrey	Viere, Kevin & Ann
Dubiel, Marvin & Pam	Klaphake, Florian & Doreen	Plombon, Roger & Gloria	Volk, Randy
Dufner, Randy & Hallie	Klasen, Kyle	Poganski, Rock & Marcia	Waldvogel, Dennis
Duncomb, Bruce & Vicki	Klasen, Vern & Marlene	Provinzino, Chuck & Jannine	Walker, Tom
Econ-O-Wash Laundromats	Klocker, Barbara	Rahn, Dave & Lisa	Walters, George & Sue
Eiben, Joe	Kloos, Mike & Becky	Ramler, Chris & Amy	Weber, Thomas
Eifering Cabin LLC	Kluempke, Cathy	Rasmussen, Steve	Wehlage, Mike & Julie
Elieff, Daniel & Julie	Koch, Bob & Connie	Refsland, Curt & Mary	Weinman, Roger & Constance
Enneking, Gene & Cheryl	Kohorst, Don & Loni, Bob & Joan	Rieger, Joel & Pamela	Weitzel, Michele
Erdmann, Mark & Summer	Konsor, Stephen & Karen	Rieland, Chuck & Lucy	Welle, Larry & Rose
Erickson, Russell	Kotsmith, Randy & Karen	Rieland, Mary	Westbrock, Bruce & Linda
Erslund, Mary Kay	Kotsmith, Sharon	Rieland, Matt & Shari	Worms, Steven & Shirley
Everding, Matt & Missy Kotzer	Kuehne, Ron & Midge	Rieland, Roger & Pamela	Zaborski, Tom & Julia
Eveslage, Steve & Sarah	Kuhlmann, Mary	Rieland, Shirley	Zachman, Jeff & Linda
First, Pete & Nicole	Kunkel, Phil & Rose	Roe, John & Janet	Zackoski, Michael & Kimberly
Fox, Thomas & Laurie	Kutter, Robert & Nancy	Rothstein, Gary & Ruth	Zenzen, Art & Marilyn
			Zimmer, Chris & Sarah
			Zimmerman, Lowell & Kris

# SPONSORSHIP AS OF APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup> 2025



## PLATINUM

Opatz Metals & Roll Offs	..... Holdingford
Freeport State Bank	..... Melrose
Warrior Boats Inc	..... Melrose
Prime Source Printing and Promotional	..... Freeport



## GOLD

Bitz Plumbing & Heating Services LLC	..... Grey Eagle
Rahns Oil & Propane	..... Melrose
Oaks Tree Service	..... Sauk Centre



## SILVER

Atkinson Well Drilling LLC	..... Freeport
Central MN Realty - Brandon Kelly	..... Grey Eagle
Double R Saloon Inc	..... Grey Eagle
Lake Country Storage LLC	..... Melrose
Kraemer Lumber Co Inc	..... Melrose
Meadowlark Country Club	..... Melrose
Munson Feed Co Inc	..... Melrose
Melrose Plumbing & Heating Services Inc	..... Melrose
Boomerang Outdoor Recreation Inc	..... Minneapolis
Minnesota National Bank	..... Sauk Centre
DK's Tree & Landscaping LLC	..... Swanville



## BRONZE

North Risk Partners	..... Albany
Hennen Floor Covering Inc	..... Freeport
Arnzen Construction Inc	..... Freeport
Hennen Lumber Co Inc	..... Freeport
St. Rosa Lumber Inc	..... Freeport
Update Buiding Supplies, LLC	..... Grey Eagle
Hinman Lawn Service	..... Grey Eagle
Grey Eagle Electric Inc	..... Grey Eagle
Nancy's Bait & Tackle	..... Grey Eagle
Ecowater Systems of Long Prairie	..... Long Prairie
Engelmeyer Land Services LLC	..... Melrose
Twin Pines Catering	..... Melrose
Grey Eagle Gas & Grocery-Sinclair	..... Melrose
Melrose 1 Stop-Sinclair	..... Melrose
Dan Schmidt Printing Inc	..... Melrose
Freeport Gas & Grocery-Sinclair	..... Melrose

THANKS TO OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS [bigbirchlakeassociation.org](http://bigbirchlakeassociation.org)

## Board negotiates new rate for buffer strips

Board member Grant Niehaus, with help from board member, Brandon Kelly, was able to negotiate a new buffer strip rate with landowners whose farm fields are adjacent to Adley Creek tributaries.

The new rate is \$275 per acre for 2025. Since the state took over covering the expense for buffer strips on creeks and rivers in Minnesota, the BBLA continues to offer three farmers payment for buffer strips that fall outside of the definition of a creek or river.

### Ice-out Record

2024	March 16
2023	April 30
2022	April 24
2021	April 1
2020	April 12
2019	April 20
2018	May 5
2017	March 31
2016	March 27
2015	April 10
2014	April 27
2013	May 11
2012	March 20
2011	April 21
2010	April 2
2009	April 20
2008	April 30
2007	April 16
2006	April 10
2005	April 9
2004	April 7

## Governor proposes 50 percent cut in budget to fight invasive species

Gov. Tim Walz has proposed a 50 percent cut in Minnesota's \$10 million program to fight aquatic invasive species.

Part of the money goes to inspectors at public accesses to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species like zebra mussels and starry stonewort. Inspectors at three

BBL accesses get paid from this fund.

The legislature created the funding and has been paying counties for about a decade. And it will make it more difficult for counties to cover lost state funding for the aquatic invasive species program.

### Do's and Don'ts of Managing Aquatic Plants on Your Property

All aquatic plants growing in public waters are the property of the state. Because of their value to the lakes ecosystem, they may not be destroyed without authorization from the Department of Natural Resources DNR).

Activities not allowed:

- Altering the lake bottom to control aquatic plants
- Use of hydraulic jets
- The use of lake bottom barriers
- Removing aquatic plants from undeveloped shoreline or where they do not interfere with boating or swimming

Control methods requiring a permit:

- Destruction of emergent vegetation (cattails, bulrushes )
- Cutting by hand submerged vegetation larger than 2,500 square feet
- Applying herbicides, algaecides
- Moving or removing a bog of any size that is free floating or lodged away from its original area
- Use of automatic plant control devices
- Removing vegetation wider than a 15 foot channel

When is a permit not needed?

- The area to be cleared is to not exceed 2,500 square feet
- The cleared area is not to exceed 50 feet along the shoreline or one-half the length of your shoreline
- This work can only be completed by hand or hand powered equipment and all aquatic plants must be disposed of on shore

Note: for all the do's and don'ts, visit the DNR website on aquatic plant management regulations ([info.dnr@state.mn.us](mailto:info.dnr@state.mn.us))

# Little Birch & Big Birch

## Education Day

Saturday, May 3

St. Joseph's  
Church  
Grey Eagle  
8-11 a.m.



### Guest speakers

- Aquatic Invasive Species
- shoreline permitting
- funding sources

**Road Ditch Clean Up on Saturday, April 19th**

A weather make up day will be on Saturday, April 26th (after board meeting). Grant Niehaus has created a map with the various road ditches assigned to each director's area. At least two directors are assigned per area, in the event that one is busy and can't make it. Board members will work together to coordinate efforts as well as recruiting neighbors in the area to help with the clean-up. Each of the directors is responsible to supply the trash bags for their respective areas if someone requests them. Once the bags are full, either dispose of them in your own trash receptacle or take them to Kevin Costello's and put in his trailer.

**BBLA Directors Responsible for the Following Areas**

**Red:** Craig Tweedale, Jay Anderson

**Dark Blue:** Jeanne Niehaus, Gary Rostien

**Green:** Mark Erdmann, Matt Everding, Bill Lieder

**Yellow:** Deb Johnson, Brandon Kelly, Blake Johnson

**Light Blue:** Kevin Costello (Scott), Hans Mische

**Pink:** Grant Niehaus, Steve Thelen, Mike Sadlowsky

**Ice-out watch is on for BBL**

By Robert Kutter

As of this writing, ice still covers much of Big Birch Lake. The shorelines are open, and Bob Kuehne reported seeing a loon on Hoffman Bay on April 5.

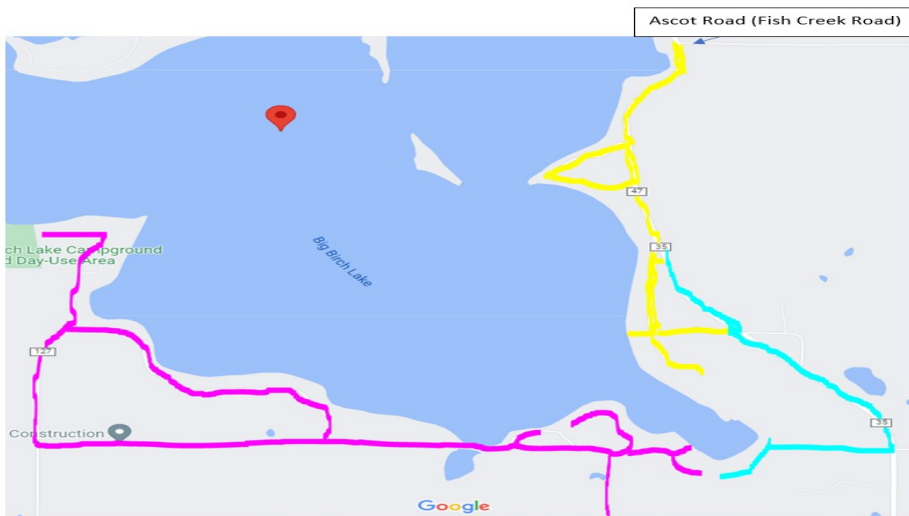
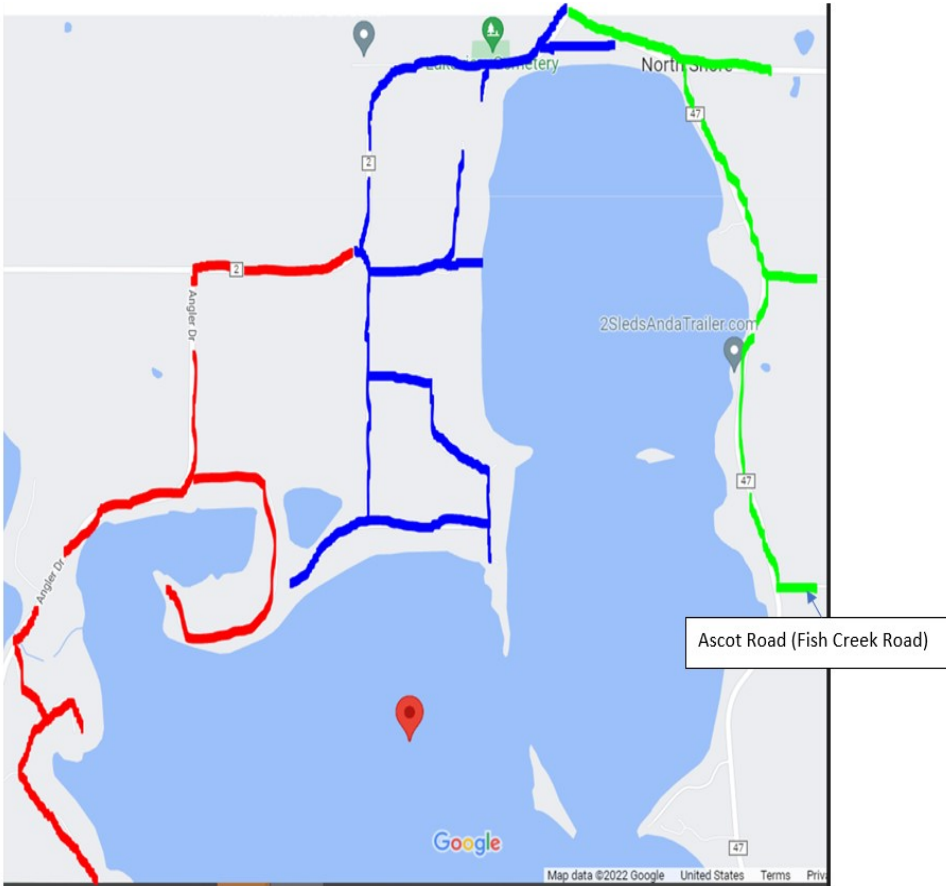
State climatologist, Pete Boulay says, ice-out occurs when a lake is roughly 90% ice-free, and when a boat may be successfully launched. The state climatology office tracks ice out and maps where it has occurred each spring.

The ice-out data collected in this newsletter goes back to 2004. Chuck Schiemann told of his mother's record that went back to the 1950s.

Lake Osakis has ice-out records back to 1867. Smaller lakes, such as Trace, adjacent to the west side of Grey Eagle are ice free. Trace is relatively shallow.

Some folks like to place a friendly bet on when the ice goes out of BBL. I recall a time in the 1950s when the Grey Eagle Commercial Club would park a car on BBL and sell raffle tickets on which people guessed when the car would sink. Yes, the cars were towed out of the lake. The funds were used to make park improvements.

It takes about a month for ice to clear from Minnesota lakes south to north, and Big Birch is in the middle of that pack.



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

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**SATURDAY, JUNE 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2025**  
**BIG BIRCH LAKE LADIES BRUNCH**  
**SHATTUCK'S HUB SUPPER CLUB**  
 30905 Co Rd13, Burtrum, MN 56318



**FRIDAY JUNE 20, 2025**  
**27<sup>TH</sup> 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, juice & coffee

**\$21<sup>50</sup>** Gratuities & Taxes Included  
**CASH BAR AVAILABLE**

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



**\$36 ENTRY FEE • MELROSE GOLF OUTING**

Entry fee includes GOLF, CART and LUNCH.

**DON'T WANT TO GOLF?**  
 \$12 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](http://www.bigbirchlakeassociation.org) or make check payable to **Big Birch Lake Association**. Return registration with payment by **May 30<sup>th</sup>** to: Big Birch Lake Association  
 P.O. Box 342  
 Grey Eagle, MN 56336

Please use easy registration online [www.bigbirchlakeassociation.org](http://www.bigbirchlakeassociation.org) or make check payable to **Big Birch Lake Association**. Return registration & payment by **June 7<sup>th</sup>** 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: \_\_\_\_\_  \$36 Golf  \$12 Lunch Only  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_  \$36 Golf  \$12 Lunch Only  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_  \$36 Golf  \$12 Lunch Only  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_  \$36 Golf  \$12 Lunch Only