



# Big Birch Lake Association NEWSLETTER

No. 160

October 2025

## BBLA Board of Directors

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Matt Everding, V Pres.	320.492.5902
Jay Anderson	763.482.1926
Mark Erdmann	763.386.9254
Blake Johnson	612.910.3871
Deb Johnson	320.285.5833
Brandon Kelly	320.491.6107
Steve Konser	320.200.9419
Bill Lieder	320.733.2777
Grant Niehaus	320.583.4939
Jeanne Niehaus	651.757.7475
Gary Rothstein	320.290.7818
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The Big Birch Lake Association  
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Craig Tweedale, President  
Robert Kutter,  
Secretary/newsletter editor

## 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.**

## President's Letter

As the trees are rapidly starting to show their fall colors it is somewhat a bittersweet time of year. Now the ritual of removing watercraft, docks and lifts begin. I know some of us like to gamble and leave those boats etc. in the lake as long as possible because we all know how beautiful the fall colors and lake can be while taking that last boat ride.

With the Big Birch Lake Board activity slowing down slightly after September/October, it would be fitting to review some highlights and accomplishments by some of our wonderful volunteers. This is not an all-inclusive list by any means. We appreciate all our volunteers and hopefully you were able to attend the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner.

Our AIS volunteers: We owe a debt of gratitude to all those volunteers that Deb Johnson coordinates to inspect all the boat landings twice a month for invasive species.

• Grant Niehaus and Brandon Kelly work behind the scenes with farmers that have tributaries that come into our lake. They talk to these farmers about putting buffer strips on each side of the waterways to help protect our lake. This is not always a pleasant task, but they do it with a smile and a dedicated purpose each year.

• Loon Platforms: Thank you to all of you who keep your platform in good shape, gather up nesting material and place the platform in the lake hopefully before our loons migrate here for the summer. I know sometimes it is cold and windy and we just had "Ice out", but those loons as many of us know are watching us and scoping out the platform before you can even get back to shore. Let's not forget Bob Gagne, Bob Gerner who are our official loon counters. They count and report their loon data to the DNR and to BBLA.

• Secchi disk readings and water samples: To all of you who help with this task. Thank you so much for going to all the inlets and reporting your findings to the appropriate agencies and BBLA.

If you were not able to attend the BBLA Annual meeting, you may be interested in the following:

1. BBLA building sold: Many of you may have noticed that after a lot of research and debating, the BBLA Board of Directors voted unanimous to sell the BBLA office and Community Center. With all the funding cuts and invasive species increasing, the Board felt this money was better spent towards honoring the BBLA Mission Statement. This building was donated to the BBLA by Gene Waldorf. It was a very generous gift, but with 100+ year old building it required upkeep such as a new roof, a new furnace and a new back door etc. Members of the board did speak with the executor of the Gene Waldorf family. The executor stated they appreciated the offer to have it back, but were not interested in the building. Therefore the money from the sale of the building was put in an account in Honor of Gene Waldorf. This money will be ear marked for the betterment of Big Birch Lake. This is huge for us as now will have more resources to keep Big Birch Lake healthy, a place many of us call home.

Craig Tweedale, President, Big Birch Lake Association.

## News from the boardroom

The boardroom has moved. Yes, the BBLA building in Grey Eagle was sold in August.

The board decided the cost of upkeep for the building which ran between four and five thousand a year, was not in keeping with the mission of the association.

Going forward, the board meetings will be held at the Grey Eagle United Methodist Church, across the street from the Rock Tavern.

The building was a gift to the association from Gene and Bernie Waldorf, longtime volunteers for the BBLA.

After an extensive remodel which was paid for by individual board members and in-kind labor and materials from local businesses, the building had good use for a few years.

Materials in the building are now in rented storage. The tables and chairs were donated to the Grey Eagle Library Association.

## BBLA Financial Report for July 2025

	Jul 25	Jul 24
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
4000 · Memberships		
4001 · Membership Dues	521.92	150.00
Total 4000 · Memberships	521.92	150.00
4025 · Memorials	200.00	0.00
4030 · Initiative Foundation Income	1,955.43	456.65
4060 · Fish Stocking Income	10.00	20.00
Total Income	2,687.35	626.65
Gross Profit	2,687.35	626.65
Expense		
6010 · Supplies	159.83	0.00
6020 · Repairs & Maintenance	4,800.28	7.47
6030 · Utilities		
6031 · Electric	44.41	62.95
6034 · Water & Sewer	65.84	59.84
6035 · Internet	483.18	83.17
Total 6030 · Utilities	593.43	205.96
6055 · Fees	48.58	44.41
6095 · Secretary Services	200.00	200.00
Total Expense	5,802.12	457.84
Net Ordinary Income	-3,114.77	168.81
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
9000 · Interest Income	479.46	590.85
Total Other Income	479.46	590.85
Net Other Income	479.46	590.85
Net Income	-2,635.31	759.66

## Obituary of lake resident

Donald "Don" Lambrecht

Donald "Don" W. Lambrecht, 90, passed away peacefully at his home in Freeport, with his loving wife by his side and the comfort of a life well-lived, on Thursday, September 11, 2025.

Don was born on September 22, 1934, in Grey Eagle, Minnesota, to Edwin and Regina (Tank) Lambrecht, the oldest of two boys. He grew up on the family farm where he learned early the value of hard work, responsibility, and the joys of the outdoors. Those years shaped his character, instilling the determination and resourcefulness that became hallmarks of his life.

After graduating from Grey Eagle High School, Don served with pride in the National Guard. His adventurous nature took him north to Greenland in 1964, where he worked as a painter on an Air Force base with friend and future brother-in-law Kenny Bergmann. He returned to Minnesota and worked at Industrial Lumber & Plywood in the Twin Cities, moving home to begin a 30-year career as a lineman with Stearns Electric in 1967.

That same year, Don married Ellen Bergmann and, along with their son, Craig, shared 14 years together until her passing in 1981. In 1982, he met and married Joan Howard Maw on Aug. 14, expanding his family to include stepchildren, Rick and Marilyn. Don and Joan designed and built their own home on Big Birch Lake, which became the center of their life together and a gathering place for family and friends. In 2022, he was overjoyed to be reunited with Bryan, a son he and Ellen had placed for adoption—a sentiment he shared with all who knew him well.

The outdoors was where Don felt most at home. He and Joan enjoyed many fishing and camping trips to the Boundary Waters, northern lakes in Canada, and the wilderness of Alaska, as well as deer, pheasant, grouse, turkey, moose, caribou, elk, and bear hunts. He found peace and purpose on the water, in the fields and woods, and loved sharing those moments and memories with others, especially his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. **Lambrecht obituary continues on page 6**





## Aquatic invasive species must be on everyone's radar

All need to be vigilant about the condition of the lake

### Kutter's Kolumn

I hope you have noticed the signs the BBLA has posted around the lake area.

The warning about starry stonewort found in a lake near Holdingford should give us pause.

Many of us fear another invasive making changes to the lake.



Looking at my dock and boat removed from the water recently, I saw hundreds of small zebra mussels attached to the surfaces.

That invasive was first spotted in BBL in 2014, and the BBLA has determined the place of entrance was the township access near Baywatch Village. The access is now closed through the efforts of the association.

Zebra mussels clear the water column thereby allowing more sunlight to reach new depths. The sunlight encourages the growth of vegetation, which in turn, becomes an issue for beaches when wind and wave activity carries vegetation to shore leaving the property owner with a thick blanket of muck to move or rot.

While research is done to find a way to eliminate zebra mussels, we must contend with their impact. This summer they increased their population in the upper bay.

Starry stonewort has now been found in 34 Minnesota lakes, according to the latest report from the DNR.

The algae forms thick mats in the water. When it spreads, navigation can become difficult.

It is spread from lake to lake by attaching to boats moved from one lake to another.

Once in a lake, if spotted early, it can be contained and removed by hand. The photo below shows the containment effort on one of the Whitefish Chain of lakes northeast of Brainerd.



Take a good look at the signs for the pictures of starry stonewort. Go online and find additional information about it, so you can identify it. If you think you spot it, report it to one of the association directors and the DNR.

You have probably noticed in the past two summers the purple lilacs losing their leaves in August and then re-blooming in September.

The condition is the result of higher temperatures and more moisture in the air according to the Minnesota Horticulture Society.

The lilacs bushes will leaf and bloom again next May. They are likely adapting to the new climate condition, and only time will tell if they can adjust.

We have just lived through the fourth month of summer. Who thought September would have the warmth of a July? Not until early October did the temperatures return to a normal range.

Along with the warm temperatures came some strong winds. It may be my imagination that the size of floating bogs has increased in recent years, but the evidence in the photo below shows one of two large bogs that landed on my neighbor's beach and on mine.

I don't know how they will be moved especially since most boats are in winter storage. They may rest in place until spring.

I suspect bogs have been on the move around the lake for generations. Wind, wave action, water levels all play into their movement. Once grounded by strong wind, they likely have found a new home until moved by human intervention.



A changed heaven seems a little closer in a house beside the water.



# MEMBERSHIP AS OF JUNE 2025

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



# SPONSORSHIP AS OF JUNE 25<sup>TH</sup> 2025



## PLATINUM

Prime Source Printing	Grey Eagle
Magnifi Financial - GE	Grey Eagle
Eagle Dock & Lift LLC	Grey Eagle
Opatz Metals & Rolloffs	Holdingford
Freeport State Bank	Melrose
Warrior Boats Inc	Melrose



## GOLD

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



## SILVER

Atkinson Well Drilling LLC	Freeport
Kelly, Brandon & Becky	Grey Eagle
Double R Saloon Inc	Grey Eagle
Guy Waymore's Musc Emporium	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	Melrose
Minnesota National Bank	Sauk Centre
DK's Tree & Landscaping LLC	Swanville



## BRONZE

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



Lambrecht obituary continued from page 2

Don also stayed busy building fish houses and tackling repair projects of all kinds. He was the guy people turned to when something needed fixing. Don's legacy is one of character, generosity, and quiet strength. He lived with integrity, loved life fully, and cared deeply for those around him. Upon hearing of his passing, many of his nieces and nephews lovingly said he was like a second father to them. He was preceded in death by his parents, Edwin and Regina; his late wife, Ellen; nephews, Ron Lambrecht, Wes Schiffler and Matt Haws; niece, Stacy (Schiffler) Meyer; and many more extended family members including uncles, aunts, cousins, and in-laws, and friends.

He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Joan Lambrecht of Freeport; brother, Carroll (Lorna) Lambrecht of Watertown; sons, Craig (Julie Berling) Lambrecht of Melrose and Bryan (Erin) Wieber of St. Cloud; step-children, Rick (Karen) Maw of White Bear Lake and Marilyn (John) LeFebvre of Rogers; nine grandchildren, Katie Lambrecht of Hopkins, Luke Lambrecht of Little Falls, Heather (Paul) Olson of Hastings, Meaghan (Thomas) Pollreis of La Crescent, Mike (Gabby) Maw of Lonsdale, Mitchell (Anna) Maw of Kingsport, Tennessee, Jake Post of Phoenix, Arizona, Carson Post of Rogers, Chevy Post of Rogers; six great-grandchildren, Ryder, Soren, Anders, Rory, Caroline, Reagan; many friends; and beloved German Shorthair, Chloe.

The family requests donations be made to the charities of your choice, or that you take a friend or child fishing or hunting in his memory.

We will remember Don not for what he accomplished, but for how he lived: steady, humble, and always generous with his time. He truly was a keeper, and we will keep him in our hearts forever.

BBL loon count at the end of July 2025

LOCATION	ADULTS		BABIES
hunters bay	2		1
sandy beach	2		1
cow point	2		1
waldorf	2		1
slither's island	4		
south fisher creek	2		1
north hammerstein	1		1
hammerstein island	2		2
hoffman's bay	3		1
paradise cove	2		2
little island	2		2
chicks bay	6		

Causes of excess vegetation growth in the lake

By Deb Johnson

In many lakes in Central Minnesota there has been a late-season abundance of filamentous algae and duckweed.

Primary causes for late-season growth

- Excess nutrients: The largest contributor of algae growth is an oversupply of nutrients like phosphorus and nitrogen. How do they get into the lake?
- Storm water runoff carrying lawn fertilizer, grass clippings and pet waste.
- Agriculture runoff from farm fields.
- Erosion of soil and shoreline sediments.
- Faulty or failing septic systems.
- Optimal conditions: Filamentous algae thrive in conditions prevalent during Minnesota's late summer and early fall.
- Warm water: Hot summer sun heats up the lake water, encouraging accelerated algae grow.

- Sunlight: The long hours of sunlight promote photosynthesis.
  - Calm weather: In still calm water, algae can grow undisturbed.
- As lake owners we have the power to control these things.

- Use Phosphorus free fertilizers on your lawn and leave an untreated buffer to the lawns edge to the lake.
- Dispose of all leaves, grass clippings and pest waste off site. Do not dump into the lake. Dumping leaves and other yard waste in Minnesota lakes and wetlands is illegal and harmful to water quality.

Every year as I go cruising around the lake, I see more properties popping up with native plantings and other environmental safe landscaping. Thank you to those families for helping us to keep our lake healthy.



## Association needs volunteers Raking, loading, removing what washes ashore

By Craig Tweedale

The BBLA is currently in need of dedicated volunteers for a number of openings for the Big Birch Lake Association (BBLA). The openings are as follows:

1. BBLA Directors: This board position come with "term limits" and retirement options. This position enables you to attend meetings, give your ideas and skills to help us continue to meet the mission statement of BBLA.
2. Grants Position: We need a qualified individual to head up and implement a grants committee. This should entail minimal hours and most of the work can be done from the comfort of your home.
3. AIS Director: Deb Johnson's term is up in July of 2026. Deb leads the Aquatic Invasive Species Committee (AISC) which is a critical position that needs to be filled. Especially with all the invasive species that are all around us. This position can have the option to be Co-chaired.
4. Treasurer: The current office of treasurer was graciously filled on a temporary basis by Kevin Costello when Craig Tweedale accepted the President's position.

We welcome all interested parties. If you have any questions or would like to learn more about any of the above positions, please contact Craig Tweedale, President at 608-317-6647 or [craigtweedale@gmail.com](mailto:craigtweedale@gmail.com) As always, thank you for your continued support of the Big Birch Lake Association. We cannot do our jobs without our volunteers and the support of our members.

Go to the last page of the newsletter to see a list of what the association does. If anything appeals to you as a place you would like to volunteer, contact a director or President Tweedale.

Friends of BBLA President Craig Tweedale, who live on Little Birch Lake, reported two weeks of a nonstop influx of 95 percent filamentous algae and very few aquatic plants.

In addition, the friends had never had the invasive Chinese mystery snails like they had this year. It is the worst on the shore in 25 years.



One does not have to look far down the beach to see similar piles of filamentous algae, duckweed and other vegetation on BBL.

A North Shore resident reported removing more than 100 loads of vegetation from his and his neighbor's beach over the summer.

Consider that many residents have neither the access or means of removing vegetation.



## Association approves amendment to bylaws

The BBLA Board of Directors amended the bylaws of the association to represent current practices.

The bylaws were established with area directors and directors-at-large. Having area directors assured all of the areas of the lake had equal representation on the board.

A problem became evident that some areas had more than one person interested in serving on the board and other areas had none.

The issue was presented to the association members at the annual meeting on August 16.

The board proposed eliminating area directors and at-large language arguing that it would be easier to recruit members with talents and expertise to fill board positions.

Lake residents who want to communicate with a director can simply call a director they know or who lives in their area of the lake.

A majority of the members approved the change with two voting against the amendment.

The changes proposed remove the language from the bylaws that says, "Ten (10) directors shall be elected to represent a real determination by the number of property owners. Five (5) directors shall be elected as "At large" members."

The new language reads that "Fifteen (15) directors shall be members elected from the general membership."

The change in Article IV Board of Directors and Elections then eliminated Section 8 which references voting for area directors and directors-at-large.



BIG BIRCH LAKE ASSOCIATION, INC.  
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**Volunteer activities and volunteer opportunities for the Big Birch Lake Association**

If you would like to volunteer for the Big Birch Lake Association, there are many opportunities listed below. Contact the president or one of the directors and tell them what you would like to do. If you want to understand what the association does, also look at the list below.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Maintain and place loon platforms                                 | Maintain Adley Creek channel between the lakes                            |
| Conduct loon survey   | Remove beaver dams/hire trapper   |
| Check accesses for Aquatic Invasive Species twice per month (AIS) | Update list of volunteers and boats available for emergencies on the lake |
| Identify AIS and report   | Plan for AED options around the lake                                      |
| Train volunteers for AIS  | Update and negotiate buffer zones with area farmers                       |
| Collect and test water samples at inlets                          | Ditch and trash cleanup every spring                                      |
| Walleye stocking fundraiser                                       | Winter lake trash cleanup   |
| Annual golf outing  | Watershed district meetings   |
| Annual ladies' brunch   | Board meetings April-September  |
| Volunteer appreciation dinner                                     | Prepare financial reports   |
| Prepare and conduct Annual BBLA Meeting                           | Maintain and update Facebook page   |
| Spring education day  | Maintain and update webpage   |
| (Joint effort with Little Birch association. )                    | Prepare and mail membership materials                                     |
| Clean spillway between Big and Little Birch                       | Answer property owners questions  |