

**BBLA Board of  
Directors**

Craig Tweedale, Pres.	608.317.6647
Kevin Costello, Treas.	480.250.3698
Matt Everding, V Pres.	320.492.5902
Jay Anderson	763.482.1926
Mark Erdmann	763.386.9254
Blake Johnson	612.910.3871
Deb Johnson	612.581.9389
Brandon Kelly	320.491.6107
Steve Konser	612.747.1646
Bill Lieder	320.733.2777
Grant Niehaus	320.583.4939
Jeanne Niehaus	651.757.7475
Gary Rothstein	320.290.7818
Steve Thelen	320.309.9881

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The Big Birch Lake Association  
Newsletter is an official  
publication of the Big Birch Lake  
Association, Inc. PO Box 342,  
Grey Eagle, MN 563336

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

Greeting Big Birch Lake Residents,

I don't know about you, but this is has been one of the strangest winters I have experienced in a long time. Warmer temperatures in early January, but dipping to subzero temperatures for a number of weeks. Then in the thirties and forties in February. From what I was told the ice in many areas was up to 20 inches thick. Ice out was April 8.

As I mentioned in the previous newsletter, Deb Johnson and I attended the Todd County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) planning meeting. As you are aware the AIS budget was cut from 10 million dollars to 5 million in 2027. The largest portion of this budget is spent on watercraft inspections at boat accesses. In order to lessen the blow for 2027, it was decided to cut the 2026 budget by 25%. In 2025 the North Bay (Cow Point landing) was inspected 5 days per week and for 2026, only weekend hours will be inspected up to 18 hours per week. Hunters Bay and the State Forest accesses will only receive about 12 hours of inspections each! This is not a good scenario for lakes state wide especially with the increase of invasive species creeping across our lakes. Many of the less used lakes in Todd County are getting zero inspections. It should be noted the accesses will be inspected at peak usage.

The inspections were analyzed by Todd County, AIS committee by the hour and there was wasted inspection time for little to no use. As we move forward, as a board, we will have to make some tough decisions if we want to add additional inspections to our budget.

I get many questions regarding updated regulations regarding Wake Boats on Big Birch Lake. Not much has changed. There are owners out there that are very responsible and some that aren't concerned about the problems these boats can cause on our small lakes. The National Manufactures Association continues to only support their own research and discount the scientific research done by the University of Minnesota (U of MN). But it continues to be studied.

The U of M research suggest greater distances and deeper water should minimize destructive waves hitting the shore line and to protect our lake beds. Their recommendations require wake surfing at least 200 feet from shore and depths of 10 feet or greater.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Education meeting: This meeting was co-hosted by Big Birch Lake and Little Birch Lake on April 25. One of the speakers was from the Lake Koronis Association. It has more experience than any lake association in Minnesota with fighting Starry Stonewort, since Koronis was the first lake to be infested by this terrible aquatic invasive species many years ago. The fight is ongoing.

Well, it sure has been a fun and interesting winter, but I'm ready to hear the sounds of spring. As always, thank you for your support on protecting the lake we all enjoy. Craig Tweedale, President

# BBLA Financial Report for March 2026

## Obituaries of lake residents

### Carol Niehaus

Carol H. Niehaus, age 90 of Melrose, passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by her family, on Tuesday, March 17, 2026.

Carol Hilda Eveslage was born on June 3, 1935, in Freeport, Minnesota, to Ferdinand and Loretta (Storkamp) Eveslage. She excelled in school and proudly served as president of her graduating class.

Carol met the love of her life, Anthony "Tony" Niehaus, while ice skating on King's Lake. The two were married on August 17, 1954, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Freeport, and together they took over the family farm north of Melrose. Their home was always open, and family and friends alike were welcomed warmly—no one ever left their table hungry!

While raising seven active children, Carol remained deeply involved in her church and community. She was a dedicated member of St. Mary's Catholic Church, the Christian Mothers, the Hospital Auxiliary, and the St. Mary's Cemetery Board. After retiring from farm life, she worked for over 30 years at the local credit union.

Carol was especially beloved as "Grandma Carol" by the children of St. Mary's School, where she volunteered in classrooms for more than 30 years and lovingly cared for the school's flower garden. Her gift for gardening extended to the farm, where her green thumb produced abundant harvests that she generously shared with others.

Carol and Tony deeply cherished their time at the cabin on Big Birch Lake, where their Sandy Beach lakeshore became a special place for family and friends to gather, share laughter, and create treasured summer memories. Above all, Carol's heart was happiest when she was surrounded by her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, who meant everything to her.

She is survived by her husband of 71 years, Anthony "Tony" Niehaus; her children, Jeanne (Michael Howe), Anthony Jr. "Butch" (Mary), John (Mary), Bob (Deb), Allen (Sheryl), Julie Comfort (Jeff), and Jan Herke

	Mar 31, 26	Mar 31, 25
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
1065 · Gene Waldorf Legacy Fund - Cert	50,963.63	0.00
1006 · Checking -Stearns Bank	2,616.91	2,610.39
1060 · Certificate of Deposit	139,310.97	133,696.10
1005 · Checking-CMCU	21,106.14	14,901.01
1010 · Share Account-CMCU	35.90	35.90
1020 · Money Markey-CMCU	35,844.57	38,600.08
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<b>249,878.12</b>	<b>189,843.48</b>
Other Current Assets		
1080 · Initiative Foundation Fund	65,852.70	54,368.66
1499 · Undeposited Funds	1,420.00	330.00
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<b>67,272.70</b>	<b>54,698.66</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>317,150.82</b>	<b>244,542.14</b>
Fixed Assets		
1200 · Building & Land	0.00	35,300.00
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>35,300.00</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>317,150.82</b>	<b>279,842.14</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>		
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
<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>
Equity		
3990 · Unrestricted Net Assets	169,747.32	162,344.94
Net Income	32,907.78	3,001.48
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>202,655.10</b>	<b>165,346.42</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>317,150.82</b>	<b>279,842.14</b>

(Mick); 15 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren with another on the way; her brother, John Eveslage; and her sister, Kathy Eveslage. Carol was preceded in death by her infant children, Ann Marie, Mary Jo, Thomas, and Mark; her parents, Ferdinand and Loretta Eveslage; her sisters, Bernadette Koetter, Mary Eveslage, and Elaine Hinnenkamp; and her brothers, Leo and Melvin "Bud" Eveslage. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the St. Mary's School Education Endowment Fund in Melrose, MN.

**Anthony August Niehaus** passed away peacefully at home March 29, 2026 surrounded by his children. Born on December 15, 1930, Tony lived 95 full and meaningful years, spending his entire life in his hometown of Melrose, Minnesota.

He met the love of his life, Carol Eveslage, while ice skating on King's Lake. The two were married on August 17, 1954, and together they built a life on the Niehaus family farm north of Melrose, where they lovingly raised their seven children.

Tony was a devoted member of St. Mary's Catholic Church and a strong believer in giving back to his community. He served on the Melrose Township Board, the Magnifi Credit Union Board, and the Minnesota Mutual Insurance Board, always contributing his time and leadership for the benefit of others.

**Niehaus** obituary continues on page 4



## Kutter's Kolumn

Those of us who own property on Big Birch Lake may take for granted the lake's resources: its beauty, its fish, its history, its intangible ability to draw us back to its shores time after time. This body of water holds our attention for generations.

This body of water that measures 2,108 acres is the precious resource that adds value to our lives whether we live on its shore year around or visit occasionally. I invite you to imagine how the lake appeared to the first human visitor about 8,000 years ago. Was this glacial lake surrounded by forest? Was it teaming with fish and other wildlife? Did it become a place humans returned to often?

We know some things about how the lake has changed in the past 125 years from the recorded history of white people, but there is also a vast amount we don't know. We know native people, both Ojibway and Dakota had campsites and burial grounds near the lake. We know white people came to the lake once a railroad was established with stops in Grey Eagle and Ward Springs. Thus began the other changes that impacted Big Birch Lake.

One change is the amount of algae generated by each lot on the lake. Deja Anton, the manager of the Todd County Soil & Water Conservation District, who spoke at the Lake Education Day, Saturday, April 25, told the audience that 10,000 pounds of algae is generated by each lot per year. That is equal to a hay wagon loaded with rectangular bales. Most impacts on the lake are caused by shoreland and recreational activity.

# This body of water holds intangibles

## Educate yourself on keeping the lake healthy

Another change was the introduction of zebra mussels. According to Eric Altena, the DNR Fisheries Manager for the district, zebra mussels release a fecal packet that releases nutrients into the water which contributes to algae bloom. Altena was another speaker at the Education Day.

Walleye, the most prized fish, has a decent catch rate in BBL according to Altena. There is little to no natural reproduction of the species in the lake, thus the waters are dependent upon stocking, which the DNR and the BBL do together. Walleye fry, about the size of a mosquito, are stocked by the millions, but have a very low survival rate due to predation. Because the water warms faster in the spring than it used to, fry predation is greater.

Fingerlings, which cost about \$1 a piece, have about a 50 percent survival rate in BBL. If we want to see improvement in BBL fishing, Altena said we should catch and keep the 2- and 3-year-old pike and bass because they are the biggest predators of young walleye.

The algae we don't want in BBL is starry stonewort, which would cause monumental changes, but through monitoring accesses the BBLA is doing what it can to keep it out.

Kevin Farnum, the third speaker at the Education Day, is the local expert on starry stonewort in Lake Koronis near Paynesville. He has done extensive research on the algea including working with a professor from Clemson University.

Discovered there in 2015, the algae have no root structure but rather floats in the water to about the depth of 12 feet and produces a nearly impenetrable mass that even fish don't like.

The Koronis Lake Association has a budget of \$173,000 per year to treat the infestation with chemicals using different areas of the lake each year according to Farnum.



**Kevin Farnum, President of Koronis Lake Association, presented how starry stonewort is treated in Lake Koronis where they treat 130-160 acres a year. Photo by Lou Tweedale.**

As Big Birch lake has changed over thousands of years, it will continue that path. The question for us is whether we will work to improve its waters and fishery or will we allow the degradation of this precious resource.

We can each do our part to be educated about lake science and take steps to control what happens on our property that may be detrimental to the water.

We want this beautiful patch of Earth to be here for future generations so that for them heaven seems closer in a house beside the water.

Tony's "heaven on earth" was the Niehaus family cabin on Big Birch Lake, where family and friends were always welcome. He loved cruising the lake in his classic wooden speed boat and remained an avid water skier well into his later years—still skiing at the age of 87. Even into his 90s, Tony could be seen riding his motorcycle between Melrose and Big Birch Lake.

Known for his generous spirit, Tony had a special way of seeking out and supporting the underdog. He was always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone in need. A gifted storyteller, he will be fondly remembered for his "Tonyisms" and the joy he brought to every conversation.

Tony had a deep love for children, and after retiring from the farm, he and Carol found great happiness living across from St. Mary's Catholic School, where he could often be found visiting and connecting with students. Above all, Tony was happiest when surrounded by his family.

He is survived by his children: Jeanne (Michael Howe), Anthony Jr. "Butch" (Mary), John (Mary), Bob (Deb), Allen (Sheryl Glebe), Julie (Jeff) Comfort, and Jan (Mick) Herke; 15 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren, with one more on the way.

Tony was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Carol; his infant children, Ann Marie, Mary Jo, Thomas, and Mark; his parents, Joseph and Agnes Niehaus; his brothers, Joseph, Ted, Alquin, Ed, Albie and his sisters, Mae, Julie, Hildie, Sr. Inez, Sr. Venard, and Sr. Helen.

Memorials are preferred to the St. Mary's School Education Endowment Fund or the Big Birch Lake Association.

**Francis "Frank" Hughes**

Francis S. "Frank" Hughes, age 86 of Melrose, passed away on Sunday, March 15, 2026 at Tree of Life in New Munich, Minnesota, surrounded by his family.

Francis Solan Hughes was born on July 25, 1939, in Benson, Minnesota, to Henry and Gladys (Knutson) Hughes. He graduated from Benson High School in 1957. Frank earned his four-year degree in education and later a master's degree from St. Cloud State University. On June 29, 1963, he married Bonita "Bonnie" Boutain at St. Malachy's Church in Clontarf, Minnesota.

Frank served as an elementary school principal in Melrose from 1970 until his retirement in 1996.

He was an active member of St. Mary's Catholic Church, the Melrose Lions Club, and the Knights of Columbus Council #1633. Frank enjoyed spending time at the family cabin on Big Birch Lake, wintering in Arizona from 1997 to 2012, and most of all spending time with his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Survivors include his daughters, Carolyn (Brian) Atkinson of Annandale, Sara (Glen) Kemper of Melrose, and Andrea (Scott) Bussmann of Melrose; sons, Paul (Paula) Hughes of Avon and Michael Hughes of Minneapolis; 15 grandchildren, Riley, Emma, Grace, and Annie Atkinson, Benjamin, Max, and Maddie Jo Kemper, Tyler and Samuel Bussmann, Alison Fronning, Megan, Katelin, Jaiden, Thomas, and Kaelin Hughes; seven great-grandchildren, Nova Kemper, Avery Howitz, Cade Atkinson, Cameron Bussmann, Kayson Howitz, Briar Fronning, and Brody Atkinson; in-laws, Mary Ellen Mattice, of Lino Lakes, Nancy (Mike) O'Leary of Starbuck, Katie (Tim) Readon of Clontarf, Jon (Barb) Boutain of Starbuck, and Jerry (Sandy) Boutain of Las Vegas, Nevada,

Frank was preceded in death by his wife, Bonita "Bonnie" Hughes on December 10, 2016; parents, Henry and Gladys Hughes; siblings, Michael "Mick" Hughes, Jerry Hughes, Isabel Kent, and Mary Ellen Radford; in-laws, Milt Mattice, Bill Boutain, Shari Boutain, Stan Kent, Dee Hughes, Anne Hughes, and Phil Radford; and great nephew, Hunter Boutain.



**WALLEYE STOCKING DONATION 2026**

YOU CAN NOW GO ON LINE TO MAKE YOUR DONATION.

**bigbirchlakeassociation.org**

Please provide your current email and mailing address, so we can contact you with Lake updates and announcements.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount: \_\_\_\_\_



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION**

PO Box 342 | Grey Eagle, Minnesota 56336 | bbla@meltel.net

The walleye stocking donation card was mailed early in the year; however, not everyone received the mailing.

The fundraiser is ongoing, so if you have not contributed, you can go online now and make a donation, or clip this card and mail your donation.

The online donation can be made at [bigbirchlakeassociation.org](http://bigbirchlakeassociation.org) or mail the card to BBLA, PO Box 342, Grey Eagle, MN 56336.

## MEMBERSHIP AS OF MAY 2026

Althaus, Kurt & Lori	Frerichs Frank, Jane	Kutter, Robert & Nancy	Rudolph, Jerry & Deb
Anderson, Chadyienne	Froehling, Ronald & Lisa	Kutter, Wayne & Sherry	Russell, Jim & Mindy
Anderson, Jean	Fuchs, Brian & Lori	Lafayette Resort	Rutherford, Peter & Lourel
Anderson, Stephen & Lisa	Gagne, Bob & Christine	Larson, Brendan & Debi	Sand, Daniel & Mary
Anderson, Todd & Debbie	Gallagher, Pat & Caryn	Lesetmoe, Orlin & Aprile Barton	Savage, William & Sharon
Athmann, Rosie	Gangl, Dale	Lilligren, Kirk & Cathy	Schanhaar, Tom & Deb
Atkinson, Dan & Jan	Gasow, Ralph & Lori	Linn, Mike	Schiemann, Chuck & Ellie
Atwood, Duane & Jody	Gerads, Dale & Mary Lou	Linz, Curtis & Mary	Schlangen, Brad & Angie
Auger, John & Karen	Gerding, Dewayne & Alvina	Loehr, Jim & Renee	Schlough, Thomas & Joyce
Austing, Dick & Jane	Gerner, Robert & Charlene	Mack, Murray & Sue	Schmid, Judith
Becker, Isaac & Nancy St. Pierre	Giles, Henry	Marshall, Karin	Schmid, Ted & Julie
Beckermann, Fran & Linda	Gordon, Brian & Kirsten	Matchinsky, Roselyn	Schmidt, Thomas & Joann
Beehler, Robyn & Roxanne Olsen	Gruenke Lake Cabin LLC	Mauseth, Timothy & Andrea	Schnettler, Mike & Deb
Beekhuizen, Steven & Julie	Grutsch, John & Jan	McConnell, David & Ann	Schriver, John & Lezlie
Benning, Ken & Mary Pat	Hatton, Rene & LuAnn	McQueen, Kathy	Schwantes, Mike & Amy
Benolken, Sue	Heinen, Nancy	Mehr, Ralph & Mary Ann	Schwartz, Steve & Joann
Berg, Dwaine & Louise	Heinze, Jay & Beth	Meyer, Barry & Denise Langer	Schwieters, Charles & Beatrice
Berg, Ken & Bev	Helget, Ron & Becky	Meyer, Glenn & Dianne	Seitzer, Jim & Belinda
Bergmann, Ken & Marilyn	Hendrickson, David & Colette	Meyer, Virg & Joyce	Sexton Family Cabin
Berry, Brian & Cheri	Hennemann, Kitty	Miley, Rod & Nancy	Shafer, Tom & Bonnie
Bertram, Steve & Pam	Hildie & Earl Family	Mische, Hans & Julie	Sieben, Kevin & Beth
Beuning, James & Judine	Hinman, John & Kathy	Moening, Lee & Judy	Sieben, Russell & Mary
Blommel Family	Hinnenkamp, Ben & Pam	Mohr, Marilyn	Silbernagel, John & Marie
Blommel, Leroy & Marilyn	Hinnenkamp, Hollis & Mary Jo	Mohs, Dean & Sandy	Sinclair, James & Carolyn
Bohlig, Bob & June	Hoffman, Dan & Janell	Molitor, Chick & Karen	Sinclair, Ken & Jan
Bomstad, Gary & Susan	Holthaus, Perry	Moser, Jean	Smith, Patrick & Susette
Bonacci, Dereck	Hotzler, Mark & Jane	Moser, Scott & Helen	Spanier, Eric & Jana
Bondhus, Adam	Howe, Michael	Mueller, Jerry	Spence, Jim & Christine
Borgerding, Clarence	Howieson, Kyle & Stacy	Nathe, Mark & Ann	Stalboerger, Lorraine
Brixius, Bernie & Lisa	Hughes, Bob & Sally	Nathe, Mike & Laura	Starfield, Glenn
Broman, Brad & Charlene	Hughes, John & Susan	Neville, Steve	Steinbring, John & Sandy
Brunner, Paul & Lauri	Hughes, Parry & Kathy	Niehaus, Anthony & Carol	Stomberg, Chuck & Nancy
Bruyere, James Jr	Hughes, Tim & Kristine	Niehaus, Bob & Deb	Studniski, Adam & Jolene
Bueckers, Ervin	Humbert, Rick & Lois	Niehaus, Grant & Nicole	Taylor, Dennis & Trish
Bullock, Lou & Debbie	Humbert, Ryan & Stacy	Niehaus, Jeanne	Tembrock, Henry
Bussmann, Scott & Andrea	Ingold, Linnea	Niehaus, John & Mary	Thelen, Steve & Amy
Butte, Rick	Iverson, Ron & Jennifer	Orth, David & Linda	Thielen, Marvin & Judy
Campbell, Mel & Sherry	Jacobs, Dave & Diane	Osendorf, Phil & Gail	Thompson, Rod & Sally
Carpenter, Todd & Laura	Janak, Roger & Julie	Ostendorf, Mark & Lisa	Timmermann, John
Cavello, Butch & Amy	Jansen, Jeff & Teri	Pavlivek, John & Kathryn	Tomsche, David & Molly
Cebuhar, Mary	Jepperson, Craig & Mary	Pelo, Rod & Phyllis	Tomsche, Dr. Ed & Theresa
Chirhart, Penny	Johnson, Adrian & Kay	Peterson, Dr Thomas & Virginia	Trierweiler, Corey & Julie
Chmielewski, Daniel & Barb	Johnson, Craig & Debra	Phillips, Rosemary	Tschida, Amy
Claussen, Kim	Johnson, Daniel & Julie	Piersak, Jeff & Kim	Tweedale, Craig & Mary Lou
Costello, Kevin & Ann	Kadri, Abdu & Janice	Piersak, Thomas & Jeffrey	Uphoff, Jim & Lee
Costello, Scott	Kalgren, Rick & Ann	Pladson, Dr & Mrs Terence	Van Beck, Chad & Brenda
Damrow, Paul & June	Kappes, Mike & Jannie	Plombon, Roger & Gloria	Van Sloun, Shane & Ruth
Davis, Scott & Marjo	Kelly, Brandon & Becky	Poganski, Rock & Marcia	VanDrehle, Donald & Helen
Denne, Marv & Mary Beth	Kemper, Jeff & Linda	Provinzino, Chuck & Jannine	Vener, John
Dickhaus, Bob & Kris	Kerfeld, Cheryl	Pundsack, Craig & Lisa	Vener, Mike & Kim
Dinndorf, Don & Vi	Kerfeld, Glenn	Rahn, Dave & Lisa	Viere, Kevin & Ann
Dobesh, Jeff & Jill	Klaphake, Florian & Doreen	Ramler, Chris & Amy	Voigt, Kenneth & Joan Zirbes-Voigt
Dubiel, Marvin & Pam	Klasen, Kyle	Rasmussen, Steve & Sandy	Waldvogel, Dennis
Duncomb, Bruce & Vicki	Klasen, Vern & Marlene	Refsland, Curt & Mary	Ward, Rick & Missy
Elfering Cabin LLC	Kloos, Mike & Becky	Richardson, David & Anna	Weinman, Roger & Constance
Enneking, Gene & Cheryl	Kluempke, Kirk	Rieger, Joel & Pamela	Weitzel, Michele
Erdmann, Mark & Summer	Koch, Bob & Connie	Rieland, Chuck & Lucy	Welle, Larry & Rose
Erickson, Russell	Kohorst, Don & Loni, Bob & Joan	Rieland, Mary	Westbrock, Bruce & Linda
Eveslage, Greg & Karen	Konsor, Stephen & Karen	Rieland, Matt & Shari	Zaborski, Tom & Julia
Eveslage, Steve & Sarah	Kotsmith, Randy & Karen	Rieland, Roger & Pamela	Zackoski, Michael & Kimberly
Falk, Jeremy & Jennifer	Kotsmith, Sharon	Rieland, Shirley	Zaczkowski, Marie
First, Pete & Nicole	Krig, Gary & Peg	Roe, John & Janet	Zenzen, Art & Marilyn
Fischer, Pete & Barbara	Kuehne, Ron & Midge	Roehrl, Joe & Margaret	Zimmerman, Lowell & Kris
Flanders, Josh & Stacy	Kuhlmann, Mary	Rolfes, Chuck	
Flaws, Michael & Marilyn	Kunkel, Phil & Rose	Rolfes, Mike & Susan	
Fox, Thomas & Laurie	Kutter, Lee & Gay	Roy, Robert & Barbara	

# SPONSORSHIP AS OF MAY 2026



## PLATINUM

Central MN Realty-Brandon Kelly .....	Grey Eagle
Eagle Dock & Lift LLC .....	Grey Eagle
Melrose Electric Inc .....	Melrose
Warrior Boats Inc .....	Melrose



## GOLD

Leedstone .....	Melrose
Spiritz Liquor .....	Melrose
Freeport State Bank .....	Melrose
Rahns Oil & Propane .....	Melrose
Magnifi Financial - GE .....	Grey Eagle



## SILVER

Double R Saloon Inc .....	Grey Eagle
Neville Hardware .....	Grey Eagle
Hinman Lawn Service .....	Grey Eagle
American Family Insurance - Kyle Hoium .....	Melrose
Meadowlark Country Club .....	Melrose
Kraemer Lumber Co Inc .....	Melrose
Kemper Excavating .....	Melrose
Lake Country Storage LLC .....	Melrose
Minnesota National Bank .....	Sauk Centre



## BRONZE

Hennen Floor Covering Inc .....	Freeport
St. Rosa Lumber Inc .....	Freeport
All Stars Sports Bar & Grill .....	Freeport
Prime Source Printing .....	Freeport
Hennen Lumber Co Inc .....	Freeport
Update Buiding Supplies, LLC .....	Grey Eagle
Grey Eagle Electric Inc .....	Grey Eagle
Nancy's Bait & Tackle .....	Grey Eagle
Bueckers Recycling Services Inc .....	Melrose
Engelmeyer Land Services LLC .....	Melrose
Munson Feed Co Inc .....	Melrose
Mayers Excavating Inc .....	Melrose
Grey Eagle Gas & Grocery-Sinclair .....	Melrose
Dan Schmidt Printing Inc .....	Melrose
Hoffman Tree Service .....	Sauk Centre

## Board seeks new members

The BBLA Board of Directors seeks candidates who are interested in being a board member. Please communicate your interest to one of the current board members. You can find their phone numbers and lake area in the chart below.

At the annual meeting in August, the association will need to elect four board members. A board member is elected to a three-year term.

The association by-laws specify that an elected board member must vacate the seat after 12 years, made up of four three-year terms.

The current board member who has reached the term limit is Deb Johnson. Johnson leads the AIS Committee and finding a replacement is critical due to responsibilities regarding Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). If you have a keen interest in AIS, please talk to Johnson about the responsibilities on chairing the AIS Committee.

The strength of the association is dependent upon people stepping up to volunteer their knowledge, leadership and expertise to serve for a minimum of three years.

The board meets monthly from April through September at 8 a.m. at the Grey Eagle United Methodist Church, on the third Saturday of the month.

## BBLA Board thanks all who did roadside cleanup

The BBLA Board thanks all who helped with the annual roadside cleanup the last weekend of April. Your efforts to keep BBL beautiful are greatly appreciated. Board members coordinate the effort and dispose of the debris that is collected. Below is a photo of Finley and John who helped their dad, Brandon Kelly clean up on Saturday, April 25.



Below is a current list of BBLA Board Members.

Board Member	Lake Area	Phone Number
Craig Tweedale, president	J	608-317-6647
Kevin Costello, treasurer	C	480-250-3698
Matt Everding, vice president	F	320-492-5902
Jay Anderson, director	I	763-482-1926
Mark Erdmann, director	G	612-386-9254
Blake Johnson, director	D	612-910-3871
Brandon Kelly, director	E	320-491-6107
Grant Niehaus, director	B	320-583-4939
Gary Rothstein, director	H	320-290-7818
Steve Thelen, director	A	320-309-9881
Bill Lieder, director		320-733-2777
Jeanne Niehaus, director		651-757-7475
Deb Johnson, director		612-581-9389
Steve Konsor, director		612-747-1646

 **Opatz Metals & Rolloffs,**  
Holdingford, MN

**BIG BIRCH LAKE  
CLEANUP DAY  
JUNE 6, 2026  
9 AM-NOON**

Lake Country Storage  
County 2, Grey Eagle  
(kitty-corner from the Rock)

**Small Disposal Fee for some items**

**Sponsored by  
BBLA**



**320-746-2819**

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

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



**FRIDAY JUNE 19, 2026**

**27<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BIG BIRCH LAKE RESIDENTS 9 HOLE GOLF OUTING**

**MEADOWLARK COUNTRY CLUB**  
 837 COUNTRY CLUB DR, MELROSE, MN 56352

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

Entry fee includes GOLF, CART and LUNCH.

**DON'T WANT TO GOLF?**  
 \$13 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 70 GOLFERS.**



**SATURDAY, JUNE 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2026**

**BIG BIRCH LAKE LADIES BRUNCH**

**THE HISTORIC ROCK TAVERN**  
 11977 Co Rd 47 | Grey Eagle, MN 56336

**SOCIAL HOUR AT 10 A.M. & BRUNCH AT 11 A.M.** -  
 Loaded Egg Bake, Fresh Fruit, Yogurt Parfait, Rolls, Juice & Coffee -

**\$20** 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](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

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  \$37 Golf  \$13 Lunch Only  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_  \$37 Golf  \$13 Lunch Only  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_  \$37 Golf  \$13 Lunch Only  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_  \$37 Golf  \$13 Lunch Only



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

Enter name(s) of whom you are paying for:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_