



**Bay Lake Improvement Association P.O. Box 461 •**  
Deerwood, MN 56444-0461

Summer 2012

Fellow Bay Laker's,

The Bay Lake Improvement Association (BLIA) exists to preserve and enhance the natural environment and the community of Bay Lake. I open with our mission statement to remind all of us why our lake association exists.

Receiving my copy of the spring Breezes, I was again reminded of what a vibrant community we have. Bay Lake camp has a plethora of events planned on Church Island whether spiritual, musical or just plain fun. Our annual meeting and continental breakfast is scheduled for June 30<sup>th</sup> at Ruttger's—I hope you will attend. An event for the children on the Lake Kid's Camp will take place on Church Island the 7<sup>th</sup> of July. Our annual Golf Outing and Picnic looks to be another smashing success, and Runtilla is entering its 28<sup>th</sup> year. These great events raise money for the Lake, provide fun, and build community spirit for all Bay Lakers who participate. The fact that these summer diversions are presented by our volunteers (our friends and neighbors) who care deeply about a place we call simply "The Lake," never ceases to amaze me. There is no doubt that our community is strong.

In addition to enhancing our community, BLIA exists to preserve and enhance the natural environment of Bay Lake, which is why I write to you today. The unprecedented attacks on our Lake by invasive species remind us daily of our need to stay vigilant. Now more than ever the Lake and future generations rely on your generosity through a donation to the Environmental Fund to successfully conduct our mission. We have been fighting Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) for many years, and today we find Zebra Mussels at our door. Your donations have enabled BLIA to successfully keep EWM in check thus preserving property values on the Lake. While we will never eradicate EWM from our Lake, we can continue our treatments with your kindness. Zebra Mussels are a different story. If our Lake becomes infested with Zebra Mussels, property values will plummet along with our ability to enjoy the many activities that make Bay Lake the special place it is. With that in mind, BLIA has contracted to hire two workers to augment the inspections our volunteers and paid DNR interns administer. This by no means ensures we will keep Zebra Mussels out of our Lake. Rather, we hope it will reduce the chance of an infestation. I am asking you to consider a donation to the Environmental Fund if you have not made one in the past. If you have donated in the past I want to thank you and ask that you consider increasing your donation.

Fellow Bay Lakers, we have a wonderful community on a special Lake. I ask that you consider not only your property values, but also future generations when you think about your donation. A donation of any size helps all of us protect, preserve and enhance the wonderful place we call Bay Lake.

Sincerely,

Dominic Ciresi

P.S. While I did not mention Planned Giving, we are very willing to assist you and your family should you wish to create a Bay Lake legacy. I can be reached at 612-281-4910 to explore this option further or to discuss the Environmental Fund.