



Bay Lake Breezes

Bay Lake

Improvement Association Inc.

www.baylake.org

Fall/Winter 2020-2021

We'll be back in 2021

by Phil Rollins
BLIA President

OK, it was not a normal summer at the lake. But that didn't seem to impact how many of us spent time on the water and at our cabins, with the lake as busy as ever. COVID concerns did however cause the postponement of the BLIA 50th Anniversary celebration and cancellation of most of our other annual events.

The activity break allowed us to fine tune activities for 2021, including completion of our first original short film, "A Day on Bay Lake," which will premier at the annual meeting next July; thank you to Amy Grady. I'm looking forward to the June 19 Flotilla Funanza Pontoon Boat Parade, which will launch the 50th Anniversary celebration. The lineup of 2021 events is listed elsewhere in this issue.

Board changes

In July, longtime treasurer Chris Gondeck announced that he would be leaving the Board of Directors. During his almost 20 years in the position, Chris enhanced our financial protocols and policies, oversaw the tremendous increase of our reserves and served as a guide for many issues faced by the board. We will miss his presence and expertise. Soon after Chris'



The Erickson family's pontoon boat turned covered wagon won first place in the flotilla celebrating BLIA's 25th anniversary in 1995. On June 19, 2021, Bay Lakers will again decorate their boats for a parade to launch BLIA's 50th anniversary celebration.

announcement, we launched a memberwide search for a new treasurer and, after interviewing several interested parties, the board decided on Mark Feriancek, CPA, a recently retired advertising executive.

Ally Oakes and Brent Souder also joined the board, filling open positions. Welcome to all and thanks for your commitment to the lake.

BLIA Finances

The cancellation of most of our 2020 events has had a significant

impact on our budget. The majority of expenses in any year are related to the prevention and treatment of invasive species, particularly Eurasian watermilfoil and Zebra Mussels. Depending on the growth in any one year, milfoil treatment costs vary from \$50,000 to more than \$100,000. Public access DNR-trained inspectors typically cost \$20,000 for a season.

July 4 fireworks are another big expense. And, we provided financial support for the Music on the Lake band. Although not an official

President, cont. on Page 3.

Too late to join the BLIA for 2020?

The answer is simple: NO, NEVER!! If for some reason you haven't sent in your \$30 membership yet, it is never too late to do so, even up to midnight on Dec. 31! Don't know why anyone would be doing that on New Year's Eve, but your membership will be accepted even at that late time. However, the earlier

that your dues are received, the sooner they can go to work for the association.

At this time, I thank all those who have already joined the BLIA. You are all so very much appreciated. Thank you for your support, as well as sending in contributions for the fireworks

and for supporting the Environmental Protection Fund. It will all be put to good use, to help keep our Bay Lake the wonderful place it is!

If you've already joined, what about your grandparents, grandchildren, great grandchildren, friends, pets? We certainly wouldn't want anyone to feel left out. You can send in your membership by mail to P.O. Box 461, Deerwood 56444, or by going to www.baylake.org. Thanks again for being part of the Bay Lake community! Can we reach 700 members — or close to it? We're at 645 right now.

Betty Marquardt
Membership

Remembering

We have lost several present and former Bay Lakers since last spring. Our sympathy to the families and friends of:

Vernice Bersie
Bill Bunker
Ed Fleming
Don Hardle
Diane Hiner
Ken Hodges
Lynne Riesberg
Karen Seaton
Dick Sletten
Don Teich
Roberta Tonnemaker

Officers

President.....Phil Rollins
Vice President.....Terry Coss
Secretary.....Chris Ruttger
Treasurer.....Mark Feriancek

Directors

Terry Coss, David Devins, Josh Goolsbee, Amy Grady, Bobbie Keller, Ally Oakes, Jennifer Qualen, Matt Qualen, Phil Rollins, Chris Ruttger, Brent Souder

Committee Chairs

AIS prevention.....Phil Rollins
Aquatic plant management.....David Devins
Bay Lake Ambassadors.....Amy Grady
Breezes.....Bobbie Keller, Editor
Church camp liaisons.....Gary & Carol Malek
Conservation.....Brent Souder
Env. Protection Fund.....Bruce Johnson
Facebook page.....Scott Shekels
Fireworks.....Josh Goolsbee, Charlie Zajicek
Fishing resources.....Matt Qualen
History.....Paul Erickson
Legal advisor.....Amy Grady
Membership.....Betty Marquardt
Nominations.....Bruce Johnson
Runtilla.....Jim Bye
Security.....Ty LaTourneau
Shoreline enhancement.....Brent Souder
Water quality.....Terry & Debbie Coss
Water safety.....Karl Krueger
Website.....Scott Shekels, Paul & Ward Erickson

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Editor.....Bobbie Keller

EWM control program still working well

We continued our Eurasian watermilfoil control program this season with excellent results. We surveyed the lake for EWM in June and in September, and then treated 16 acres of EWM in June and 26 acres the first part of October, totaling 42 acres for the season.

The spring treatment was very successful, and considering we had drier conditions with low water levels most of the summer,

the native species remained strong, helping to keep the EWM in check.

This fall we were delayed by windy weather but did conduct treatments the week of Oct. 5, finishing Oct. 19. The marker buoys were removed on Oct. 27.

Thank you for the great response to our email request to check your docks, watercraft and shoreline for EWM and Zebra Mussels. As usual, we will

continue our EWM control program next spring and will send a notice a week or so before treatment. We will not need approval signatures to treat your shoreline and will treat necessary shorelines unless you notify the association that you do not want your shoreline treated.

Thanks for everyone's support for this program over the years. We could not have done it without you.

David Devins

President, cont. from Page 1.

BLIA event, the board recognizes its importance to younger Bay Lakers, many of whom are current or future members.

Without our usual events, which raise significant funds, we expect to realize our first deficit in decades. In October, members were mailed the annual donation solicitation and list of 2019 donors, where you'll see the names of the hundreds of Bay Lakers who make donations to the Environmental Protection Fund, fireworks and memorials. I continue to be touched (and amazed) by the generosity of our membership and we are appreciative of every single donation; thank you.

This morning in late October, I'm sitting in our cabin looking over the lake, watching snow fall (again) as gusts move across the water, docks and lifts piled on the shoreline, temp about 34, with many fond memories of another great summer.

Be well, be safe and enjoy the winter, wherever you may be. I look forward to seeing you on the water in 2021.

Questions, concerns, comments to bliaprez@baylake.com.

The latest on aquatic invasive species

BLIA continues its work to control the aquatic invasive species already in the lake and to prevent others from entering our waters. Here is an update:

Zebra Mussels

As expected, the mussels are proliferating, and we have seen more as we pull docks and lifts. More than 450 Minnesota lakes are now ZM-infested.

Along with many other lake associations, the state and related organizations, BLIA provides \$10,000 annually in support of Zebra Mussel and other AIS (aquatic invasive species) work at the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC).

Much of their research is focused on how to control and eliminate Zebra Mussels with copper sulfate, a known mussel inhibitor. Those who have their shoreline treated with copper sulfate for swimmers itch may see fewer mussels. A number of Bay Lakers use Central Minnesota Aquatics out of Nisswa for this purpose.

The center is also conducting research to identify genetic weak points in Zebra Mussels and to develop the tools to manipulate critical genes towards genetic biocontrol efforts.

Here's the link to MAISRC. Please consider joining as a private donor: www.maisrc.edu.

Eurasian watermilfoil

Longtime Bay Lake volunteer David Devins reports moderate milfoil growth in 2020. In early September, divers inspected many known growth sites and the fall chemical treatment of the worst areas was administered. David confirmed observing many areas with strong native vegetation growth, signaling a healthy lake.

Other invasives

Many Minnesota lakes are experiencing the introduction of other destructive invasive species. To minimize the risk for Bay, in 2021 we will continue working with Crow Wing County to inspect boats using our Battle Point public access.

New Bay Lakers welcome the Welcome Book

Several years ago, the Bay Lake Ambassadors decided to put together a Bay Lake Welcome Book. The book contains information about water quality and invasive species, calendars of lake social events, information about local restaurants and churches, contact information about vendors and suppliers of services all cabin owners need, and more. The Welcome Book also includes everything a new owner needs to know about the Bay Lake Improvement Association and the services we provide as an association.

It was a busy summer on Bay Lake, with lots of cabin sales. As of the end of this summer, more

than 80 Welcome Books have now been made and delivered to new Bay Lakers, and the books are very popular and appreciated. The books have been a great way to introduce new owners to all that we love about this lake.

If you know of a new neighbor on the lake, we have a Welcome Book for them. Postcards to provide contact information about a new resident are at the Lonesome Pine and at Hansen's store. Or contact Amy Grady at amy@amygrady.com or 952-818-4148 to give us the contact information for a new Bay Laker. The next books will be distributed in the spring of 2021.

Holiday Party 2020 cancelled: See you next year

After thoughtful consideration and listening to pandemic and flu predictions for the fall and winter, we have made the difficult decision to cancel the Holiday Party this year. The enclosed space, number restrictions and several other factors contributed to our decision. Saturday, Dec. 4, 2021, has been reserved for our get-together next year. Hopefully everyone will stay safe and healthy for next year.

Louise Sorenson

Looking ahead to 2021

COVID-19 delayed our celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Bay Lake Improvement Association. But we are hopeful we can go ahead with our celebration in the summer of 2021. You will not want to miss any of the special events we have planned for 2021. Please use our calendar to plan your other events for the summer of 2021 so you can be on Bay Lake and join in the fun.

- May 29 Plant Giveaway, 50th Anniversary merchandise for sale
- June 19 50th Flotilla Funanza Pontoon Boat Parade — 4-6 p.m.
- July 3 Music on the Lake
- July 4 Fireworks
- July 17 BLIA Annual Meeting with Bay Lake video
- July 17 Past Presidents' Luncheon
- July 31 Runtilla
- Aug. 7 Amazing Race
- Dec. 4 Holiday Party

Greetings from BAY LAKE CAMP!

2020 marked our 94th year of camping on Church Island and it was indeed, one of the most unusual; with the postponement of most of our spring, summer and fall schedules, it felt very quiet on the island. But in the midst of these strange times, the Spirit still moved through small family gatherings, helping individuals in need with a quiet place to rest and renew, and several intimate family baptisms and small weddings.

As we look toward potential winter gatherings, we will keep an eye on health updates and

recommendations from the CDC and our local health department. We HOPE and PRAY for your health and wellness, and we look forward to the day we can gather for worship on the island once again, as well as the sounds of kids and families ringing the bell and singing songs around the campfire. First Lutheran Church of St. Paul and Bay Lake Camp are working hard to continue the tradition of rest and renewal as a deeply important part of spiritual life.

Please follow us on Facebook at Bay Lake Island Camp, where we post important updates for all our followers, including details on potential winter retreats like snowshoe makers weekend and (hopefully) our new cooking classes in 2021.

Wishing you a safe and Blessed holiday and Christmas season. See you on the island!

Peace,
Brenda Olson Bingea
Executive Director
651-247-0360

Longtime volunteer BLIA treasurer Chris Gondeck retires from post; Mark Feriancek takes over BLIA finances

Mark Feriancek has become the new volunteer treasurer of the Bay Lake Improvement Association, taking over from Chris Gondeck, who has held the position since 2001.

“I’ve enjoyed this job, but it was time,” said Chris. “It’s a good transition to have Mark aboard.”

The two have met several times this fall to ensure a smooth transition.

A University of Minnesota graduate and CPA (Certified Public Accountant), Mark retired in 2019 after a career that included positions as CFO (Chief Financial Officer) for two companies, including a Minneapolis advertising firm, where he worked 17 years.

Mark and wife Jill came to Bay Lake in 2012, when they were looking for a lake home they and their three children could enjoy in the summer and where they could eventually retire. Their twin daughters are now in college and their son has graduated and is working in California. In September 2020 Mark and Jill made their retirement dream a reality when

they sold their home in Maple Grove and became permanent Bay Lake residents. They winter January to March in Florida.

Now they’re getting to know people around the lake. Mark said he is impressed with the number of longtime Bay Lakers he’s met. He enjoys fishing, golf and playing pickleball; he and Jill are on a team.

“It’s a great lake, and we’ve really enjoyed our time here and look forward to many more years,” he said.

On the lake since 1991, Chris bought his family’s current cabin in 1996. He began working with BLIA when lake neighbor Dan Mulheran asked him in the summer of 2000 if he wanted to be involved. Chris served as BLIA secretary for a year until Rick Carlson wanted to step down as treasurer of BLIA’s Environmental Protection Fund. A CPA, Chris decided that was something he could do.

“Rick gave me a shoebox of receipts and a checkbook,” said Chris.

With help from his staff, Chris set up the system on QuickBooks. With the approval of the BLIA Board, he hired Paper Plan-It to handle the database to make it easier to keep track of donors. (BLIA is still working with Paper Plan-It.) He also had an accounting firm do an annual audit and established a brokerage account so BLIA could accept stock donations.

For many years Chris worked with Sylvia Graff, who as co-treasurer handled basic BLIA expenses. In 2016 he took over all BLIA finances.

Now mostly retired, Chris was doing some consulting from his Wayzata home before COVID hit. He plans to stay involved with BLIA. This summer he worked on a project to review the risk associated with all BLIA events. He and Mark hope to have a new insurance plan in place to mitigate such risk by the end of the year.

“I’ve enjoyed BLIA meetings and the people,” he said. “I think we do some great things for the lake.”

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**Stay safe and healthy
See you next summer!**

