



Bay Lake Breezes

Bay Lake

Improvement Association Inc.

www.baylake.org

Spring/Summer 2021

Celebrating a more normal summer

Fellow Bay Lakers,

Whew, looks like we're finally moving towards the kind of summer we're all used to. We have lots planned to celebrate, including our BLIA 50th Anniversary events postponed from last year, listed on Page 8.

Some highlights:

- On May 29, we continue our free plant and pine seedling program in the Lonesome Pine parking lot, with the Bloody Mary bar, coffee and pastries. Please bring a box (for carrying plants).
- June 19 will see many of us in decorated pontoon boats parading on the lake. Registration forms are available at Hansen's or online at www.baylake.org.
- The fabulous Lonesome Pine-sponsored Music on the Lake event will be held on July 3, again off the east end of Church Island.
- We've had many great fireworks shows over the years. But 2021's will be the best ever, with special effects and extra large fireworks, all celebrating our 50th (now 51st) anniversary. Location returns to Ruttger's shoreline, on July 4, dusk.
- And on July 17, we're staging our first ever Movie Night on the

grass at Ruttger's nine-hole golf course. We'll hold a short annual meeting and then release our very own short film, "A Day on Bay Lake." Bring your own blanket — popcorn and beverages will be provided.

- The ever-popular Runtilla is scheduled for July 31, and

the fun Amazing Race, on Aug. 7.

Visit www.baylake.org and watch for upcoming Bay Lake Blast e-mails for details.

See you on the water,

Phil Rollins, BLIA president

Last call for this president

In 1991 I made my first trip to Bay Lake with my wife Jane, whose first visit was in 1943. Having been raised on the West Coast, the Pacific had always been my "water" of choice. What a shock to find such a special place as Bay Lake, with its calm and warm summer waters. It was further shocking to find myself BLIA president 27 years later. You see, I still consider myself a newbie to Bay Lake, compared to friends who have been experiencing the lake for their entire lives, lucky folks.

While I'm somewhat relieved to be turning over the reins to a new president at the July annual meeting, I have some feelings of business unfinished. We did overhaul

our association insurance, find a new and very qualified treasurer, increase the membership to more than 650 and manage to get through 2020 relatively unscathed. However, the "year of COVID" was a big interruption, with many planned activities and new initiatives put off or cancelled. I'm hoping my plan to build a committed group of 50 Bay Lake volunteers will come to be in the near future.

Serving as BLIA president has been an honor and privilege. We continue the tradition of wonderful and committed Boards of Directors, 50 years' worth! Thank you for your support over the past three years. It's been fun, challenging, rewarding and meaningful. I'll be around to badger and nudge, but from a distance.

Phil Rollins

This is the year we celebrate — Membership 2021!

Last season because of COVID-19 we had to delay many of our BLIA 50th anniversary events. Not this summer. They are going to happen! How exciting to look forward to them!

Another thing to celebrate is renewing your membership for

2021. It means so much to everyone to be a part of the Bay Lake Community, to enjoy the activities, fight against invasive species, participate in the events, watch the fireworks, listen to Music on the Lake, fish, or just relax!

All of this is part of being a member of the Bay Lake Improvement Association. And for that, I thank you — as does the entire BLIA Board. We are appreciative of all the time volunteers put in, in various capacities. It all adds up to a strong BLIA membership.

Dues are still just \$30, so you can have your whole family individually join. Wouldn't it be just spectacular to have 700 members this year! We can do it, I know. I'm sure there isn't another lake association in Minnesota that can top ours.

To pay your dues, please mail your check, payable to BLIA, to BLIA, P.O. Box 461, Deerwood, MN 56444, or go online to www.baylake.org. We'd love it if you would include a generous contribution to the fireworks.

Thank you once again for your continued support — we'll see you on the lake!

Betty Marquardt
Membership Chair

Remembering

We lost several present and former Bay Lakers over the winter. Our sympathy to the families and friends of:

Frederick Appleton
Nicole Bernardi
Darlene Borgaro
Marilyn Brown
Andrew Burt
Tom Burt
Sharon (Biorn) Cornwell
Jean Fleming
Bette Johnson
Marlys Keefe
Steve Klein
Greer Lockhart
Ken Nelson
Roberta Jean (Bobbie) Sponsel
Jackie Whitsitt

Officers	
President.....	Phil Rollins
Vice President.....	Terry Coss
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Aquatic plant management.....	David Devins
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Breezes.....	Bobbie Keller, Editor
Church camp liaisons.....	Gary & Carol Malek
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Env. Protection Fund.....	Bruce Johnson
Facebook page.....	Scott Shekels
Fireworks.....	Josh Goolsbee, Charlie Zajicek
Fishing resources.....	Matt Qualen
History.....	Paul Erickson
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Membership.....	Betty Marquardt, Jen Qualen
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

Bay Lake water quality good; let's keep it that way

The Bay Lake Improvement Association contracts with A. W. Research Laboratories to conduct monthly Trophic Status Index (TSI) monitoring each year. Sampling is conducted monthly from May through September at four established locations distributed around the lake.

TSI is a widely recognized scoring system used to assess the health of a lake by looking at factors such as water clarity, dissolved oxygen (essential to support healthy fish populations), chlorophyll and phosphorus (a nutrient essential for aquatic plant and algae growth).

What constitutes “normal” TSI values varies significantly by eco-region across the state. For example, northern lakes tend to be clear and cold with higher dissolved oxygen levels and low phosphorus and chlorophyll levels. This results in appealing water quality for recreation with healthy and diverse fish populations. Southern lakes in the state tend to be warmer and

usually have lower dissolved oxygen and higher nutrient levels, resulting in more weeds, greener water with frequent algae blooms and limited fish species. Improper land use and development can cause otherwise healthy northern lakes to take on the undesired characteristics of a southern lake and can make southern lakes worse to the point of being totally unsuitable for fishing or recreation.

Monitoring data collected over the past several years and in 2020 indicate that Bay Lake has very good water quality overall. Compared to other lakes within the Northern Lakes and Forest Ecoregion of Minnesota, Bay Lake ranks among the best for the parameters measured. This is great news for all of us and is a result of the good work of all Bay Lakers who manage their lakeshore in a way that protects the lake.

The key to maintaining or hopefully even improving water quality in the future is to keep chemicals and nutrients from getting into the lake, especially from runoff. Please continue good land management practices such as avoiding the use of fertilizers, planting and maintaining buffer zones along your lakeshore, maintaining septic systems and making an effort to keep fall leaves and summer grass clippings out of the lake.

For those of you interested in learning more about this topic, I encourage you to look at the Minnesota DNR's “Score Your Shore” website. Information provided there provides ideas that might be beneficial on your own property. By paying attention to these best-practices we can ensure Bay Lake continues to be a treasure for future generations.

Terry Coss
Water Quality Chair

Successful EWM control program will continue

We will continue our Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) control program again this spring. This will be our 30th season successfully controlling EWM in Bay Lake. We will conduct a survey of the lake around Memorial Day, followed by a treatment of EWM approximately the third week of June. We will repeat this process in the fall starting around Labor Day, followed by treatment the first week of October.

As a reminder, we are not required to collect authorization signatures from individual

property owners to treat shorelines. We are working by exception. If someone does not want chemical treatments along their shoreline, they need to contact us and let us know. We will send an e-mail blast notification to all about a week before we treat in June and again in September. If you don't want treatments along your shoreline or have questions, you can contact me anytime. Treatment notification will also be posted on the Bay Lake website at the same time.

We can't let our guard down. Following our same plan over the years has worked, so we will keep at it. Our goal from the beginning was to not allow EWM to dominate the lake, realizing that native vegetation was critical to the health of the lake, and it has worked very well; the native plants are healthy and diverse.

This program has been successful because of your support! When EWM was first found in Bay Lake it was the issue of the day for area lakes

EWM, cont. on Page 7.



Summer fun is back!

Start summer with the Pontoon Parade

BLIA launches the 2021 Pontoon Parade, “refloating” the idea cancelled last year because of COVID-19 concerns. Any Bay Laker is welcome to join the celebration on Saturday, June 19, from 4 to 6 p.m.

Festoon your pontoon with tributes to the 1970s, when the Bay Lake Improvement Association was formed 50 years ago. Or celebrate other glories of our northern waters. Almost anything goes! You don’t need to decorate a pontoon to participate, but you do need to register.

Amazing Race — Competition to get fierce this summer for the 50th

The Amazing Race is a fun competition, but the 50th Anniversary version this summer will really get crazy! In honor of the 50th, each member of the winning team of four will win a \$50 cash prize. \$50 each! We are also adding a COSTUME COMPETITION. The team with the costumes that bring the biggest smiles to the judges will win the best-costume prize. So start gathering your team of four, plan your costumes and start your engines for a blast at the Amazing Race Aug. 7.

The Bay Lake Amazing Race began in 2012. Teams compete in fun “minute to win it” type timed challenges on different bays, with most events on shore. Although each team consists of four participants, others may be on the boat/pontoon. The actual time

Pick up registration forms from Hansen’s store or online attached to recent Bay Lake Blasts or at www.baylake.org. Deadline to register is June 13. Meet-up details and the parade route will be provided to registered participants by June 18.

Prizes will be awarded for creative, festive, playful efforts. Winners will be announced and recognized at the BLIA Annual Meeting/ Movie Night July 17.

involved is approximately two hours, with a gathering afterwards for the award ceremony. Anyone interested in creating a team should notify Nancy LaTourneau (612) 240-5959 for more information. Volunteers at each station are needed, so please call if you’re interested. Entry forms will be available online at www.baylake.org or may be picked up at Hansen’s.

Don’t miss your opportunity to be an Amazing Race sponsor. Consider a donation of \$50, \$100, \$250 or more to the BLIA Environmental Protection Fund and get the name of your choice on the back of the Amazing Race t-shirt. Call for more information.

World premiere of “A Day on Bay Lake” Saturday, July 17

Bring your blankets, your lawn chairs, your family, your curiosity and your sense of community to the first ever BAY LAKE MOVIE NIGHT. On the evening of Saturday, July 17, you are invited to join fellow Bay Lakers to view our 50th Anniversary documentary, “A Day at Bay Lake.” From sunrise to sunset, see the beauty of Bay Lake from the air, hear stories of Ruttger’s Resort, Church Island, the Isle of Pines, the Lonesome Pine, Hansen’s store and more. The Bay Lake Improvement Association’s documentary features some of the unique stories about the generations of families who live on Content and Devins Point, and others who own landmark cabins along the shore.

The BLIA 50th Anniversary documentary will premiere outside under the stars at the Ruttger’s golf course on a 30-foot screen. Make plans now to enjoy this historic event with your family and friends — you might see your family members, grandkids, your cabin or your boat on the big screen!

We have a lot to celebrate! Let’s do it together as a family of Bay Lakers. More details to follow in the Blast and on our website, www.baylake.org.



Bay Lake fireworks family excited for the Greatest Show

by Amy Grady

Sometimes, career choices run in families. In the Orwoll family, Kim, the oldest son, followed in his father's footsteps and became a lawyer. His sister, Tristen, is also a lawyer. Their brother, Kent, started down the same path by following Kim to St. Olaf and got a political science degree with the thought of attending law school. But Kent broke with tradition when he followed his passion for figure skating and joined the Ice Follies (later Disney on Ice), and entertained crowds all over the world as the popular comic ice skating act.

Tree/Plant Event to happen May 29

If you're looking to spruce up your yard with new trees or small plants, come check out our selection at the annual BLIA Tree/Plant Event Saturday, May 29, in the Lonesome Pine parking lot. We'll be there from 10 a.m. to noon, rain or shine. Please come no earlier than 10. This year we'll have a return of the three-year-old Norway (Red) pine and white spruce transplants, 8 to 24 inches tall. We will have plastic bags available for you to transport your trees.

Also available will be several species each of sun, shade and in-the-water native wildflower plants. Please bring one or more containers to carry your plants home.

See you there.

Brent Souder



But as little boys, the Orwoll brothers, including younger brother Erik, were fascinated by the fireworks their Grandpa bought for the boys. Soon the Orwoll brothers were buying chemicals and building their own fireworks on the kitchen floor.

Growing up on Echo Bay (the lot where the eagles nest), Kim and Kent loved lake time with the family. Now, as joint owners of their family cabin, they enjoy fishing, cruising on

the wave-runner and the pontoon, and enjoying the incredible beauty of Bay Lake. Kent says, "I've been all over the world and Bay Lake is my favorite place to be — no question."

But what is the Orwoll boys' all-time favorite activity on Bay Lake? Putting on the July 4 fireworks show, as they have done every year since the early '80s! This year, in honor of the 50th Anniversary of BLIA, Kent and Kim are excited to wow us with their most spectacular fireworks show *ever*, with bigger shells, more colors, more bangs and booms, and lots of awe-inspiring surprises. Don't miss the greatest show ever — over North Bay, Sunday, July 4, at dusk.

Runtilla is back: Come join the fun

After a year off because of COVID-19 concerns, this year the 37th/36th Annual Bay Lake Runtilla will bundle two years of fun into one on Saturday, July 31.

"It will be bigger and better than ever," said Jim Bye, Runtilla coordinator.

As in other years, participants will run, walk, bike and skate down Brighton Point Road and back. Runners will vie for trophies in male/female age-group categories. Registration begins at 8:15 a.m., and the starting gun sounds at 9.

Josh Goolsbee and his Lonesome Pine team will be there with adult beverages for purchase, and complimentary water will be available for runners. A BLIA booth will have 50th anniversary merchandise available for purchase.

After the awards ceremony following the race, everyone is invited to stick around for the traditional picnic, hosted by Dennis "Charlie" and Jackie Charles.

Sponsorships are encouraged and greatly appreciated. With a \$50 donation you'll have the name of your choice on the back of the Runtilla t-shirt. Names of \$250 to \$1,000 donors will appear on the sleeve, and a \$1,000-plus donation will earn space on the front. Artists age 20 and younger, and age 70 and older are invited to submit an original design for the t-shirt front. Advance registrations, original drawings and sponsorships are due at Hansen's July 15. Registration forms will be available June 15 online and at Hansen's.

Jim Bye thanked the 30 volunteers who help the event run smoothly and gave special thanks to Charlie and Jackie for their hospitality.

"It will be fun to have the Runtilla back," he said.

Bay Lake Camp prepares for 95th year; summer worship resumes with limited dates

As Bay Lake Camp begins preparations for hosting its 95th year of camps and retreats, we are pleased to announce the continued participation of diverse organizations bringing young people and families to experience our unique island wilderness setting.

Emphasizing safety, Bay Lake Camp continues to be a place identified by our welcome and hospitality for all people — and will watch carefully as COVID-19 numbers hopefully decrease over the next several weeks and months. To that end, Sunday boat-in worship will begin with a limited scope, scheduling on-site, outdoor worship for May 30 (Memorial Day weekend), July 4 and Sept. 5 (Labor Day weekend). We hope each of you will make it a priority to join in one or more of these opportunities to experience this incredible Island treasure we all value.

COVID restrictions as of those dates will apply. At this time, there will not be coffee hour or fellowship time after worship, and boat shuttles from our mainland access point will be limited in capacity. Follow us on Facebook or our webpage (www.baylakecamp.com) to stay up-to-date on changes to the schedule as they occur.

Through First Lutheran's stewardship of Island resources, we annually welcome thousands of guests to the Island and the Bay Lake community — countless churches and organizations, individual guests and families, as well as your friends and neighbors at

community events throughout the season. In the past year, we've really missed you all, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As we slowly reopen, we remain thankful for your continued partnership and support. We hope the summer of 2021 will allow us to bring back some of your favorite gatherings at the Island Cafe or Community Wood-fired Pizza Nights, so be sure to check out our website, www.baylakecamp.com for

Renovations at Ruttger's Resort

The Ruttger family welcomes new owners 1898 Management to Ruttger's and they have some updates to share.

The golf shop interior has been completely remodeled and Zig's is now the White Oak Grill. The new bar and counter tops are made from white oaks that came down in the June 19, 2016, storm. There are new menus at the White Oak Grill, Ruby's Dining Room and the Bear Pine Bar. Ruby's and the fireplace lobby also have their original wood floors restored. Remodeling projects have started in the Bay Lake Villas and North Bay units and will be completed this spring.

Majority of the construction will start this fall after Oktoberfest. Projects include a new restaurant on the lake, as well as larger lakeside cottages that will replace many of the smaller cabins. Renovations to the lodge will bring the check-in area to the lake, new lobby and reception space will put the

updates as things improve. If you have questions, of course you can always call me — Brenda — directly at 651-247-0360.

In the meantime, thank you for your prayers and support as we prepare for the summer of 2021.

See you on the Island!

Peace,
Brenda Olson Bingea
Camp Director

historic lodge and dining room at the center of the facility. The indoor pool will be moved to a new location, while the meeting and events space will be refreshed as well. The Bear Pine Bar will be rebuilt for better flow and comfort. A new outdoor pool will be constructed on the site of the existing one, with enhanced seating and gathering areas.

Lastly, this year Ruttger's has increased its marina rental inventory to include a couple of new pontoons, a tri-toon and new jet skis. All motorized marina rentals will be available to the public with half-day and full-day rates.

As a result of these projects, Bay Lake will benefit from a new stormwater runoff plan and elimination of net 5,000 square feet of structures in the shore impact zone.

Thank you to the Bay Lake Improvement Association for its continued support throughout the years. We hope to see you at the resort this summer!

Ruttger's Bay Lake Resort

Maintaining a healthy lake and community

From aquatic invasive species (AIS) to organizational finances and more, the Bay Lake Improvement Association Board members and other volunteers continue to work toward maintaining a healthy lake and community. Here are some things we're working on — and you have and can continue to help.

Zebra Mussels. If you've been reading our messages in recent years, you know we have a zebra mussel infestation on our hands. Last fall, many, including me, found the small mussels on equipment as it was hauled from the lake. Over the past 10-plus years, the mussels have found their way into approximately 150 Minnesota lakes, with more undoubtedly to come. Much invasive species control, management and eradication research is being conducted at the U of M-based Minnesota AIS Research Center, an organization we support financially. At our urging, the center has developed important and useful information about what the zebra mussel infestation means for lakeshore owners, which has been mailed to all BLIA members and is available at www.baylake.org.

Spiny Water Fleas. This tiny pest has infested Mille Lacs and is threatening Bay Lake. County AIS inspectors will again monitor boats coming into (and leaving) Bay all summer, but please encourage your guests, friends and

neighbors to clean and dry all boats and equipment before entering Bay.

BLIA Finances. Although donations were down last year, many members did make contributions and we were able to manage net income of \$9,000-plus, amazing in the COVID year. The many such donations in the past, and significant contributions made by the Runtilla for the last 37 years, have created a very healthy reserve. Thanks to the many who were able to make donations last year.

BLIA Insurance. In 2020, we undertook a comprehensive look at our Directors and Officers coverage and general liability. After months of research, meetings and phone calls, new policies were procured and we now have better protection for about the same premiums.

N. MN Land Trust (affiliated with the MN Land Trust)
In February, trust officials contacted BLIA about partnering to try to protect large land parcels in our watershed from development. We expect to be working with them over the summer, identifying and meeting with qualifying parcel owners.

Phil Rollins
BLIA President



EWM, cont. from Page 3.

and what seemed like a daunting task with a lot of uncertainty. With the commitment of the Association and more importantly the total support of all of you, we met the challenge and have been successful for 30 years now. All hope was not lost then and fast forward to 2021, we must continue to lead Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) efforts on Bay Lake. With limited resources, the Minnesota DNR and Crow Wing County are best able to help those lakes that are best able to help themselves, and we have proven we can do that. With that said, we need to be able to keep addressing new infestations of AIS like zebra mussels, spiny water fleas and starry stonewort as well as continuing support for EWM control. Please keep giving to the Bay Lake Improvement Association Environmental Protection Fund. Bay Lake is truly an amazing community and together we can keep it the special place it is.

Thank you for all your support.

David Devins
davidd953@msn.com
612-237-1827

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

FINALLY! We celebrate 50 years!

COVID-19 delayed our 2020 celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Bay Lake Improvement Association. But it is time to celebrate, and we are full steam ahead with our 50th celebration in 2021! You will not want to miss any of the special events we have planned for 2021. Please use our calendar to plan ahead so you can be on Bay Lake and join in the fun.

May 29, 10 a.m. to noon	Tree/Plant Event, Lonesome Pine 50th Anniv. merchandise for sale
June 19, 4-6 p.m.	Pontoon Boat Parade Celebrating BLIA 50th Anniversary
July 3, 1 p.m.	Music on the Lake, Church Island
July 4, Dusk	Fireworks
July 17	Past Presidents' Luncheon, Ruttger's BLIA Annual Meeting, Ruttger's BLIA Movie Night, Ruttger's
July 31, 9 a.m.	Runtilla, Brighton Pt. Rd., Co. Rd. 10
Aug. 7, 10 a.m.	Amazing Race, Church Island
Dec. 4	BLIA Holiday Party, Ruttger's

BLIA Board Meetings

June 26, 9 a.m. Ruttger's
July 17, 9 a.m. Ruttger's
Aug. 21, 9 a.m. Ruttger's
Sept. 11, 9 a.m. Ruttger's

Everyone is welcome at all BLIA Board meetings.

