



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

May 2012

Greetings Bay Lake Neighbor,

I usually start this with some comment about the change of seasons, but this year I'm not sure we had a change of seasons. I have to talk about the weather, though, since this is Minnesota. It has been a mild winter, and Bay Lake set a new early ice-out record. Congratulations ice out contest winner! Find out the winner and the date at baylake.org. The site has a bunch of other fresh information, too, so be sure to visit.

Much has happened over the winter. For instance, quoting a memo from the County Land Services Department, "The mild winter has caused the ice to move in extreme and unusual ways." A link to the memo, announcing the decision to waive shore land alteration permit requirements for the re-grading of annual ice ridges through July 16, can be found at baylake.org.

DNR Fisheries agreed to rewrite its plan for our lake to include continued walleye stocking. In addition, with funding from BLIA, it is undertaking a project to improve walleye spawning areas. The increased DNR cooperation is encouraging, and the long-term strategy is to continue to improve walleye habitat and stocking.

The aquatic invasive species threat is more serious than ever. Zebra mussels are now in a number of area lakes and the Mississippi River. A very big thank you to all the volunteer public access monitors. To augment their efforts, access monitoring chair Phil Rollins again applied to the DNR and received 400 hours of intern time this season. But we still need more volunteers. Contact Phil at philfishing@gmail.com or (415) 497-2838 (cell) to volunteer! Two DNR training sessions have been scheduled at Ruttger's on May 19 and July 7.

A membership form is enclosed. Please send it in soon, or join and contribute securely at baylake.org. Please ensure that the next generations of your family join too, and encourage your neighbors and new residents to get involved. Also enclosed is a handy card listing annual event dates on one side and board members and committee chairs on the other, as well as a note from Phil Rollins about volunteering to be an access

monitor. Last but not least, please be generous when you receive the Environmental Fund Request in the next few weeks.

Have a safe and happy summer. I look forward to seeing you at Bay Lake, maybe at the annual Tree/Plant Giveaway at Lonesome Pine on Saturday, May 26, 10 a.m. to noon!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "CHRIS RUTTGER". The signature is written in a cursive style with all caps.

Chris Ruttger
President

PS Breaking News: The governor has just signed legislation that has the potential to give local units of government authority over lakes. The BLIA Board is in contact with the Bay Lake Township Board to look into how this might help us fight invasive species by better managing access. Watch the website and your email for updates. This will likely be a hot topic at the annual meeting June 30.