



Bay Lake Breezes

Bay Lake
Improvement Association Inc.

www.baylake.org

Fall/Winter 2013-2014

Over 160 Minnesota lakes and counting

Yes! More than 160 Minnesota lakes are now contaminated with zebra mussels! As I write this on Oct. 20, no zebra mussels or any other new invasive species are reported in Bay Lake, either by cabin owners or by service providers who move our docks and lifts. Although it can take several years for a zebra mussel infestation to be discovered, I'm betting we've dodged the critters for another season.

DNR Inspector Program

Over the past two years, Bay Lake has transitioned from using mostly local volunteer monitors to maintaining a paid, DNR-trained, inspector program. For 2013, these paid inspectors guarded our public access ramp from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. Inspectors have more authority than volunteer monitors; they can physically inspect boats entering and leaving our public access and turn away incoming boats if there is evidence of invasive species. Through the generosity of many Bay Lakers, we have the financial resources to pay for this inspection program, at a cost of about \$20,000 for this past season.

Volunteer Monitor Program

Our volunteer monitors continued to take shifts on the access ramp when needed and they remain important to our efforts. Thanks to these Bay Lakers who took one or more ramp shifts over the summer:

Marlene and Chuck Albertson
Art and Audrey Bruning
Terrie Bunker
Jerry and Maxine Hendricks

Kathy Johnsen
Sandy Johnson
Bobbie Keller
Sue Matthews
Mary Maus
Ginny and Walt Moore
Joan Malkerson
Marilee and Brian Olin
Connie Olson
Chris Ruttger
Jan Strand
Mary Watson
Ruth Ann Wefal
Jim Ysseldyke

Monitoring, continued on Page 9



Runners at the 29th annual Bay Lake Runtilla received final instructions from Jim Bye, Runtilla coordinator. The event raised more than \$14,000 for the Bay Lake Environmental Protection Fund, surpassing the landmark goal of \$200,000. Story and more pictures on Page 5.

A great year for BLIA memberships

A great big, sincere “Thank You” to everyone who has sent in their 2013 membership dues. At the time of this newsletter, more than 530 people have supported the Bay Lake Improvement Association by becoming members. This is a new record for us. It indicates the interest that Bay Lakers have in the lake and how important it is for all of us to do everything we can to keep the

quality of the lake as high as possible. So, again, thank you all for your support.

In looking over my records, I know that there are still some Bay Lakers who have not sent in their 2013 membership dues, and I encourage them to do so. The great thing is that you can do this until the end of December.

I would suggest, however, that sooner is better than later! The dues are what keep the “everyday” items going, such as printing, mailings, postage, the Breezes, buoys — the basic communication that is needed to keep everyone informed. So don’t hesitate to still send in your dues. Thank you in advance.

Betty Marquardt
Membership Chair

Remembering

This summer and early fall, we lost several longtime Bay Lakers and former Bay Lakers. Our sympathy to the families and friends of:

Mailand Card
Dalton (Chad) Chatterton
Judy Duerr
Connie Emerson
Jim Freyberger
Tom Holmes
Curt Kellgren
Marcella Mills
Gregg Orwoll
Martha Picha
Jerry Poland
Esther Louise Rasmussen
Douglas Ray
Mildred Vaughn

Officers

President.....Dominic Ciresi
Vice President.....Bruce Johnson
Secretary.....Tamara Johnson
Co-Treasurers.....Chris Gondeck, Sylvia Graff

Directors

Rick Bale, Dominic Ciresi, David Devins, Chris Gondeck, Josh Goolsbee, Bruce Johnson, Tamara Johnson, Bobbie Keller, Phil Rollins, Chris Ruttger, Steve Souder.

Committee Chairs

Access monitoring.....Phil Rollins
Aquatic plant management.....David Devins
Beach captains.....Josh Goolsbee
Breezes.....Bobbie Keller
Church camp liaisons.....Gary & Carol Malek
Conservation.....Tamara Johnson, Steve Souder
Continuity.....Ruth Hansen
Env. Protection Fund.....Dominic Ciresi
Facebook Page.....Scott Shekels, Kristine Erickson
Fishing resources.....Gary Malek
Government.....Open
History.....Paul Erickson
Legal advisor.....Open
Membership.....Betty Marquardt
Nominations.....Chris Ruttger
Runtilla.....Jim Bye, Steve Souder
Security.....Larry LaTourneau
Shoreline protection.....Tiffin Tripp
Taxes.....Bruce Johnson
Water quality.....Terry & Debbie Coss
Water safety.....Karl Krueger
Website.....Scott Shekels, Paul & Ward Erickson

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Website: www.baylake.org

Editor.....Bobbie Keller

EWM control program still effective

We continued our plan to treat Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) in Bay Lake this year as in the past.

We did a lakewide survey this past spring, and with the late winter and ice-out, found very little EWM, treating only six acres. Heavy snow cover and late ice-out, as well as high water and a cool early summer, kept EWM growth to a minimum.

We conducted another survey in early September and found, then treated, about 50 acres in early October. It turned out to be a fairly average year for EWM, and we expect the fall treatments to be very successful. The sites were mostly small and scattered, which is a result of successful prior treatments.

We continue to see very effective control of EWM, and the native vegetation is holding its own very nicely. In most

areas of the lake the native plant species are very healthy, pushing back against the EWM, preventing it from taking over. Our spot treatments over the years have worked very well to this end.

Thank you for responding to our ID card mailing in August asking for your help identifying EWM problem areas. Again there was an excellent response by mail or e-mail, which was helpful in planning treatment areas.

With your continued financial support we will keep controlling EWM in Bay Lake and not allow it to destroy the lake as we know it.

Thank you again for your incredible support.

David Devins
Aquatic plant management

Fellow Bay Lakers —

This year the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council recommended that \$3.6 million be dedicated to an Aquatic Invasive Species decontamination grant program. Details are still being worked out, but the BLIA Board in conjunction with Bay Lake Township plans on applying for grant money from this program.

A strong balance sheet will help us in this endeavor, so please continue to donate generously to the Environmental Protection Fund. We will keep our members apprised of this new program and the board's efforts to secure grant monies.

Dominic Ciresi

Bay Lakers...

Want to be more active in helping the Bay Lake Improvement Association keep Bay Lake the special place that it is?

The association has two open positions: government liaison and legal advisor.

Joining the BLIA Board as a committee chair is a great way to meet people on the lake as well as to gain satisfaction as you take part in the work of the board.

If you are interested or want more information, contact Chris Ruttger at chris@ruttgers.com.

Thanks to Mark Roloff for his work; new water quality chair reveals his first projects

Hello, fellow Bay Lakers! I've taken over as chair of the Water Quality Committee from Mark Roloff, who decided to step down this summer after many years of great service in this role. We all owe Mark a sincere "Thank You!" for his fine work to keep Bay Lake clean, clear and safe for the recreational water activities we all love.

Based on suggestions from Mark and discussions with the BLIA Board and others, I plan to focus my attention initially on looking back at the many years of water-quality data that has been collected to try and spot any trends or problems, identify their

causes and develop recommendations to the BLIA Board for future actions.

On a separate note, I'm also investigating what information the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) might have on file concerning an old, abandoned household dump site near the south shore of Bay Lake. If we learn that the MPCA has no meaningful information on the site, BLIA may take action on its own to investigate.

I'll provide updates on the above items in future newsletters.

Terry Coss
Water quality



Last year's Bay Lake Scramble Master Putter, Audrey Dietsch, presented the coveted jacket to this year's winner, Pete Mulheran.

Annual golf tourney, picnic bring more fun, support for Environmental Protection Fund

Aug. 11 was a lovely summer day, when 90 golfers (22 teams) teed off at Ruttger's for the 7th annual Bay Lake Golf Scramble and Picnic. Following the golf tournament, another 51 adults and eight children joined them for a picnic in the golf cart shelter, for a total of 149 participants.

We are so grateful to Jack, Ann and Chris Ruttger for the use of their great facilities! And a huge thanks to Jamie Alderman, golf professional, and his staff for their support and assistance in setting up the tournament! A very special thanks goes to **everyone** who attended to make this a special event, raising nearly \$3,100 for the Bay Lake Environmental Protection Fund. Great job, everyone!

Four teams tied with a score of 31 (five under par!), so golf professional Jamie Alderman used the system of hole difficulty rating to determine the winners.

Golf Scramble Team prizes were awarded to the following:

First Place Team — Score 31 (5 under par!): Mike, Matt, Jack and Chris Qualen

Second Place Team — Score 31 (5 under par!): Brad and Deb Hanson, Pete and Diane Donnino

Third Place Team — Score 31 (5 under par!): Brandt, Stacy and Lucy Keefe, Jackie Alderman

Fourth Place Team — Score 31 (5 under par!): David and Dave Chaffee, David Lee and David Czepa

Team closest to Pin #7: Brandt, Stacy and Lucy Keefe, Jackie Alderman

Team closest to Pin #9: David and Dave Chaffee, David Lee and David Czepa

Team closest to Pin #11: Don and Reily Knutson, Jenny Malek, Peggy Peppard, Jack Dovie

Team closest to Pin #16: Dana and Dave Reamsynder, Chad Bahlquist, Jack and Steve Strobel

A putting contest was included again this year. Twelve people qualified for the putting finale, which was worth \$100. Pete Mulheran was this year's winner. 2012 winner Audrey Dietsch presented Pete with the green Bay Lake Scramble Master Putter jacket. The \$100 check from Sunshine Golf (George and LaDonna Reynolds) was presented by George. Congrats, Pete!

A special thanks to Josh and the Lonesome Pine Restaurant for the delicious meatballs and shrimp served on the course and for sponsoring the Hole-in-One event there. Unfortunately, no one won the snowmobile this year.

Many door prizes were awarded at the picnic, thanks to the generosity of the following individuals and businesses: Ruttger's Resort, Lonesome Pine Restaurant, Mills Fleet Farm, Sunshine Golf, Hanson Sports, Garrison "Y" Restaurant, Fine Line Spa, Cy and Thelma Dehn, Ace Hardware, LaTourneau Paddleboards and Pohill Silk Screening. We appreciate all the support and interest from so many in keeping Bay Lake environmentally clean for everyone! Thank you!

Looking ahead to the 8th annual Bay Lake Scramble and Picnic, please mark the second Saturday in August 2014 on your calendar. Plan to bring your family, friends and guests to support a great cause! **ALL are WELCOME!!**

Thanks to **EVERYONE** for a great day!

George and LaDonna Reynolds
Co-chairs

Runtilla again successful; picnic has new look

More than 300 participants crossed the finish line of the 29th annual Runtilla July 20, with another 200-plus cheering them on.

Henry Jessen was the overall winner with a time of 17 minutes, 42 seconds, while Madeline Haben ran the 5K race in 21 minutes, 13 seconds to take the women's division title.

This year nearly 60 sponsors donated a total of more than \$14,000 to the Bay Lake Environmental Protection Fund, surpassing the event's landmark historical goal of \$200,000.

"I'm thrilled we have that kind of support," said Jim Bye, Runtilla coordinator.

This year's t-shirt designer was Lily Campbell, 13, who also won the race in her age group and was third fastest overall in the women's division.

As has become tradition, a picnic followed the race. This year the picnic had a new look, as Bay Lakers enjoyed pizza,



In the 11-15 age-group, Lily Campbell, third from left, took first, while Natalie Haben, left, and Marit Swenson ran second and third, respectfully. Lily, who ran third fastest overall in the women's division, designed this year's Runtilla t-shirt.

courtesy of Bill and Donna Ramsay and JJ Ramsay Halverson and their pizza truck. The Ramsays donated 100 pizzas to the cause, according to Bye.

Bye thanked the Ramsays and Josh Goolsbee, who donated bottled water. He also thanked "Charlie" and Jackie Charles, who have hosted the picnic for the last few years, and this year continued to open their property for the event.

Thanks also went to the 29 volunteers and the runners and other participants, all of whom make the Runtilla happen every year. Bye also thanked Scott Shekels, who took pictures of each person crossing the finish line and posted them and more of the day's activities on baylake.org.

"As always, everybody seemed to have a great time," said Bye. "We're looking forward to a special 30th anniversary race next year."



This year a pizza truck, courtesy of the Ramsays, was a popular place.

Runtilla winners on Page 8

Church Island camping experience touches 2,000-plus lives in 2013

Holiday Greetings from Bay Lake Camp! 2013 marked our 87th year of providing a camping experience to more than 2,000 campers on Bay Lake's beautiful Church Island. First Lutheran Church of St. Paul thanks you for your ongoing support.

Lives are touched, lives are changed forever after a camping experience. Our clients come from a wide variety of Christian and civic settings, including Boy Scouts, 4-H, Boys and Girls Club of America, public schools, colleges, theater groups and church groups. The young, the old and families all enjoy. The Red Cedar Lodge is perfect for family reunions, church retreats, weddings and other celebrations. Come on over and check us out.

Thank you to all who helped make our summer worship services a success. Each Sunday, Memorial Day through Labor Day, we continue to hold worship, rain or shine! It was a challenge this past summer... one rainy Sunday in June we had 20 people, but on the other extreme, we had more than 350 people attend on a perfect Sunday morning in July! Plan on making it part of your Bay Lake tradition next summer.

Our annual pie and ice cream social and auction on Labor Day Sunday was again a success, raising funds for campers. Thank you to all who supported by donating items and bidding. What a fun way to help kids come to camp!

If you are here over the New Year's Holiday, come join us on Wednesday, Jan. 1, at noon for



Experiences at Bay Lake Camp enhanced more than 2,000 lives this summer.

our annual New Year's Day service, when we gather around the campfire at the outdoor chapel, weather and ice conditions permitting. It is a great way to begin the New Year!

We also thank all of you who helped raise funds to Send a Kid to Camp by supporting or participating in our annual Big Swim in July. Once again swimmers, kayakers and paddlers went from the camp landing, around Church Island. We celebrated with a picnic supper at camp. Next year we hope to make this swim part of a Bay Lake Triathlon. Take part in all or part of this fundraiser. Watch the spring issue of the Breezes for details.

In closing, remember a donation to Bay Lake Camp helps continue the work and ministry of Bay Lake Camp. Donations can be sent to First Lutheran Church, 463 Maria, St.

Paul, MN 55106 marked "for Bay Lake Camperships."

Wishing you a safe and Blessed Holiday Season. See you on the island,

Brenda Olson, Camp Director
651-247-0360

Carol and Gary Malek
218-820-3329

Attention Brighton Point Cabinowners

Karen Schwartzbauer is planning another Brighton Point picnic for June 22, 2014, at Bay Lake Camp. **ARE YOU INTERESTED?** Please e-mail Karen so she can get everyone's e-mail addresses on her list. Karen will send more information in the spring and a follow-up in the Spring issue of the Bay Lake Breezes. **Mark your calendar to save the date!**

Karen Schwartzbauer
kschwartzbauer@comcast.net

Nasty weather only adds to challenges of successful Amazing Race

The 2nd annual Bay Lake Amazing Race was held this summer on July 27. In spite of nasty/windy weather, it was another huge success!

Ten teams of four signed up. After meeting at Church Island, they dispersed to 10 different spots on Bay Lake to complete the events. About 25 people volunteered to time and conduct the challenges, which included volleying the ball at Sandy Beach, completing a puzzle of the lake at the Pine and paddleboarding at Ruttger's. Each team was pictured by the bronze bear near the Bay Lake Marine access.

Every team was VERY competitive. The teams ranged from 7/8-year-olds to older adults. Such good sports! The Mike Rose family took honors with a total of 497.4 seconds—or nine minutes—to do all the challenges! The total time to



Ten teams competed in the second annual Bay Lake Amazing Race. The Mike Rose family completed the 10 challenges in a total of nine minutes to take top honors.

compete was approximately two hours on the lake.

Tons of thanks again to Josh and the Lonesome Pine for supplying pizzas, meatballs and a place for the award ceremony! A total of more than \$1,900 was

raised for the Bay Lake Improvement Association.

Be sure to watch for next year's event date and sign up early!

Nancy LaTourneau

Shoreline history project nearly complete

This fall the **Wild Bird Lane** and **Evergreen Trail** shorelines completed their combined Shoreline History Project. John Hedberg, Sandy Commers and Herb Kahler led their neighbors to success. Tom Hedberg printed a fantastic book for each of the participants, and Scott and



Nancy Bonnema hosted a wonderful celebration party.

Residents of the **Pioneer Bay** shoreline are in the process of regrouping and will celebrate the completion of their project early next summer.

More than 400 Bay Lake cabins have Shoreline History Books. Both our shoreline neighborhoods and our community are stronger, and the next generations and new residents will know what and who came before them.

Only the **Bayview** and **Scotland Shores/Eaglewood**

Bay shoreline projects remain to be done. If you live on one of these shorelines and you want to lead your neighbors, contact me at ericksonpaulsue@aol.com. Although the project is basically done, I will be happy to help (get me the submissions and I'll compile your book).

Paul Erickson



Bay Lake information available in many ways

In addition to the Breezes, BLIA communicates through **BayLake.org** and **BayLakeMN** on Facebook, and via e-mail with **Bay Lake Blast** and **Bay Lake Passing**. Each of these communication modes is unique.

The most comprehensive is **BayLake.org**, which is updated weekly from May through September (and the Webcam Page updates every minute year round). In addition to headlines, there are links to hundreds of articles and pictures, a list of Upcoming Events, BLIA Meeting Minutes and sections for History and Environmental Issues. The site often averages more than 400

visits per day and peaked at more than 700!

BayLakeMN on Facebook reaches more than 800 FB users and has nearly 1,000 “likes.” The content is more immediate, and the comments and pictures tend to focus on the fun things we do at Bay Lake. **BayLakeMN** extends our reach to next-generation Bay Lakers and friends of the lake who may not (yet) be BLIA members.

We now send a **Bay Lake Blast** about every other week during the summer season. They allow us to proactively communicate timely information, and they include links to

upcoming and recent events. A **Bay Lake Passing** is sent whenever we learn about the death of someone who is or has been a part of our Bay Lake community. **Bay Lake Blast** and **Bay Lake Passing** e-mails reach nearly 600 addressees. **(Note: If you are a BLIA member and you aren't getting these e-mails, please send your current e-mail address to ericksonpaulsue@aol.com. It's likely that your e-mail address is missing or out of date in our database. We promise not to clog your in-basket, and unsubscribing is easy.)**

Paul Erickson

2013 Runtilla winners (Story and pictures on Page 5)

Age 0 to 10

- 1 - Courtney Leising, 10, 23:58
- 2 - Ashley Halverson, 10, 26:31
- 3 - Kendall Stadden, 8, 26:52
- 1 - Henry Campbell, 10, 21:02
- 2 - Bjorn Swenson, 9, 23:02
- 3 - Ben Johnson, 10, 26:01

Age 11 to 15

- 1 - Lily Campbell, 13, 21:47
- 2 - Natalie Haben, 15, 24:37
- 3 - Marit Swenson, 11, 26:27
- 1 - Joe Swenson, 14, 20:43
- 2 - Nick Oelschlaeger, 14, 21:24
- 3 - Matthew Nyberg, 14, 21:40

Age 16 to 20

- 1 - Nataly Watkins, 19, 23:41
- 2 - Meghan Hurley, 17, 27:55
- 1 - Henry Jessen, 17, 17:42
- 2 - Austin Parent, 19, 20:58

Age 21 to 30

- 1 - Madeline Haben, 21:13
- 2 - Kim Carroll, 21:46
- 3 - Jackie Sorensen, 23:16
- 1 - Pete Viekelich, 19:18
- 2 - David Cherne, 21:15
- 3 - Connor Eklund, 22:52

Age 31 to 40

- 1 - Beth Watkins, 26:01
- 2 - Kelly McCoy, 27:34
- 3 - Sarah Sturgis, 28:03
- 3 - Leah Haymaker, 28:03
- 1 - John Sturgis, 18:55
- 2 - Mark Winkle, 21:43
- 3 - Chris Martin, 21:48

Age 41 to 50

- 1 - Julie Maus, 22:58
- 2 - Jennifer Swenson, 23:14
- 3 - Sara McLenighern, 27:34
- 1 - Matt Campbell, 21:15
- 2 - Mark Jessen, 25:05
- 3 - Brian Parent, 26:52

Age 51 to 60

- 1 - Anna Vidden, 25:50
- 2 - Kitty Croston, 26:00
- 3 - Nancy Sorensen, 26:40
- 1 - Dean Hansen, 20:37
- 2 - Mark Watkins, 24:42
- 3 - Erik Aus, 24:49

Age 61 to 70

- 1 - Carol Schatschneider, 31:42
- 2 - LaVonne Gilbertson, 31:48
- 3 - Kathy Stark, 37:03
- 1 - Sherm Malkerson, 23:43
- 2 - Jack Gleason, 27:51
- 3 - Richard Palmiter, 28:00

Age 71 to 100

- 1 - Mary Maus, 28:24
- 2 - Joanne Renquist, 41:51
- 3 - Connie Pfeifer, 45:59
- 1 - John Day, 38:27

Monitoring, continued from Page 1

Networking with other Lake Associations

In mid-October, I attended a conference in Brainerd sponsored by AV Research Labs, a local company that works to solve lake management issues, like zebra mussels. A number of lake associations struggle to control zebra mussels, while others like us are still trying to prevent their introduction. There are no known solutions yet for controlling zebras once they are established in a large body of water. Some associations have evaluated their lakes to determine if zebra mussels can survive and breed, looking at factors such as pH levels and calcium content. We may initiate such a study in the near future.

Next year, new grant monies will be available for decontamination-related equipment through the Minnesota legislature's Legacy Fund. We will closely follow these grant opportunities and participate whenever possible.

Other invasives

Our next big threat is likely the quagga mussel. It's been reported that in some Great Lakes, the quagga is displacing the zebra mussel.

"Without question, the quagga mussel represents the greatest threat to the Great Lakes of any invasive species," said Tom Nalepa, an emeritus research

biologist at the Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory in Ann Arbor. He estimates that Lake Michigan alone contains nearly 450 trillion quagga mussels.

Another threat is the spiny water flea, now prevalent in Mille Lacs, which could easily be introduced into Bay Lake by boat. Boats coming from Mille Lacs to Bay Lake are the most common transfer we face. Spiny water fleas eat small animals (zooplankton), an important food for native fishes, and they can clog eyelets of fishing rods, a hardship for fishermen. It's hard to land a fish with clogged eyelets!

Our mission remains the same

Keeping new invasives out of Bay Lake continues to be one of our most important efforts. Second only to the cost of treating Eurasian watermilfoil, the inspection/monitor program has become an expensive and time-consuming endeavor. Few other lake associations have the financial and volunteer resources with which we are so blessed. Your continued support is critical to our ongoing efforts to prevent zebra mussels and other invasive species from finding a home in Bay Lake. Thank you for all you've done thus far.

Phillip Rollins

Your gifts vital to keeping Bay Lake special

On behalf of the Bay Lake Improvement Association, a big "Thank You" to all of you who donated to the Environmental Protection Fund this year.

Whether you gave through the Runtilla, the Amazing Race, the Golf Scramble or when you re-upped your membership (or all four), your generosity is much appreciated by all of your fellow Bay Lakers. If you haven't given yet, there is still time; we do not close our books until Dec. 31 at midnight.

While our expenditures on milfoil treatment were lower for the past two years, don't forget that all it takes is one bad summer and expenses will jump to levels seen in the past. Also,

we added a new expense during the past two years by hiring inspectors, this year Class 1 with the authority to turn away infected boats, to monitor the public access daily from sunup until sundown during the summer months. We are also actively monitoring the water quality of the lake. We continue to rely on the munificence of our membership to continue these important tasks.

So please continue to give at a meaningful level. Urge your family, neighbors and friends to give and know that your gifts protect your investment on the lake and allow future generations to enjoy a place so special to all of us.

BLIA Board

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



**Celebrate the Holiday Season
with your Bay Lake friends**

Join us at the 2013 BLIA Holiday Party

Saturday, Dec. 14
Ruby's Room at Ruttger's

Social hour starts at 5 p.m., with traditional holiday buffet at 6.

Reservation material will come in the mail.
For more information, call Sylvia Graff, 218-678-2543.

See you there!

