



Fall, 2020

www.mybirchlake.org

*Dedicated to the Preservation and Improvement
Of Birch Lake and It's Environment*

From the President –

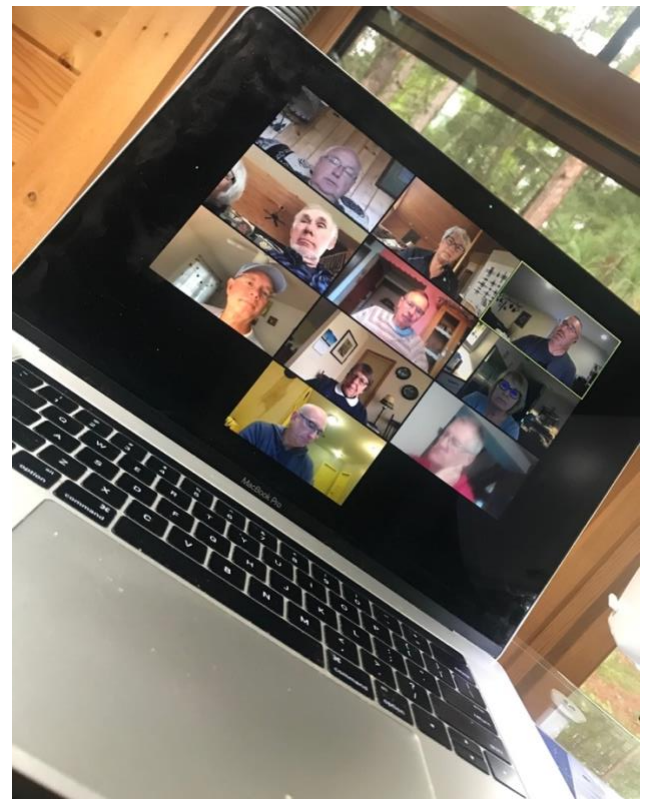
I hope you and your family are all safe and healthy! I know these times have been extremely difficult for everyone. Please trust that your Birch Lake Association family is thinking about you. We are wishing you the best and hoping that we can all get through this trying period.

I was so grateful that I had our beautiful lake to escape to throughout the summer. Like many others, my job has changed considerably. I used to be on a plane almost every week, and when I wasn't in the air I was in our downtown Minneapolis office. Well, I have not done either since March. Instead, I worked remotely from Hackensack all summer. I am eternally grateful to have been able to spend that time with my family at the lake. During this stressful, isolating time it brings me peace to be surrounded by nature's beauty, and I hope it helps you persevere as well.

BLA continues to adapt and adjust to changes forced upon us by the COVID-19 virus. I wanted to make a personal appeal directly to you about maintaining your membership with Birch Lake Association. Next year will be time to renew your membership. It is likely that we will not be able to reach out to you in person like we have in the past. If we cannot, I will miss the face-to-face interaction with you, which I always enjoyed. But, please keep an eye out for your renewal reminder and consider going onto our website to safely renew remotely.

With zebra mussels looming directly upstream in Ten Mile Lake, the role of BLA has never been more important. Keep our community strong and renew your Birch Lake Association membership in 2021!!

Stay healthy and I hope to see you around town – at a safe distance,
Paul Blomgren
President, Birch Lake Association



**Your Birch Lake Association Board –
hard at work via ZOOM**

Be sure to check out the drone footage of the Birch Lake Fourth of July Boat Parade on our web page or on YouTube

www.mybirchlake.org

<https://youtu.be/44gz2aOVQ8g>

2021 Dates to Know

January 15 - 17, 2021 Back to Hack

Feb 28 – End of Walleye/Northern season

March 1 – All ice shelters must be removed

May 8 MN Fishing opener (Walleye, Northern)

May 22-Largemouth & smallmouth Bass opener

July 24 – **TENTATIVE** BLA Membership Meeting

Stay Safe – Stay Healthy!

Birch Lake Association Website

<http://www.mybirchlake.org>

Our association website is a wealth of information, including area events, information about lakeshore management, membership and Birch Lake Gear!

You can also keep track of lake happenings on our Facebook page –

www.facebook.com/mybirchlake/

Another resource for area happenings is the Hackensack Chamber Website

www.hackensackchamber.com

BLA is a member of Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates:

<http://www.mnlakesandrivers.org/>



Loons 2020



Like just about everything in our lives in 2020, the loon situation was somewhat puzzling! I was able to observe eggs on 3 different nests, but never observed a single chick! A couple of people reported seeing young chicks – once! Two of the nests I observed were in the same very shallow bay on the west end of the lake and both were built on old lily pad roots! Both of those nests were washed away in severe rain and wind storms in June. The other nest was an artificial nest placed by the big island. There were 2 eggs on that nest as well, but it seemed that the loons sat on those eggs for 35 or 36 days – which would indicate that they were not viable. Then on September 30 we saw what certainly appeared to be a juvenile and adult loon together! So maybe we had a successful hatch after all!!

Geese

We did have a bumper crop of geese on the lake this year! There are a variety of methods to keep them off your beach, but one of the most important recommendations is NOT to feed them! They're cute when they are a bunch of little fluffballs – but they grow up and are not so cute anymore. The following link from the DNR talks more about ways to discourage them from partying on your beach.

https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/livingwith_wildlife/geese/index.html

Lake Country Journal

The Birch Lake Fourth of July Boat Parade will be represented in next summer's issue of this magazine! We'll try to let you know when it hits the newsstands!!

<http://lakecountryjournal.com/>

Our garden renovation is complete! Thank You to everyone who donated and volunteered, and especially to Shirley Johnson who coordinated the entire effort!! It's a beautiful spot to watch the world go by.

Birch Lake State of Health 2020

The Birch Lake Association, spearheaded by Mark Larison, has assembled the following report to describe the current state of Birch Lake, including:

- Water Quality Testing
- Aquatic Invasive Species Sampling

*It is very difficult to read the details on these slides – the full PowerPoint is available on the Birch Lake Association webpage -

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/55e08846e4b094cea50ed816/t/5f972e22d30bcf0f72044f96/1603743268143/2020+Health+of+Birch+Lake.pdf>

Water Quality Test Results for Birch Lake

Mean TSI Seasonal Trends



TSI, (Lake Trophic State), is an index of Phosphorus, Chlorophyll-a and Secchi data, to help define how fertile the lake has become.

- A northern MN, deep, cold, rocky lake may be TSI < 30 (**Oligotrophic state**)
- **Birch Lake** is Mesotrophic Lake (TSI 40-50). means a medium amount of nutrients (Phosphorus and Nitrogen). Mesotrophic lakes are usually found in central Minnesota and have clear water with some algal blooms in late summer.
- A southern MN lake, fertile soils, agricultural area, may be TSI > 70 (**Eutrophic state**)

RMB Environmental Laboratories, Inc. • 218-348-1405 • lakes@rmbel.info • www.rmbel.info

The data shows great stability in Birch Lake water quality. The phosphorus level, specifically, is better than expected for our ecoregion.

Water Quality Testing for Birch Lake

The (3) critical water quality tests below have been sampled by Birch Lake volunteers for many decades. Water samples are taken each month (non-winter, typically 5 samples per year)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total Phosphorus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phosphorus, important for plant growth. In most lakes, phosphorus is the limiting nutrient, meaning the more phosphorus is available, the more plants and algae there are in the lake. Major sources of phosphorus include human and animal wastes, soil erosion, detergents, septic systems and runoff from farmland or fertilized lawns. • Chlorophyll-a <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chlorophyll-a is tested in lakes to determine how much algae is in the lake. Algae adds oxygen to the water, but if there is too much algae in a lake it can produce a foul odor and be unpleasant for swimming. • Water Transparency (secchi) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water transparency is measured with a Secchi disk. A Secchi disk is a metal disk, 8 inches in diameter that is lowered into the water on a cord. The depth that the Secchi disk can no longer be seen through the water is the Secchi depth. 	<p>Generally, as Phosphorus increases, Chlorophyll-a will increase and Secchi depth will decrease.</p>
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Jim Madland, a Director on the BLA Board, has managed monthly water sampling for many years. RMB Environmental Labs, Inc., is paid by BLA for lab testing samples, collected by our volunteers. We also credit RMB Labs for sharing water quality technical information and data included in this report.

Zebra Mussel Sampling Devices in Birch Lake

- The yellow stars below, indicate a Zebra sampling device that has been in Birch Lake and monitored by our volunteers (most locations have been monitored for several years).
- Devices include PVC tubes suspended off lake bottom or cement blocks submerged in the lake.
- Keep in mind, any structure in the lake can be used to detect Zebra Mussels, including: Dock posts, boat-lifts, rafts, buoy anchors, and natural rocks that are submerged.



The yellow star locations indicate where a BLA volunteer is maintaining a sampling device, and carefully checking it for Zebra mussels. These results are documented in the DNR's database at the end of summer.

We will use this history to pinpoint the time and location of any future Zebra mussel infestation, giving us a better chance to take control actions.

Open Water Zebra Mussel Veliger Sampling at Birch Lake

- Samples from (3) locations in Birch Lake, using a Plankton net.
- Locations were roughly 15 feet deep, net dropped to 10 feet from surface, vertically towed upward and concentrated into a sample.
- The lab evaluation by RMB Labs found no evidence of Zebra mussel veligers.



This is an encouraging result, indicating that Zebra mussel veligers detected in Ten Mile Lake in 2019, likely have not yet made their way down the Boy River to Birch Lake.

AIS Survey at Birch Lake public access and fishing pier

- Below shows the area covered by (9) "rake-throws" within the area, sampling the aquatic plants.
- The blue star shows where a Zebra Mussel tube sampler has been hung, below public dock, each year. No sign of mussels found in this survey.



- We do not identify every species of aquatic plants/animals we find in Birch Lake. But, we CAN identify the below **AIS**. So, our approach is to go looking for these (which we did NOT find in the 2020 surveys):



Additional information regarding our lake quality can be found on the following websites:

<https://www.rmbel.info/lakes/>

<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water>

<https://webapp.pca.state.mn.us/surface-water/impairment/11-0412-00>

A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

PART 4

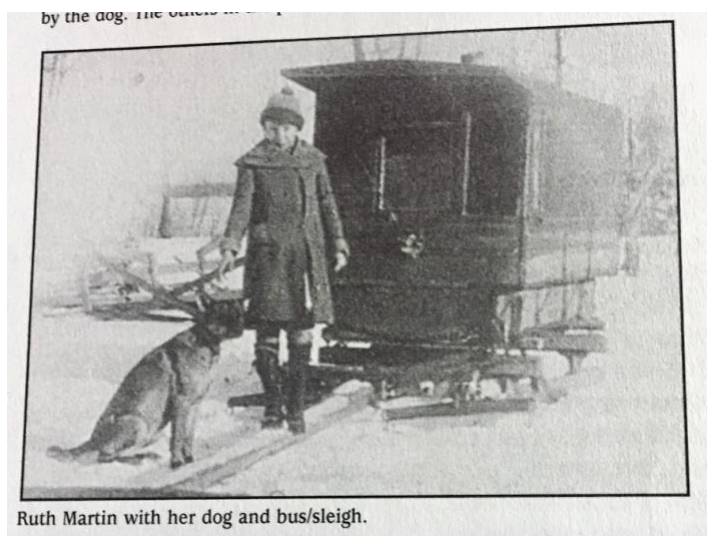
compiled by Diane Zaske

This is a continuation of history written by Vernon Martin (1919-1992), written in 1991.

"I drove bus for three years (late 1920's-1931), when I went to high school. We kept our horses in the livery stable which was located west of the community center about a block from the school. I was let out of school about fifteen minutes early so I could start a fire in the stove and get the horses hitched to the sled by the time the kids were let out of school.

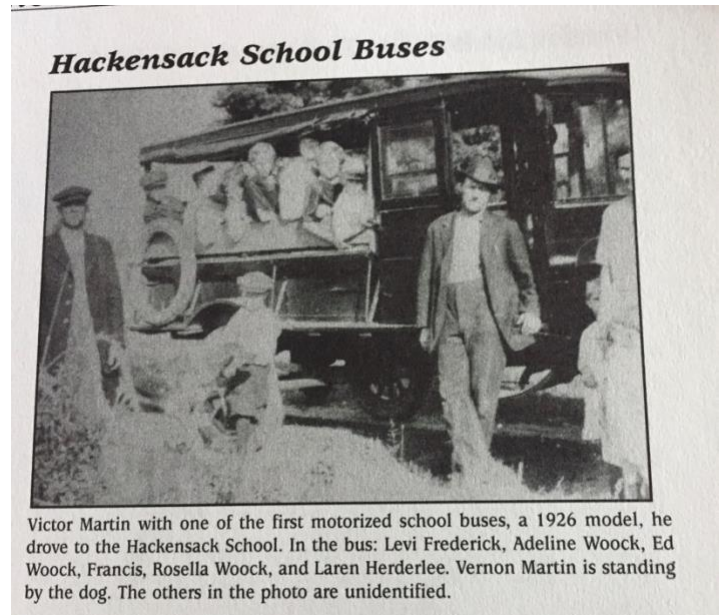
We would quit using the lake when all the water had run through the ice. Sled travel ended, but not walking over the lake. The ice was always rotten along the edge, but if you could get out on the lake, it was real good. Most people carried a ten foot long pole for safety.

The rail traffic and railroad were awfully important to Hackensack. We shipped our cream, veal calves, logs, pulp and many other things out by rail. In summer, many people came from as far away as Chicago, St. Louis, and New York. They fished, gambled, and generally had a good time. In town there were the two hotels, Wendover's and Spain's. Kenfield's and a Nature Camp were also close by on Ten Mile Lake. East of town there was Mazer's fur farm and a few more. They were all good places to stay and there were generally things to do.



Ruth Martin with her dog and bus/sleigh.

The railroad station was just up from the town dock. My earliest recollection of business in town was from the north on Main Street. Farthest north was the telephone office, then Bodicer's store. Across the street from this was the feed store. The feed store carried a lot of different



Victor Martin with one of the first motorized school buses, a 1926 model, he drove to the Hackensack School. In the bus: Levi Frederick, Adeline Woock, Ed Woock, Francis, Rosella Woock, and Laren Herderlee. Vernon Martin is standing by the dog. The others in the photo are unidentified.

things and also bought fur. They also sold some of the first radios in town. I can remember coming to town with dad and our neighbors and listening to the Tuney and Dempsey fight in 1928.

Flieschers had a filling station on that side of the street. I can remember gas at 17 cents and 19 cents per gallon. Next south of Woods' there was a little bakery, a harness shop, a bank, and a fur shop where the post office was for years. The next big building south was Spain's, which had been there since the early teens. This block had many businesses through the years and many fires. Early there was a restaurant/saloon and a blacksmith shop. Then there was a garage and a big hotel. The hotel had a drugstore, barber shop, and a nice restaurant in it. The hotel and all burned in the 1930's along with several other places." (To be continued in the next BLA newsletter.)

Information about renewing your Birch Lake Association membership will be published in January, 2021.

We currently have 215 Family Memberships and 43 Business Memberships

The following new members should be added to your book!

Mike & Jill Donnelly

18553 Artic Ave

Big Lake, MN 55309

Lake Address: 5102 Island View Drive NW

Hackensack, MN 56452

Email: mjcaldonnelly@gmail.com

Phone: 612-559-6082 & 763-913-9927

Chad, Jessica and Travis Seth

21901 Century Ct.

Prior Lake, MN 55372

Lake Address: 332 Lakeshore Drive

Hackensack, MN 56452

Email: cseth27@gmail.com

Phone: 651-247-9196

Vernon & Connie Lein

PO Box 128 Boyd, MN 56218

Lake Address - 3996 Walnut Trail NW

Hackensack, MN 56452

Phone: 320-855-2390. 320-226-2562

Terry Lein

18 Second St, Boyd, MN 56218

Lake Address - 3996 Walnut Trail NW

Hackensack, MN 56452

Phone 320-247-3008

Patrick & Sandy Halligan

4379 Kaufmanis Way

Eagan, MN 55123

Lake Address: 4823 Bark Lane NW

Hackensack, MN 56452

Email: flyinghooligan@gmail.com

Phone: 651-452-7050, 651-341-9264

New Address Betty Gleisner

7800 Jackson St NE

Minneapolis, MN 55432

BLA Officers 2020

Paul Blomgren, President

Gary Martin, Vice President

Steve Hanneman, Secretary

Shirley Johnson/Tim FunkMeyer, Treasurers

BLA Board Contact

Mybirchlake@gmail.com

BLA Board Members

Denny Harnstrom

Sue Holthaus (Website)

Mary Knautz

Gary Krimmel

Mark Larison (AIS)

Jim Madland (Water Quality)

Betty Martin

Jackie Schumacher (Newsletter)

Rick Zaske (Water Quality)



Over Labor Day weekend, we were treated to a wonderful lakeside concert by Wayne & The Boys, sponsored by the Northwoods Art Council



Box 125, Hackensack, MN 56452
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My
favorite
color
is
October

-Unknown