



Fall, 2019

www.mybirchlake.org

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

From the President –

Another great year for the Birch Lake Association is ending on a somber note with the discovery of zebra mussel larvae in Ten Mile Lake. We always knew this threat was looming, but to have it hit just upstream from Birch Lake makes it a stark reality. The BLA stands ready to protect our lake from aquatic invasive species (AIS). We are closely monitoring the situation as it develops and will adjust our plan of action as appropriate. For now, we all must continue to do our part to protect our lakes - Clean, Drain, Dispose! Also, it is important to keep docks and boat lifts out of the water for **at least** 21 days before putting them into our lake **ESPECIALLY** if they have been in Ten Mile. Keep an eye on our website or Facebook page for updated information. One of the best things we can all do is talk with our neighbors about joining the BLA. Growing our membership increases the number of informed and educated lake owners, as well as adding resources to react to an AIS infestation. On a positive note, it was a wonderfully fun and productive year for the BLA. The Viking-themed 4th of July Boat Parade was awesome with one count having 57 boats and “a couple of jet skis”. The BLA booth at the Chainsaw Event was quite popular again this year with 192 people participating in the free drawing. But, I feel like the highlight of the year was the Annual Membership Gathering. We had 111 people attend!! Even though we nearly filled the Birchwood there were door prizes for everyone. It was an energetic event with a tremendous sense of community and camaraderie!! Let's try and fill the entire space next year. As always, I am committed to a short meeting and a long happy hour.

The BLA Board worked hard on your behalf all year and continues to in many ways. We are helping to advocate for our lakes as the highway 371 project planning gets underway. A dedicated board member is attending the planning meetings to represent the priorities of BLA. Another Board member is working tirelessly to make certain our Lake Management Plan

is updated and incorporates the latest developments regarding AIS. These are just two examples of the Board's exemplary work this year. Thank you!! Looking forward, we have a major renovation under way for the Birch Lake Association Memorial Butterfly Garden near the boat landing. The garden is the only physical showpiece of our Association. The purpose of the renovation is to enhance its beauty, and reduce ongoing maintenance and expenses. Several skilled gardeners on the Board are leading the renovation project. The project will incur a one-time expense for BLA. We have already raised over \$2000 in dedicated donations to help fund it! I ask you to please consider a special donation of any amount to fund the Memorial Garden Renovation. Also, if you are able we may need laborers in the spring to help with the project and further reduce the cost. I believe our Garden is a special place that forever memorializes BLA members' connection to the lake and our dedication to protecting it for future generations. Let's keep it beautiful!!

Have a great winter and I hope I see you around town!

Paul Blomgren
President, Birch Lake Association



BLA Officers 2017-2019

Paul Blomgren, President
Gary Martin, Vice President
Steve Hanneman, Secretary
Shirley Johnson, Treasurer
Tim FunkMeyer, Assistant Treasurer

BLA Board Members

Denny Harnstrom (Water Quality)
Sue Holthaus (Website)
Mary Knautz
Gary Krimmel
Mark Larison (AIS)
Jim Madland (Water Quality)
Betty Martin
Jackie Schumacher (Newsletter)
Rick Zaske (Water Quality)

Contact Information

Mybirchlake@gmail.com

2020 Upcoming Events

January 17-19 – Back to Hack Winter Festival
March 2 – fish shelters must be removed
May 9 - Opening fishing
July 4 - Boat parade
TBA - Sweetheart days
July 25 TENTATIVE Annual meeting

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! Be sure to visit regularly.

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/>**

Often we as members of the BLA Board field questions about lakeshore use. The Cass County website has a wealth of information to help with those questions. Here are some links to help answer your questions or report concerns about land use.



Cass County Environmental Services

http://www.co.cass.mn.us/government/county_directory/environmental_services/index.php

Shoreland Guide

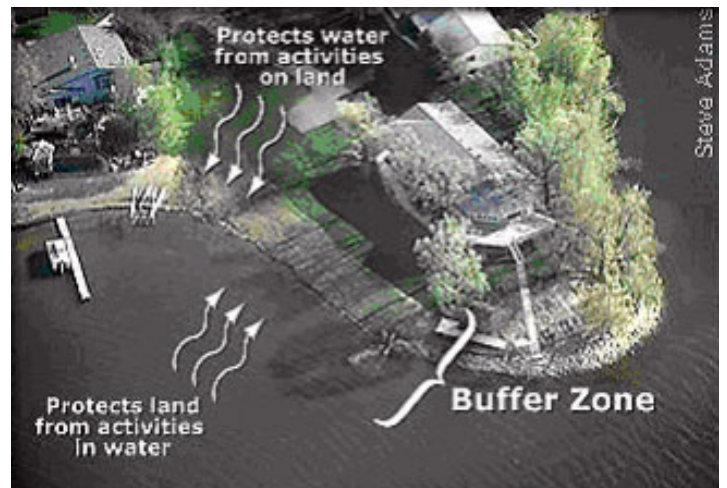
http://cms4.revize.com/revize/casscounty/document_center/esd/Cass%20County%20shoreland%20guide%202017_0517.pdf

FAQ s ABOUT WHAT I CAN DO WITH MY PROPERTY

www.co.cass.mn.us/government/county_directory/.../faq.php

Resources Specialist Zones

http://cms4.revize.com/revize/casscounty/document_center/esd/Public%20Concern%20Form.pdf



Zebra Mussels in Ten Mile Lake:

*For Birch Lake, Zebra Mussels in Ten Mile Lake pose a new AIS risk, as our water is connected by the Boy River. However, it does not change our AIS objectives. We must continue to increase awareness about AIS, maintain rigorous boat inspections at our access, **Clean/Drain/Dry boats and equipment in and out of lakes, and step up our early detection efforts.** Our access inspectors already have required decontamination for boats coming from infested lakes (now would add Ten Mile to that list of contaminated lakes).*

Mark Larison plans to set detector tubes near the bridge, to see if we can detect zebra mussels in Boy River. Mark will target the northwest parts of the lake. He will make a tube and rope for anyone who will hang one from their dock, if they check it a few times this coming spring/summer. If you are interested, please email Mark at Mybirchlake@gmail.com and put his name in the subject line



Zebra mussels attach to the shells of native mussels, smothering them. *Photo Credit: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources*

News Release

Water sample reveals zebra mussel larvae in Ten Mile Lake in Cass County-October 28, 2019

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has confirmed zebra mussel larvae in a water sample taken from Ten Mile Lake near Hackensack in Cass County.

A DNR research scientist identified 17 microscopic zebra mussel larvae, called veligers (VEL-uh-jers) in a water sample taken from the lake in September. While no adult or juvenile zebra mussels have been reported, the number of veligers indicates a reproducing population.

Ten Mile Lake will be added to the infested waters list for zebra mussels, so that people who harvest bait, fish commercially or appropriate water take necessary precautions. Other lake users should follow the same “Clean, Drain, Dispose” steps that are always legally required on all water bodies, regardless of whether they are on the infested waters list.

Lake property owners should carefully check boats and trailers, docks and lifts, and all other water-related

equipment for invasive species when removing equipment for seasonal storage.

It is especially important to follow Minnesota’s law and keep docks and boat lifts out of the water for at least 21 days before putting them into another body of water. Anyone transporting a dock or lift from a shoreline property to another location for storage or repair may need a [permit](#), to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. The DNR recommends these steps for lake property owners:

- Look on the posts, wheels and underwater support bars of docks and lifts, as well as any parts of boats, pontoons and rafts that may have been submerged in water for an extended period.
- Hire [DNR-permitted lake service provider businesses](#) to install or remove boats, docks, lifts and other water-related equipment. These businesses have attended training on Minnesota’s aquatic invasive species laws and many have experience identifying and removing invasive species.

People should [contact an area DNR aquatic invasive species specialist](#) if they think they have found zebra mussels or any other invasive species.

Whether or not a lake is listed as infested, Minnesota law requires boaters and anglers to:

- **Clean** watercraft and trailers of aquatic plants and prohibited invasive species,
- **Drain** all water by removing drain plugs and keeping them out during transport, and
- **Dispose** of unwanted bait in the trash.

Some invasive species are small and difficult to see at the access. To remove or kill them, take one or more of the following precautions before moving to another waterbody:

- Spray with high-pressure water.
- Rinse with very hot water (120 degrees for at least two minutes or 140 degrees for at least 10 seconds).
- Dry for at least five days.

Zebra mussels can compete with native species for food and habitat, cut the feet of swimmers, reduce the performance of boat motors, and cause expensive damage to water intake pipes.

More information is available at mndnr.gov/ais.
http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/natural_resources/invasives/aquaticanimals/zebramussel/fact_sheet-zebra_mussels.pdf

A Little Bit of History.....

compiled by Diane Zaske

Vernon Martin was born in 1912 and died in 1992. This is some of the history he wrote a year before his death. He had a cabin here for many years; his children have it now.



“First I want to say that my parents were married in 1911. Dad had come up in 1910 and built a house. He had torn down a house in Hackensack and brought it across Birch Lake with a row boat. He made many trips across the lake to bring this building material to the west shore. The land he started with was pretty much timber land, so it all had to be cleared.

I was born in the home place on Nov. 15, 1912. Dad broke ice on the lake and rowed a flat bottom boat across to get a midwife to bring me into the world. Her name was Mrs. Woods. The Woods owned a grocery store in Hackensack for many years.

The first years were rough. We burned wood, had no electricity, and not too much insulation in the house. We ate a lot of fish and rabbits, and mother had a big garden and canned a lot of vegetables each summer. Beans, corn, tomatoes, berries, and fruits were all canned in a water bath to preserve them. We had a washtub that held 10-15 quarts. These vegetables had to boil in the jars about three hours to make sure they were well preserved. We also had potatoes, carrots, rutabagas, and beets in the cold cellar. Some days we had potatoes for all three meals, and not much else. In summers, we swam and bathed in the lake from early spring to late fall. Without a shower, it was a lot more fun in the lake. Our diving was done off a flat bottom boat when we got a little bigger. The boats were mostly flat bottom boats in the early years. A little later we had round bottom strip wood boats. There were a few outboard motors, but they were pretty unreliable. In the twenties there were more boats around the town docks in Hackensack.” (To be continued in the next BLA newsletter.)



Birch Lake Memorial Butterfly Garden

The Birch Lake Association maintains a memorial butterfly garden next to the log building at the Hackensack City Park. The plantings and flowers are specifically designed to attract butterfly species in our area. Shirley Johnson and Vivian Palmer along with treasured volunteers, have been maintaining these gardens for years. Take some time to explore the garden this summer. It's a peaceful place for reflection.

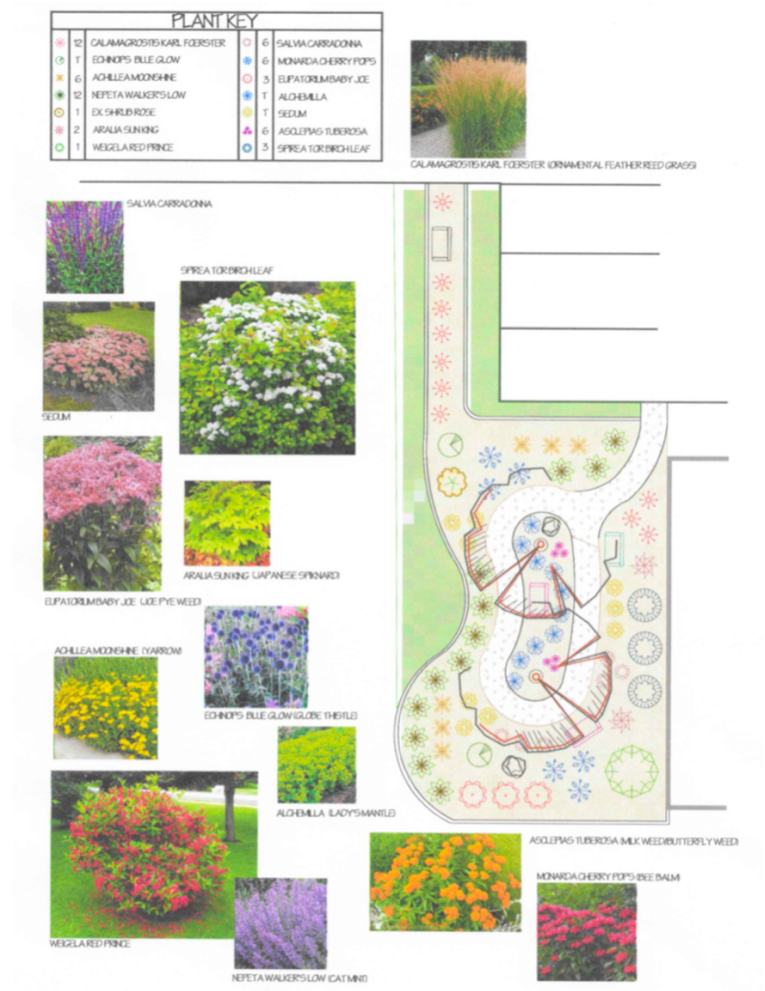
Can you lend a hand?

Each spring, summer and fall the garden must be cleaned up, and maintained. We gladly welcome your donation of time, mulch, plants and especially your muscle to help with the effort. You can send us a message at the link below -

<https://www.mybirchlake.org/birch-lake-memorial-garden>

If you would like to contribute to the fund for this restoration, you will find a link on our web page as well.

<https://www.mybirchlake.org/new-garden-design>



Highway 371 Study and Community Input Meetings

The Minnesota Department of Transportation is embarking on a study that will provide information culminating in constructing a new road, infrastructure, bike paths and sidewalks from County Road 40 to County Road 5 in Hackensack in 2023. It is engaging an interactive process to gain community input over the next several months. Community organizations, property owners on Highway 371 and others are attending up to five meetings over the next several months to share community needs and priorities. Tim FunkMeyer, Birch Lake Association board member is attending the meetings on behalf of the BLA board. At its October 12 meeting, the BLA board identified priorities (in order) and asked Tim to communicate these priorities at the next Highway 371 meeting.

1. Develop and execute a storm water plan to avoid contaminated runoff to area lakes
2. Increase pedestrian safety
3. Provide enhanced aesthetics to the new road; trees, green space

Tim reports the process has been well facilitated and input taken seriously. If you have thoughts, questions or interest in attending the Study/Community Input meetings, contact either Tim FunkMeyer at timfunkmeyer@gmail.com or Nancy Graham MnDOT Project Manager at Nancy.graham@state.mn.us, both of whom can direct you on how to get involved or assist in taking input or answering questions.



Hwy 371 Study

Study recommendations will include:



Improved safety for all users



Speed reduction measures



Improved or new bike and pedestrian facilities



County Road 5 and Hwy 371 reconstruction



Underground utility and drainage upgrades

i About the Project

MnDOT is reconstructing Hwy 371 between County Rd 40 and County Rd 5 in Hackensack in the next few years. This project will improve pavement conditions and increase safety for all users of Hwy 371. It also includes a possible redesign of the Hwy 371 and County Rd 5 intersection.

📍 Project Area Map



📅 Project Schedule

FALL/WINTER 2019	WINTER 2020	SPRING 2020	SUMMER 2020 – WINTER 2021	FALL 2020	2021-2023	SPRING 2023
Stakeholder input and alternatives development	Preferred alternative development	Community/stakeholder engagement and preferred alternative selection	Ongoing engagement	Begin final design	Project development and design	Tentative construction
We are here						

🗨️ Get in Touch

Contact:
 Nancy Graham, Project Manager
nancy.graham@state.mn.us | 218-214-3532

Learn More:
[@mndotnorthwest](https://twitter.com/mndotnorthwest)
facebook.com/groups/mndotnorthwest

Visit the project website to sign up for the mailing list, receive updates, and learn about opportunities to get involved. Help shape the vision for the corridor!

mndot.gov/d2/projects/hwy371-hackensack



<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d2/projects/hwy371-hackensack/>

***Our Membership Drive was a roaring success! Thank you all!
We currently have 217 Family Memberships and 50 Business Memberships.***

The list below are the new families and businesses for 2019-2021. Contact information is in the new Birch Lake Association Membership Book which you will be receiving soon.

David & Michele Albrecht
Elizabeth Becker, Jody & Joe
Bob & Barbara Bromeland
Dean & Nancy Carlson
Jeremy & Chris Cardinal, Ana, Olivia & Emma
William & Vicky Cary
Dan & Terrie Embloom
David & Nancy Fuchs, Zachary
Christopher Funk, John, Robert, Carl
Jean & Christina Gryc
Jeffery & Diane Halbmaier
Tom & Sharleen Hankins
John & Tracie Johnson Nick & Jordan
Fred & Beth Karlisch
Jane Kelly

Monica Kristo & Eric Bergenbring
John & Diana Kuyper
Scott & Amanda Murphy
Edwin & Geradette Nies
Ann Schmidt
Keith & Kim Smythe, Erin & Megan

We welcome the following new businesses as well:

Aspen Construction Company
Butts 'N Buns BBQ
Ironsides Trailer Sales and Service
Pleasant Lake Storage
Sun N Fun
Trosen Electric



Garden cleanup



July 4th Boat Parade



Sweetheart Day Parade



Chainsaw Event



The Birch Lake Association is now an official sponsor of the weekly Children's Fishing Contest.



Walley at the Annual Meeting



11/10/2019



***BLA Annual Membership Meeting
Thank you to all our fantastic member!***



Box 125, Hackensack, MN 56452

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Visit us at: www.mybirchlake.org

**Are you receiving a PRINTED copy of this newsletter?? You can save BLA RESOURCES by receiving newsletters via email. Simply send a note to mybirchlake@gmail.com to request an emailed newsletter

Advice from a Tree



Stand tall and proud. Sink your roots into the Earth. Be content with your natural beauty.
Go out on a limb. Drink plenty of water. Remember your roots.
Enjoy the View!