



Spring, 2021

www.mybirchlake.org

*Dedicated to the Preservation and Improvement
Of Birch Lake and Its Environment*

From the President –

Happy Memorial Day and welcome to another summer at the lake!! Hopefully, everyone reading this is healthy and happy.

Our 2021 membership renewal is well underway. Thank you to everybody who has already renewed their BLA membership and a special THANK YOU to all of the people who generously gave donations with their dues!!! Please help us by renewing online at our website (mybirchlake.org) or mailing in your membership form. Either way, please remember to verify your contact information by filling out the membership form, so we can keep our records up-to-date. You are the Birch Lake Association; you are the ones that make a difference in keeping our lake beautiful and healthy!

The BLA board has been working hard already this year. Water quality and level monitoring is set up and in place to keep an eye on our lake and looming aquatic invasive species threats. We are looking at replacing and updating the signage at the city landing using undesignated donations. Nearby, the martin houses have been cleaned out and are ready for our mosquito-devouring friends! Stop by the Memorial Garden near the city dock to enjoy the work done last year as the garden blooms this spring!

Also, the BLA has launched a Shoreline Restoration Initiative thanks to the hard work of board member Mark Larison!! Look for materials to help you Score Your Shore to identify opportunities to improve your shoreline and access funds to help with restoration projects. These changes can not only help improve the water quality it can also foster wildlife habitat and even improve the fishing!!! I am planning on Scoring My Shore this weekend and we already have some natural/native planting planned.

We have set a tentative date for our annual meeting on July 31st. It isn't clear yet if we will be able to have an in-person meeting, but we will hold the meeting and

you will have an opportunity to attend either in-person or virtually.

Lastly, on a fun note the unofficial 4th of July Boat Parade theme is, "The Birch Lake Olympics"!!! Even if the actual event gets canceled, we can celebrate our own Olympics. So, represent your favorite country, pick your favorite event, carry the torch, have fun!! As always, please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns. Stay healthy and I hope I see you on the lake,

Paul Blomgren

pmblogren@yahoo.com

President, Birch Lake Association

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President, Birch Lake Association





2021 Dates to Know

Tuesdays June 8 thru August 10
 Kids Fishing Contest
 July 4 - Boat Parade "Birch Lake Olympics!"
 July 13-17 - Sweetheart Days
 July 10 - Fireworks

July 31 – TENTATIVE BLA Membership Meeting
 August 14th - Annual Northwoods Art & Book Festival
 *Chainsaw Event has been postponed until September 2022

2021 Sacred Heart CCW Flea Market & Craft Sale

Wednesday
 June 9th - July 14th - August 11th
 "Rummage Sale in the Old White Church"
 "We are looking forward to seeing you"
 The CCW suggest "Social Distancing and Mask"



NORTHWOODS ARTS COUNCIL
Bringing the Arts to Life

FREE MUSIC • BIRCH LAKE • HACKENSACK PARK PAVILION • HACKENSACK

Lakeside Concert Series

Friday, 5 PM - 7 PM	June 18	Wayne and the Boys
Friday, 5 PM - 7 PM	June 25	One Night Stand
Friday, 5 PM - 7 PM	July 2	Dos Guys
Saturday, 5 PM - 7 PM	July 10	Josh Duffee and His Quartet
Friday, 5 PM - 7 PM	July 16	Wayne and the Boys
Friday, 5 PM - 7 PM	July 23	Skippin Stones
Friday, 5 PM - 7 PM	July 30	New Riverside Ramblers
Friday, 5 PM - 7 PM	Aug 6	Dick Kimmel and Kelly Coyle
Friday, 5 PM - 7 PM	Aug 20	Daybreak
Friday, 5 PM - 7 PM	Aug 27	The Occasionals
Saturday, 1 PM - 3 PM	Sep 4	Rockin Hill

Thank you, sponsors!



Sweetheart Days 2021



HACKENSACK

"FUR" EVER!



Sweetheart Days July 9th through the 17th 2021. The fun begins Friday July 9th with a Spaghetti Dinner at UCC. There is a lot happening on Saturday July 10th **Lucette's 1st Annual Arts and Craft Fair, a meet & greet with local authors Julie Jo Larson and Lisa Cassman sponsored by NAC, the 5th Annual Dachshund Derby, a Classic Car & Motorcycle Show, Hackensack Area Fire & Rescue Dept. BBQ, and from 5:00 - 7:00pm the "Josh Duffee Jazz Quartet" will perform an outdoor concert in Hackensack City Park sponsored by NAC. In the evening a Street Dance and the fabulous Fireworks at dusk over Birch Lake. The lineup of activities for Tuesday July 13th will be the same as in the past with the weekly Kid's Fishing Contest, and Kid's Games in the City Park. The Famous Sweetheart Parade takes place in downtown "Hack" starting at 6:00pm. **New this year, Pet Parade at 5:30pm prior to the regular parade. Wednesday July 14th Flea Market at Sacred Heart Church. Friday July 16th from 5:00-7:00pm Lakeside Concert Band series Wayne and the Boys sponsored by NAC. Other activities include a Cornhole Tournament

More information when available; www.hackensackchamber.com and face book at Hackensack Visitors Center



Stay Safe – Stay Healthy!

Birch Lake Association Website

<http://www.mybirchlake.org>

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>

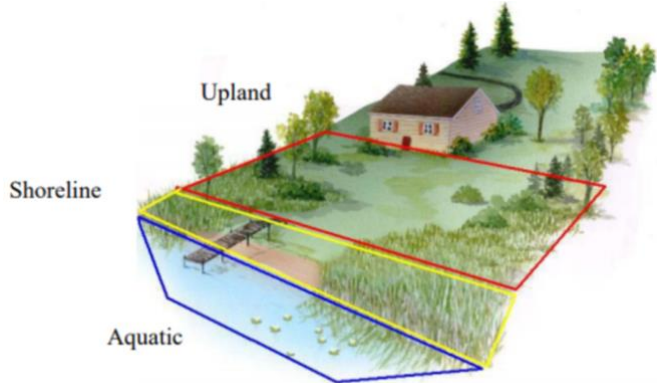
Lending Library

by Maggie McGill

Our beloved historic log cabin library opens on June 1. Hours are 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m., Monday—Saturday through August; only Saturdays in September. No library card is needed. Masks are required and sanitizer is available. The highlight of the summer is our Annual Library Book Sale on Saturday, July 10 at Faith in Action during Sweetheart Days. Since many of you were enthusiastic readers during the winter, we invite you to donate books to the library. The library is staffed by a group of dedicated library volunteers. If you would like to volunteer, call Maggie McGill at 218-682-2224 or 515-210-9028. We look forward to new and old friends!

Loon Watch – We have at least a couple of nesting loons on the lake – please give them plenty of space, 200 feet or so. If you see loons floating very low in the water, you are probably too close to a nest.

Birch Lake Association Shoreline Restoration Initiative



The Initiative aims to improve the health of Birch Lake shoreline, sustaining a year-by-year progression toward restoration, following these priorities:

Shoreline Zone: Improve this critical buffer zone, using native plants and shrubs, erosion control, and eliminate the need for mowing, pesticides or fertilizers.

Upland Zone: Continue improvement by adding native plants, shrubs and trees. Minimize area requiring mowing. Reduce or eliminate pesticides and fertilizers in this zone.

Aquatic Zone: Maintain the natural aquatic plants to prevent further damage from development..

Why Restore the Shoreline?

Lake-Scaping” and shoreland restoration have many benefits for your shoreline property:

- Meet your expectations for your property, while preserving the quality of Birch Lake
- Filter out pollutants and runoff that degrade lake water quality
- Prevent shoreline erosion
- Provide habitat for native wildlife
- Enjoy nature: flowers, shrubs, trees, aquatic plants, fish, insects, birds
- More leisure time to relax and enjoy life at Birch Lake, with less time mowing.

Minimizing lawns near the lake will reduce shoreline erosion, algal blooms, and excessive aquatic plant growth. Lawns are shallow-rooted, provide very little wildlife habitat, need frequent maintenance, and are often over-fertilized

How do I Improve my Shoreline?

We are inviting all Birch Lake property owners to take the Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates (MLR) Score your Shore mini-assessment.

The Survey takes only a few minutes to complete, and shows which factors affect the health of your shoreline.

Notice which questions have the biggest impact on your total. Also, you can see your score without submitting your information to the MLR, if you have confidentially concerns. The MLR is providing best practices and resources among many lake associations in Minnesota. [MLR Survey](#)

Next, take actions to begin to improve your shore. Follow this link to see resources available for starting a project on your property: [Resources for Lake Stewards](#)

Take the Quiz and find out.

Are you a
**LAKE
STEWARD?**

Does your
**SHORELINE
PROTECT
WATER QUALITY?**

Take the Quiz and find out.



A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

In 1894, the Northern Minnesota Railroad built tracks along the wagon road, through Brainerd, Pine River and Hackensack to the now-extinct town of Lothrop along the east side of Ten Mile Lake. The racks ended At Lothrop. Trainloads of logs were sent from the surrounding area to St. Cloud where they were sent down the Mississippi.

Lothrop was first platted in 1895 and was named for Luther R. Lothrop, a civil engineer from Maine. The village was located slightly south of the point where County Road #50 meets Highway #371. In 1893, the Minnesota Logging Company began using the townsite as their headquarters. The winter of 1895-96 was one of great activity; nearly 2000 men were in the area and nearly \$100,000 was paid in wages, the greater part of which was spent in Lothrop. As one old-timer said, "The first time I ever struck Lothrop, the population consisted of about a thousand men, 900 of whom were drunk and the other 100 were fighting to get to the bar." Lothrop was a lumberjack's paradise. Trains, loaded with logs for southern mills, clattered through Lothrop every 15 to 20 minutes. The village had a railroad station and repair shop, three hotels, several stores, one house of ill repute, one saloon and a drug store run by Dr. Wallace J. Baine, the first postmaster appointed on December 22, 1894. Dr. Baine, it was rumored, sold the "stuff" to make them sick and then doctored them until they became well, but if it was too late, he could also pronounce them dead and decide the cause of their death as he was also the coroner. Pete Denis owned the general store. George Stanley was proprietor of the City Hotel, Fred Long owned the City Hotel Bar, Alfred Parker owned a general store. Sisler and Cowan owned the Bodega Saloon on Columbian Avenue. Michael McNichols ran the Gem Sample Room, Mrs. L. Curo owned a general store. Her husband, James, came to the Hackensack area in the 1870s. John Gillis was a lawyer, A. J. Wilson and Sam Hatfield were barbers. A weekly newspaper, The Leech Lake Letter, was published in Lothrop from October 1, 1895 until December 5, 1895. (Yes, those dates are correct) Local legends abound - such as the tragic "Moustache Liz," a lady-of-the-night from Lothrop, north of Hackensack, who was bet and lost in a poker game, married to the man who won her, and widowed when he was hit by a train while opot chasing his pigs.

In 1896 a railroad trestle was built across Shingobee Island and lumber operations moved northward. By 1900, the town was deserted. Most of the residents moved north to Walker, west to Akeley or south to Hackensack. Dr. Baine put up a new hotel in Akeley; Pete Denis moved to Hackensack, and all that remained was the bordello and Mustache Liz. Hackensack, in Birch Lake Township, was named for an earlier post office there established in 1888, which derived its name from the town of Hackensack in New Jersey, on the Hackensack River, given by James Curo and Bye Barlett. Legend says chose the name because the mosquitos were as numerous and big as those in their hometown. Hackensack was incorporated as a village on June 5, 1903 and separated from the township on May 18, 1911. Hackensack had a station of the Minnesota and International Railway. In 2003 Hackensack celebrated it's 100th Anniversary. The community celebrated by publishing a book about the town's history, including the businesses, schools, resorts and people. It's a terrific peek into the past, there are still a few copies available at the Chamber Building in town. We'll be sharing more in future issues! *Information from The Cass County Museum and Historical Society, Minnesota History Museum, [Minnesota's Lost Towns, Northern Edition](#) by Rhoda Fochs and [Hackensack Celebrates 100 Years](#)*



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



New Membership

Renewal Membership

Date: _____

Birch Lake Association Membership Application 2021-2023

Name(s): _____

Add'l Family Names: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Lake Address: _____

Primary Phone: _____ 2nd Phone _____

Primary Email: _____ 2nd Email _____

SAVE OUR RESOURCES

Birch Lake Newsletters: The newsletter is published up to four times a year (see website for previous editions). May we send you the **BLA Newsletter** to your email address (instead of mailing a copy)?

Indicate below:

E-mail Newsletter

Mail Newsletter

Membership Dues 2021-2023 _____ \$50 _____

Donation to Birch Lake Association _____

Total Due _____

Please mail this form and send it in with your check written to:

Birch Lake Association

PO Box 125, Hackensack, MN 56452

*If you would like to pay by PayPal or by Credit Card through PayPal follow the link on the website for the **Online Membership Registration Form** www.mybirchlake.org*

More hands make lighter work. We would love to have you join our team. Please check off any of your interests below and we will contact you.

Loons and Loon Watching

Water Quality and Lake Monitor

BLA Memorial Garden

Booth at Chainsaw Event

BLA Martin House

Lake Management Plan

Membership Drive

Lakeshore Restoration Committee

Board Member

Website

Attend ACCL Meetings (Association of Cass County Lakes)

Newsletter Committee

Suggestion: _____

Facebook

Thank you for supporting the Birch Lake Association!

Birch Lake Association is a 501(c)4 non-profit organization.

Office use only

Amount \$ _____

Check # _____ PayPal _____

PayPal Transaction# _____



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Visit us at: www.mybirchlake.org

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“May the wind always be at your back and the sun upon your face.”