



Winter/Spring 2022

[www.mybirchlake.org](http://www.mybirchlake.org)

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

**From the President** –Happy Spring to everyone!!! I have it on good authority that the ice will go out on our lake eventually... As always, the changing of the season has energized me and has me looking forward to being at the lake to enjoy it in a different way. I hope you all had a wonderful winter and you are all happy and healthy.

Since our last newsletter, we were able to get together for a virtual Board meeting. In the past we have not met over the winter since many members flee to warmer climates. However, all the Board members have embraced new online technology, which has allowed us to stay in touch over the winter months. The increased flexibility to attend virtually has also made attending regular meetings easier, keeping attendance very high. This is definitely making lemonade out of lemons!!

On the topic of technology, I would like to ask our membership if you have any ideas, suggestions, capabilities you might offer the Association to help us move to a more advanced membership management system. It would be significantly more efficient for the Association and members if we were able to maintain the directory, membership records, dues collection, etc. in an updated online format. If you are able to help in any way please contact me directly at 612.201.0687 or [pblomgren@yahoo.com](mailto:pblomgren@yahoo.com).

Your Birch Lake Association remains strong and active! We achieved a lot last year and are looking ahead to another great year keeping watch over our precious lake. A big project this year will be updating the lake management plan. This is a critical, operating document that is required by many agencies we partner with, but is also a floorplan for the regular work that the Association does. The existing document is robust and embodies much hard work from previous members. However, it needs major updating to accurately reflect how BLA currently operates. Mark

Larison has been the key Board member working on this project. His vision and diligence is greatly appreciated by all of us!!

As always, I am grateful to have the privilege of working with this amazing group of people who are all dedicated and fun!! Every Board member contributes to the success of the BLA and I thank you all. I wanted to give an extra “thank you” to Jackie Schumacher! Among her many contributions her work on the newsletter is especially important. By “work on”, I mean “do all of the work on” the newsletter for much longer than she committed to!! She makes the newsletter interesting, fun, and informative, as you are no doubt appreciating right now (OK, well after you finish this section). I sincerely enjoy all the time I get to spend talking with Jackie and her patience with my tardy contributions!!! Thank you Jackie!!

Please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns. Stay healthy and I hope I see you on the lake soon,

Paul Blomgren

[pblomgren@yahoo.com](mailto:pblomgren@yahoo.com)

President, Birch Lake Association



## 2022 Dates to Know



May 14 -- MN Fishing opener  
(Walleye, Northern)

May 29 – Bass Opener

June 8-July 13-August 10 Sacred Heart Flea Mkt

**July 4<sup>th</sup> Boat Parade!**

July 8 to 13 – Sweetheart Days

Fireworks 7/9 at dusk

**July 30– TENTATIVE BLA Membership Meeting**



September 23-25, 2022 – Chainsaw Event

*For information about weekly happenings such as Taco night, meat raffles and trivia nights check out the events section on the Hackensack Chamber website.*

<http://www.hackensackchamber.com/>

<https://www.northwoodsartscouncil.org/lakesideconcerts>

## 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/](http://www.facebook.com/mybirchlake/)

Another resource for area happenings is the Hackensack Chamber Website

[www.hackensackchamber.com](http://www.hackensackchamber.com)

BLA is a member of **Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates:**

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



Other Back to Hack events included an ice fishing contest, a snow sculpture contest, a chili cook-off, kids games and in the evening a bonfire and fireworks over the lake.

## Back To Hack

This year the Birch Lake Association partnered with Rendevouz Brewing to sponsor Walley Birchwinkel's Ice Golf Challenge!

Due to poor ice conditions a short putting course was established next to the Chamber Building. Seventy-five hearty participants paid \$5 for 3 balls and the opportunity to show off their putting skills.

Ice Golf Challenge Winners (closest to the pin) were Dale Lockwood \$100, Jeff Robbins \$75 and Amy Larkin \$50. A big THANK YOU to Fred Karlish for organizing the event and to those who volunteered to help things go smoothly.





## Association of Cass County Lakes Loon Project



After the British Petroleum Deepwater Oil Spill (April, 2010), state and federal agencies came together to form the Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource Damage Assessment Trustee

Council. Subsequently, the Open Ocean Trustee Implementation Group was formed, and initiated the Restoration of Common Loons in Minnesota Project. This project has funded the Minnesota Loon Restoration Project (MLRP) through the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

The MLRP is targeting the following counties: Becker, Cass, Crow Wing, Hubbard, Clearwater, Itasca, Aitkin, and Beltrami. The focus of the project is fourfold. First, to acquire critical parcels of shoreline on lakes that are ecologically important to loons. These lakes include historically important loon nesting sites, have been previously categorized as biologically significant, and often contain populations of cisco (an important forage fish for loons prior to fall migration). Second, to engage lake associations to promote loon management and conservation. Third, to work with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's 'Get the Lead Out' program to promote the use of non-toxic fishing tackle. Finally, to optimize the location of artificial nesting platforms on these types of lakes that lack high quality natural nesting habitat.

MN DNR is currently working with both the United States Geological Survey and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to conduct surveys of key lakes that are important to loons in the eight county project area. Results of these surveys will be used to guide decisions and actions related to the four focus points listed above.



Jackie Schumacher is representing the Birch Lake Association in this project.

If you are interested in being a loon observer, please contact Jackie at [jrschu49@gmail.com](mailto:jrschu49@gmail.com). We would especially like to have someone from Little Birch and Poquet!

## Scholarships are Available for Deep Portage Summer Camps! Please Apply!!

Do you know any youngsters that would like to go to camp? Each year the Birch Lake Association offers two scholarships to Deep Portage summer camps for children or relatives of BLA members.



Information about each of the camps is available on the Deep Portage website <https://www.deep-portage.org/> or by contacting Deep Portage by mail at 2179 Nature Center Drive NW, Hackensack, MN 56452 Phone: 218-682-2325 Email: [portage@uslink.net](mailto:portage@uslink.net)

This year's camps include Forkhorn Camps I, II and III. The Upland Bird Camp and the Izaak Walton League Camp. Check the website for details, age restrictions and dates.

To apply for a BLA Scholarship, please have the student submit a short, handwritten letter telling which camp they would like to attend and why, as well as their connection to Birch Lake.

Send the letter to

Birch Lake Association  
PO Box 125,  
Hackensack, MN 56452.

Letters should be postmarked by May 1, 2022, to be considered. If you have questions regarding the scholarship process, please email Diane at: [hackensackcabin@yahoo.com](mailto:hackensackcabin@yahoo.com)



# Cass County AIS Program 2021 Inspector Annual Report



## Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Lake Report - Birch Lake

The 2021 AIS inspection numbers for Birch Lake showed 941 boats inspected by Cass County Inspectors during 678 hours of inspection time. This is equivalent to 1.4 boats per hour inspection rate. Birch Lake had a 99.7% compliance rate for Minnesota boat plug law. This is similar to the 99.3% county wide compliance rate. The AIS inspectors did not find any new AIS going in or going out of Birch Lake this year.

### Highlights from the 2021 Cass County Aquatic Invasive Species Program

- New AIS infestations confirmed by MN DNR were starry stonewort in Leech Lake and zebra mussels in Pine Mountain, Woman, and Thunder Lakes. Girl Lake was also listed as infested in 2021 for zebra mussels due to close connectivity to Woman Lake.
- Partnered with Le Seur County to produce docks and lifts handout with 21-day dry laws for transporting used docks, lifts, and swim platforms from one lake to another.
- Conducted boat inspections for 21 major fishing tournaments and a handful of smaller tournaments
- Inspectors stopped boats with zebra mussels from entering Roosevelt, Gull, and Leech Lake in July. An inspector also found a juvenile zebra mussel on a pontoon coming out of Woman Lake, which aided the DNR in listing Woman Lake as infested.
- Provided 10,000 bait bags and posters to 15 local bait retailers to increase education on bait laws and encouraging anglers to be prepared for exiting the lake by keeping water in their vehicles if they wish to keep bait.
- Supported Mississippi Headwaters Board AIS Outreach Campaign with Minnesota Traditions
- AIS monitoring completed by Cass AIS Lake Technician at 32 lakes, 41 public accesses, and 13 resorts, additionally the Cass County Volunteer dive team dove at 11 different locations in 8 different lakes in search of AIS.
- Partnered with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe for monitoring all public accesses, resorts, and some private harbors around Leech Lake after starry stonewort was first discovered in Steamboat Bay.
- Hosted a Starry Trek event location on August 21<sup>st</sup>, 11 volunteers searched 7 lakes and 8 accesses on the only cold, windy day of the summer.
- Distributed Clean, Drain, Dry campaign materials at boat launches throughout the season. Additionally handed out nearly 20,000 coasters to local bars, restaurants, and resorts with AIS information.
- Cost share with Lake Associations on projects: signs, aquatic plant studies, zooplankton studies, AIS advertisement, and education.

| <b>2021 Cass County Statistics:</b> |                           |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Inspection hours – 14,263 |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Inspections done – 26,653 |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Decontaminations - 316    |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | 107 Inspection days       |

| <b>AIS boat plug compliance rates by year:</b> |              |
|--|--------------|
|  | 2017 – 98.8% |
|  | 2018 – 97.6% |
|  | 2019 – 98.2% |
|  | 2020 – 97.9% |
|  | 2021 – 99.3% |

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>

The chart below is a draft/outline of our current Lake Management Plan. As the board continues its work we always welcome new volunteers! If you've already volunteered, someone will be in touch with you this spring.

| 2022 Update for Plan (what we are actually doing) |   | 2022 Board Member Leading       | Membership Volunteers   |
|---|---|---------------------------------|---|
| Water Quality                                     | Water Sampling  | Jim Madland                     | Chad Seth<br>Fred K, Water Level  |
|   | Secchi Disk Measurement   | Jim Madland                     |   |
|   | Lake Water Level Measurement  |                                 |   |
| Shoreline Restoration                             | Promote 'score the shore' with membership   |                                 | Luise Forseth & Terry Larkin  |
|   | Best practice sharing.  |                                 |   |
|   | Butterfly garden.   |                                 |   |
| Sport Fishery                                     | Participate in MnDNR survey/stocking  | Rick Zaske                      |   |
|   | Promote 'Catch-n-Release'   |                                 |   |
| Wildlife  | Loon Observation Program  | Jackie Schumacher               | Michael & Katie Noonan -Loons & loon watching, Martin house, water quality, and lake monitor. |
|   | Loon Nesting Platforms  | Mark Larison                    |   |
|   | 2021-2022 MnDNR Loon Restoration Program  | Jackie Schumacher               |   |
|   | Martin House  | Gary Martin                     |   |
|   | Butterfly Garden  | Steve Hannaman/Shirley Johnson  |   |
| Land Use and Zoning                               | Beaver Population/Dam Management  |                                 |   |
|   | Maintain working relationship with Cass County Environmental Services, Permitting.<br>Promote Land Trusts, Conservation Easements |                                 |   |
| Membership Engagement, Health of the Organization | Membership Drives   | Paul Blomgren                   |   |
|   | Maintain Sustainable Income/Expense   | Tim FunkMeyer                   |   |
|   | Annual Meeting  | Paul Blomgren                   | Michael & Shawn Kelly, Zoom meetings  |
|   | Leadership Recruitment  | Paul Blomgren                   | Dick & Susan Ashland  |
|   | Youth Outdoor Activities/Education  |                                 | Lori & Lester Aydt, Kids Fishing Contest  |
|   | Membership Directory  | Sue Holthaus                    |   |
|   | Newsletter  | Jackie Schumacher               |   |
|   | Facebook  | Jackie Schumacher               |   |
|   | Website   | Sue Holthaus                    |   |
|   | Public Access Kiosk   | Mark Larison                    |   |
| Donate to NGO's that advance critical Lake Issues | Paul Blomgren   |                                 |   |
| Manage Water Surface Users                        | Buoys and Markers   | Paul Blomgren                   |   |
|   | Communicate Safety Regulations  | Sue Holthaus, Jackie Schumacher |   |
|   | Lake Rules and Regulations  |                                 |   |
| Aquatic Invasive Species                          | Promote Boat Inspections, decontamination   | Mark Larison                    |   |
|   | Perform AIS Detection Activities  | Mark Larison                    |   |
|   | Maintain AIS Infestation Response Plan  | Mark Larison                    |   |
|   | Maintain Funding for Future AIS response  | Tim FunkMeyer                   |   |

## UofM Wave/Wake Study

February 2022



<https://twin-cities.umn.edu/news-events/university-minnesota-researchers-study-waves-created-recreational-boats>

# DON'T LET IT LOOSE

**TOSS IT**  
 Drain water from bait container on shore, away from water. Dispose of bait in the trash.

**...OR KEEP IT**  
 Drain water from bait container on shore, away from water. Refill container with bottle or tap water.

Releasing live bait threatens our environment. Bait and bait water can harbor fish diseases and aquatic invasive species.

**Do your part to protect our lakes and rivers.**

Scan to learn more and enter to win!



**2022 Sacred Heart CCW  
Flea Market & Craft Sale**  
Wednesday  
June 8-July 13-August 10  
*"Largest Flea Market in the North"*

Check out the CCW'S Fantastic Foods  
*"rolls, pies, sloppy joes"*  
The Greatest Vendors  
Serving the Greatest People

Flea Market Coordinators  
Daniel Falk 218-766-0140  
Lynn Falk 218-368-3603  
Email: [faldafally@gmail.com](mailto:faldafally@gmail.com)

55 years



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# Lakeside Concert Series

2022

**Fridays, 5 PM - 7 PM**

- June 17 **One Night Stand** - Rock, Blues, Jazz & Gospel
  - June 24 **Darlene and the Boys** - A fun and professional classic country/variety band - Country with roots in Nashville and Branson Family Fun Entertainment
  - June 25 **Wayne and the Boys** - This one-man-band will play **11 AM-2 PM** during the **Spring Bike Fling** - "Hack and Back" located on First Street in front of Rendezvous Brewery.
  - July 1 **Dos Guys** - Dos Guys is a two-man group from Brainerd, Minnesota, bringing you covers of some of your favorite songs!
  - July 15 **New Riverside Ramblers** - The high-spirited Cajun dance music of the New Riverside Ramblers comes from the rich musical heritage of the bayous and prairies of south Louisiana.
  - July 22 **Acoustofiddle** - Funky Folk, Punky Polka, Caffeinated Celtic, Cool Classical, Grassy Blues & Gypsy Jazz...along with original and cover songs.
  - July 29 **Daybreak** - One of Central Minnesota's most versatile music groups, plays hits from the '40s through today's top classics.
  - Aug 5 **The Occasionals** - Puts their spin on tunes from nearly every genre. Their folk and funk roots can be heard most prominently.
  - Aug 19 **Mike and Jan Cherry** - Mix of country, country rock, lots of harmonies, while playing guitars, banjo, and harmonica.
  - Aug 26 **Charlie Wagner** - Authentic Americana/folk style music experience. With the use of a guitar, harmonica, and foot rhythm he retells captured moments from the past.
- Saturday, 1 PM - 3 PM Labor Day Weekend**
- Sep 3 **Rockin Hill** - A great bunch of musicians from the Brainerd and St Cloud, Minnesota area that enjoy playing Blues, Jazz, and Rock.

*Should inclement weather arise, the concert will take place indoors at the Hackensack Community Building.*



Sourcewell



*Thank you, sponsors!*

**Summer Events**  
northwoodsarts.org

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <p><b>Lakeside</b><br/>CONCERT SERIES<br/>June - August<br/>Fridays<br/>5 PM - 7 PM</p> <p>LABOR DAY WEEKEND<br/>Saturday, September 3, 1 PM - 3 PM</p> | <p><b>SINATRA! Part II</b><br/>featuring<br/><b>JOSH DUFFEE</b><br/>and his<br/><b>BIG BAND</b><br/>July 8 - 9, 7:30 PM</p> | <p><b>NORTHWOODS<br/>ART &amp; BOOK<br/>FESTIVAL</b><br/>Artists, Authors, Food<br/>Entertainment &amp; More</p> <p>Saturday, August 13<br/>9 AM-3 PM</p> |
|---|---|---|

We currently have 174 Family or Individuals, 48 Business memberships. In addition to membership information, the booklet contains some great information including the BLA Mission Statement, Aquatic Invasive Species, Minnesota Watercraft Laws and Rules for Shoreline Property Owners.

You should have received the new Birch Lake Association booklet. If not reach out to us at the email below.

The following corrections should be updated in your booklet:

**BLA Officers**

- Paul Blomgren, President
- Gary Martin, Vice President
- Steve Hanneman, Secretary
- Tim FunkMeyer, Treasurer

**BLA Board Members**

- Sue Holthaus (Website)
- Shirley Johnson
- Mary Knautz
- Gary Krimmel
- Mark Larison (AIS)

- Jim Madland (Water Quality)
- Betty Martin
- Jackie Schumacher (Newsletter)
- Rick Zaske (Water Quality)

Board Contact [mybirchlake@gmail.com](mailto:mybirchlake@gmail.com)



Box 125, Hackensack, MN 56452  
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Visit us at: [www.mybirchlake.org](http://www.mybirchlake.org)

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Everyone is anxious for soft water and fishing...