



Winter, 2019

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

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

**From the President –**

Happy holidays to everyone from the Birch Lake



Association!!  
Hopefully, you were able to enjoy time with your family and friends, and even spend some time at the lake. I find myself looking back on 2018, thinking that it seems that each year passes more quickly. And, it also seems like every year gets better for BLA!! I want to thank each of you for your part in strengthening the Birch Lake Community in

With this purpose in mind, the Board voted to increase the membership dues from \$20 to \$25 per year. The dues have been \$20 since 2005. Over the past 13 years, our membership and our expenses have increased significantly. BLA works extremely hard to keep our expenses as low as possible, but some increases are unavoidable. Consider the cost of mailing the newsletters, with the price of a stamp over this time period rising to \$0.50 from \$0.37, a 35% increase.

As always, BLA is a fully transparent organization and takes the responsibility of protecting our lake very seriously. If you have any questions or comments please do not hesitate to contact me directly. I hope you feel good about supporting the lake association that is dedicated to protecting your lake. I know I certainly do!

Paul Blomgren,  
President, Birch Lake Association

2018!!

We continue to get wonderful feedback about the Association and our efforts. Our membership is active and growing. The Annual Meeting was full of energy and a LOT of members! The boat parade (est. 2002) was heroic. Our booth at the Chainsaw Event was well-attended with many visitors. And most importantly, our lake is clean and healthy!! All in all, 2018 was great year for the Birch Lake Association.

As we move ahead, we want to make certain BLA can continue to protect our lake. The constant threat of aquatic invasive species (AIS) is sobering. At times it feels as though an infestation is inevitable in spite of our rigorous vigilance. BLA remains committed to doing everything we can to *prevent* AIS contamination. Continuous monitoring will help us quickly identify any infestation, so we can respond swiftly and aggressively. A critical element to the success of our plan is to have the financial resources readily available to fund a response. BLA is the first, and quite possibly the only, line of defense in the case of an AIS infestation. We have been exploring our options in the case of an infestation and the cost is substantial.



## 2019 Upcoming Events

Jan 18-19: Back To Hack

Feb 24: Fishing season closes for walleye, northern pike, and bass

March 4: Ice Shelters must be removed

May 11: Fishing Opener – Walleye, northern pike (Catch and Release for Bass)

May 25: Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass Opener

June 11 thru August 13: Kids Fishing Contest Tuesdays at City Pier 11 AM – 12:30PM

July 4: BLA Boat Parade

July 9-13: Sweetheart Days

July 12-13: Josh Duffee Concert

July 27: Tentative BLA Annual Meeting (location to be announced)

5 PM Social Hour. 5:30 PM Meeting

August 10: 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Northwoods Art & Book Festival

September 27-29: 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Chainsaw Event

### 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/](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/>



### Little Library Box

Drive up to the Little Library Box on a chilly day this winter and look in the blue box to find a good read. The Little Library is on a post conveniently located in the parking lot just to the north of the Chamber office. Leave a book - take a book. Enjoy! This Little Library Box was donated as a

memorial by Birch Lake Association.

## Fisheries Report

Rick Zaske

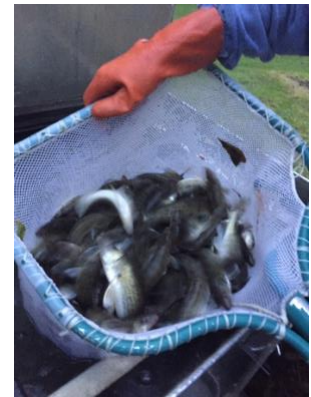
August 13-17, 2018 Fish Sampling Birch Lake

The BLA assisted the DNR in their "every 5 years" assessment of the fish in Birch Lake. Both basket style nets and gill nets were used to catch fish to be sampled for growth rate of various fish in the lake. Many large walleyes and northern pike were caught, measured, and if they were alive, released back into the lake. We truly have a lot of nice size fish scattered around the lake. The number of crappies and walleyes as well as perch have increased slightly over the last sampling 5 years ago. You can check the exact numbers and sizes of fish on the DNR website later this spring.

The DNR also caught and released smaller minnow sized fish in July. Those results will also be available from the DNR. They did this while walking the shores of Birch Lake with a 50 foot seining net.



Walleye stocking of Birch Lake October 3-9, 2018



Approximately 755 pounds of 6-10 inch walleye fingerlings were stocked in Birch Lake this fall. The BLA assisted the DNR's stocking of the fish. About 1/3rd of the walleyes were released 3 different days: October 3, 250# at Bay View Resort landing; Oct. 5, 250# at Hydeaway Bay Resort; Oct. 9, 250# at Bay View Resort. The DNR stocks Birch Lake every other year.



The Cass County Board of Commissioners approved the name change of Paquet Lake to Poquet Lake. The information has been forwarded to the State of Minnesota for final approval.

## *A Little Bit of History*

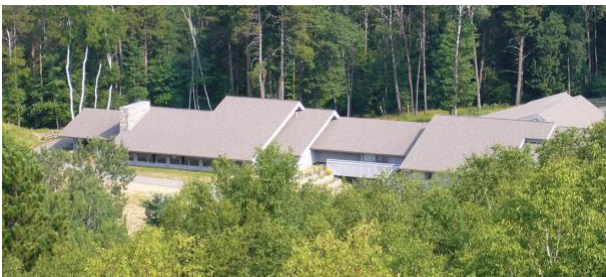
*by Diane Zaske*

Pollution of Birch Lake has been a concern for many years as noted in an article from our history books written by Fred Martin. He speaks of the concerns about lakeshore pollution and states "The city of Hackensack put in its first sewer in 1967. Subsequently, it was found that the sewage disposal plant was inadequate and in 1986, in conjunction

with the two townships (Hiram and Birch) and with funding from various sources, a much larger sewage disposal plant was installed. It included two lagoons and gathering system was extended on around the north shore of Little Birch to include all of the Peaceful Shores plat and thence around the far northeast of Big Birch to the end of development at that time, along Birch Lake Lane. This put much more than half of the dwellings on and adjacent to Birch Lake on a first-rate sewage system."

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

Every year BLA offers two \$400 scholarships to family members of BLA members. (Children, grandchildren, etc.) If you know of a youngster who would like to attend one of the many awesome offerings, have them write a letter to BLA telling why they would enjoy attending. Include name, address, age, relationship to BLA member, and session they would like to attend. Send their letter to Birch Lake Association, Box 125, Hackensack, MN 56452. **DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS MARCH 1, 2019!**



Camps for the Summer of 2019 include  
Forkhorn I, II, III and IV Youth Firearms Safety & Deer Hunting  
Mini- Camp ( 3 days)  
Upland Bird Camp  
Izaak Walton League Camp  
Fishing camp

Check the Deep Portage website for descriptions and dates

Information on the camps and their dates is available on the Deep Portage website <http://deep-portage.org/> or by contacting Deep Portage directly:

By mail at

2179 Nature Center Drive NW, Hackensack, MN 56452

Phone: 218-682-2325 Email: [portage@uslink.net](mailto:portage@uslink.net)

The camp registration form is available at: [Summer Camp Registration](#)

**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.**

If you have questions regarding the scholarship process, please email Diane at: [hackensackcabin@yahoo.com](mailto:hackensackcabin@yahoo.com)



***Our Membership Drive begins now!***  
*Dues will increase to \$50 for a two year membership 2019-2020*

**There will be a prize drawing for members who renew before May 15th.  
1st Prize – BLA Jacket 2nd prize – BLA Hat**

**There are two ways to renew your membership:**

- 1. Online using PayPal or a credit card through Pay Pal, go to  
<http://www.mybirchlake.org/read-me>**
- 2. By mail use the attached form, or download it from the above website and mail it and your check to  
Birch Lake Association  
PO Box 125, Hackensack, MN 56452**

***A new membership book will be printed and distributed in the Fall.***

***Membership Book Corrections and Additions***

Lou and Angie Dorso  
13898 78<sup>th</sup> Ave N  
Maple Grove MN, 55311  
\*5298 Whispering Pines Dr NW  
Hackensack, MN 56452  
Email: [Cedarpointmn2017@gmail.com](mailto:Cedarpointmn2017@gmail.com)  
Phone: (763) 360-4199  
Cell Phone: (612) 710-0731

Phil and Kim Zastrow  
4823 Oak Ridge Drive  
Hermantown, MN 55811  
\*3675 Ford Dr NW  
Hackensack, MN 56452  
Email: [pzastrow@lendsmartmortgage.com](mailto:pzastrow@lendsmartmortgage.com)  
Phone: (218)349-8181  
Cell: (218)343-3534

**BLA Officers 2017-2019**  
**Paul Blomgren, President**  
**Gary Martin, Vice President**  
***Open*, Secretary**  
**Shirley Johnson, Treasurer**

**BLA Board Contact**  
**[Mybirchlake@gmail.com](mailto:Mybirchlake@gmail.com)**

**BLA Board Members**  
**Tim FunkMeyer**  
**Denny Harnstrom**  
**Sue Holthaus (Website)**  
**Mary Knautz**  
**Gary Krimmel**  
**Jim Madland (Water Quality)**  
**Betty Martin**  
**Jackie Schumacher (Newsletter)**  
**Rick Zaske (Water Quality)**

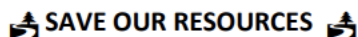
**If anyone is interested in serving on the Board, particularly as Secretary or newsletter editor, please send a message to the above email! It's a terrific group of people and spreading the workload makes this an easy group with whom to work**



New Membership  Renewal Membership  Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Birch Lake Association Membership Application 2019-2021

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Add'l Family Names: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Lake Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_



**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 2019-2021 \$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](http://www.mybirchlake.org)*

Do you have a special talent that we could use? Please check off any of your interests below and we will contact you.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Loons and Loon Watching | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Quality and Lake Monitor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BLA Memorial Garden     | <input type="checkbox"/>                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BLA Martin House        | <input type="checkbox"/>                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Drive        |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board Member            |   |

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

**Thank you for supporting the Birch Lake Association!**

\*Get Your Membership form and dues in by May 15th to be included in the drawing.  
1<sup>st</sup> place, BLA Jacket, 2<sup>nd</sup> place BLA Hat



New Membership  Renewal Membership  Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Birch Lake Association Business Membership Application 2019-2021

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Owner Names: \_\_\_\_\_  
Business Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Primary Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Website Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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:

Email  Mail to my Business  Mail to my Primary Mailing Address   
Business Membership Dues\* 2019-2021 \$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

**Note: Your canceled check is your receipt**

*\*Business membership dues entitle you to an ad for your business in the 2019-2021 BLA Directory. Please send a business card along with this membership form or email an electronic copy of a 3.5"x 2" ad to [mybirchlake@gmail.com](mailto:mybirchlake@gmail.com)*

**\*Please have applications and dues in by August 1, 2019 for your business listing in the membership book.**

*If you would like to pay by PayPal or Credit Card (no PayPal account needed) follow the link on the website for the **Online Business Registration Form** [www.mybirchlake.org](http://www.mybirchlake.org)*

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Thank you for supporting the Birch Lake Association!*

# Happenings Around the Lake...



Gary Krimmel shared these pictures of his neighbors helping right his boat lift after the wind storms on July 4<sup>th</sup>.

That's what neighbors do!

## 2018 Chainsaw Event



## Work on the new pier!



In early October the USDA Dept of Wildlife Services, in cooperation with the Ten Mile Lake Assn, removed the beaver dam from the Little Boy River just south of Lower Ten Mile Lake Road. This should result in slightly higher lake levels on Birch Lake next season.





Box 125, Hackensack, MN 56452  
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Visit us at: [www.mybirchlake.org](http://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](mailto:mybirchlake@gmail.com) to request an emailed newsletter



*The Little Boy River as it flows through town, between Birch Lake and Poquet Lake.*