



Winter, 2021

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

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

**From the President –**

Happy New Year!! I hope everyone is healthy and looking forward to 2021!

This year is a membership renewal year for your Birch Lake Association. We have a 2-year cycle that allows us to make best use of our limited resources while collecting dues and printing the Membership Directory. I know this past year has presented many challenges to all of us and unique difficulties for each of us. Hopefully, the lake provided you with moments of happiness and a welcome escape. Please consider how important the lake is to you and know that your support makes a difference in keeping your lake safe and healthy.

Given the ongoing issues related to COVID-19 we are not certain if we will be able to approach members in-person as we have in the past. It would be very helpful if you would take a moment to renew your BLA Membership either on our website or by mailing it in with the attached form. Also, if you have not already done so, please consider signing up to receive our newsletter electronically by providing an email address. It saves resources and money for the organization. As an added benefit you will receive notifications and alerts related to especially timely issues. We do not sell, solicit or otherwise misuse emails, and our notifications are infrequent.

This year BLA is launching a Shoreline Restoration Initiative! Shoreline management, along with water quality monitoring and battling aquatic invasive species, is one of the most important environmental issues concerning our lake. Look for additional information from us with some easy to implement changes that can make big improvements in the health of our lake. We will provide examples of restoration projects on Birch, offer some suggestions about buffer zones, as well as how to access funds to help with shoreline projects on your property.

As always, please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns. Stay healthy and I hope I get to see you in-person soon,

Paul Blomgren

President, Birch Lake Association



**Back to Hack activities  
2021**



### 2021 Dates to Know

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 4 Boat Parade  
July 13-17 Sweetheart Days  
**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/](http://www.facebook.com/mybirchlake/)

**Another resource for area happenings is the Hackensack Chamber Website**  
[www.hackensackchamber.com](http://www.hackensackchamber.com)

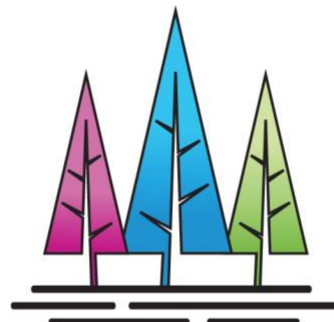
BLA is a member of **Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates:**  
<http://www.mnlakesandrivers.org/>

### 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/>

### Emergency emails

We will periodically use email to alert you to situations around the lake, such as break ins, theft, unmoored watercraft, dangerous storm damage etc. We will not use email to announce area events other than our annual meeting. If you receive a print copy of this newsletter but would still like to be contacted in emergency situations, please provide us with your email.



**NORTHWOODS ARTS COUNCIL**  
*Bringing the Arts to Life*

Northwoods Arts Council will sponsor ten Lakeside Concerts throughout the summer starting, Friday, June 18, from 5 PM-7 PM in the Birch Lake Park in Hackensack, MN. More information about the bands and dates will be available soon on their website.  
[northwoodsartscouncil.org](http://northwoodsartscouncil.org)

## PLEASE RENEW YOUR BIRCH LAKE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

Two options:

1. Print and mail the attached form along with your check for \$50 made out to the Birch Lake Association to: Box 125, Hackensack, MN 56452
2. 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 <https://www.mybirchlake.org/>

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



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: \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Email: \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 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)*

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.

- |                                                                                   |                                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Loons and Loon Watching                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Quality and Lake Monitor  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BLA Memorial Garden                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Booth at Chainsaw Event         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BLA Martin House                                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Management Plan            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Drive                                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Lakeshore Restoration Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board Member                                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Website                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attend ACCL Meetings (Association of Cass County Lakes ) | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Committee            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Suggestion: _____                                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Facebook                        |

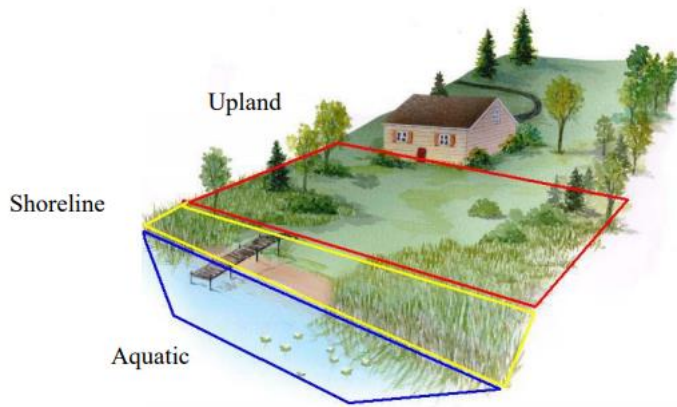
### Thank you for supporting the Birch Lake Association!

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

|                 |                           |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Office use only |                           |
| Amount \$ _____ |                           |
| Check # _____   | PayPal _____              |
|                 | PayPal Transaction# _____ |



## 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?

#### Making Continuous Improvements Over Time

Your Birch Lake Association has requested technical and financial support from Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District, to enable individual property owners to choose from a menu of restoration actions they could take. Our BLA Board would manage a group project each year, with Cass County providing technical input, best practice advice, preferred supplier(s) for grouped purchasing.



*Before*

Here is an example of shoreline restoration from DNR website, Sugar Lake, near Grand Rapids, MN



*After*

# A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

## PART 5

compiled by Diane Zaske

This is a continuation of history written by Vernon Martin (1912-1992), written in 1991.

“The new school building in Hackensack was built in the early 1920’s. All the children around the area were sent to town to school instead of going to the small schools in the area. Getting the kids to school in the winter was a big problem. Anyone less than a mile and a half from school was supposed to walk. We made big push plows and hooked them on the side of the sleds. We raised the plows with a small block and tackle made with a fence stretcher. The sleds had to be weighted down or they would slide sideways. We had four or six horses to pull. The neighbors were awfully good about pitching in and helping with the snow plowing. The school was a good place to sell wood as it took a lot of wood to heat the school. Most everyone in town burned wood also.



The bus drivers in the country had a tough time starting their busses when the thermometer got down to 20 below. Nobody had electricity so more than one

morning we would end up pulling our 1925 Ford truck bus around the yard to get it started.

I graduated in 1931 when the Great Depression was in full swing. The school was the center of activities for the entire community. We had silent movies in the school house several times a week. Charley Chaplin was the main movie attraction.

Once a month we had a community club at the school auditorium. The entire family usually came to this Saturday evening event. Each family brought cake or cookies so we could have a bite to eat before we went home at 12:00 or 1:00 a.m. The agenda consisted of a small program first, then we would dance for hours. Some of the older men had to go outside to get a nip of liquor a few times during the dance but no one ever got out of hand. We always had music by local people and good times were had by all.”

### **BLA Officers 2020**

**Paul Blomgren, President**  
**Gary Martin, Vice President**  
**Steve Hanneman, Secretary**  
**Shirley Johnson/Tim FunkMeyer, Treasurers**

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



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



“Kindness is like snow-It beautifies everything it covers.”

Kahlil Gibran