

Fall, 2022



www.mybirchlake.org

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

From the President –

I hope this newsletter finds you all happy and healthy. Have you gotten a chance to enjoy this spectacular fall? I am certain it will feel brief as it always does, but it provided some amazing leaf colors and sunsets!! As this lake season comes to a close and I assess the past summer, I see yet another successful year for the Birch Lake Association. Our membership remains strong. We continue to recover from the setbacks brought on by Covid. Our membership numbers have bounced back after understandably declining, and our financial condition remains solid. In fact, I am impressed by how resilient BLA was through that storm, and how we persevere through ongoing challenges. Thank you to all the members who stood by us and recognized the value of supporting our BLA community!!

Next year will bring changes for BLA. I believe they will be positive and build an even stronger community. As I have mentioned several times, we will be transitioning to an electronic membership management system. Many thanks to Jackie and Sue for their hard work on this project. Please help us move the association along. When you see emails from us, please take the time to read them and explore the new system when you are able. Also, we will be moving to a calendar year membership with annual renewals beginning in January.

Know that we remain ever vigilant in protecting your lake. Again, this year, we escaped invasive species contamination, but the threat looms larger every year. Our ongoing efforts were bolstered this summer by the work Mark Larison did to bring our lake management plan up to date. Thank you, Mark!

It is a privilege to work with such a dedicated Board! I want to take a moment to recognize Rick Zaske for all his years of hard work on the Board. He is one of the primary reasons the BLA membership has grown year after year and expanded beyond individual members to include our many business partners. Without Rick BLA would not be as vibrant as it is. Thank you, Rick! And, along with Rick, we owe a special thank you to Diane Zaske as well. She does not have the obligation of being a Board member, yet she is always there to help at the fishing contest, the Chain Saw event booth, proofread this newsletter, and she is one of the most important contributors to the Annual Meeting. Thank you, Diane!!

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

Paul Blomgren

pmblogren@yahoo.com

President, Birch Lake Association





2023 Dates to Know

November 5 – Snowflake Party

Jan 13-15 - Back to Hack

March 1 – Buy a new Fishing License

May 13 - Walleye/Sauger/Pike Opener

Bass Opener

July 4 – BLA Boat Parade

July 7-14 - Sweetheart Days

July 29 – Tentative Annual Meeting

September – Chainsaw Event

Christmas shopping? Check out our Lake Association online store!!



These are samples of the logos that will be available!

The Birch Lake Association Store!

We have been working with BLA member Bob St. Mane to create some new BLA logo gear! The online shop will be open **November 1st-14th**. Merchandise will be delivered before Christmas. However, unlike Amazon, Bob will order all the merchandise when the online store closes and then do the printing/embroidery, etc. So, nailing down delivery dates is a little bit harder.

The goal is to deliver the week before Christmas. You can choose to have the merchandise shipped to you for a flat rate of \$15, we will have a “local” pickup day in Hackensack on a date to be determined or you can pick up at St. Mane’s Sporting Goods, 4159 28th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55406.

To see what’s available and place an order, go to stmanes.com and click on the drop-down tab that says, “Your school or association”. From there, click on Birch Lake Association to get into the store.

A portion of the proceeds will be returned to the Birch Lake Association. If this goes well, we hope to have another online shop in the spring! Happy Shopping!

Snowflakes to Adorn Hackensack -

We are proud to announce that the Snowflake Fundraising Campaign Project was an overwhelming success, with many businesses, churches, local



organizations, lake associations, nonprofits and civic-minded individuals, contributing to this wonderful community project. The Hackensack Game Changers Snowflake Team raised these funds to bring beautiful, LED seasonal décor snowflakes, measuring 3 feet in diameter, which will adorn the 20 newly installed, decorative lampposts in Hackensack. Come see the snowflakes, which will shine brightly each evening from November until the end of March, providing our community with an uplifting ambiance throughout the winter months. Our nonprofit organization's mission is to work on projects to enhance our surroundings and add to a healthy economic business community. Hackensack's civic pride is on the rise, and it is a great time to be involved in so many active plans that reflect the love we have for our town. A huge Thank You to all that contributed to this special project. - *Lynn VanAllen, Hackensack Game Changers*

SUMMER 2022!



The summer of 2022 is in the books! We hope you got a few fish, photos & memories



The health of Birch Lake looks very favorable in 2022 from Mark Larison

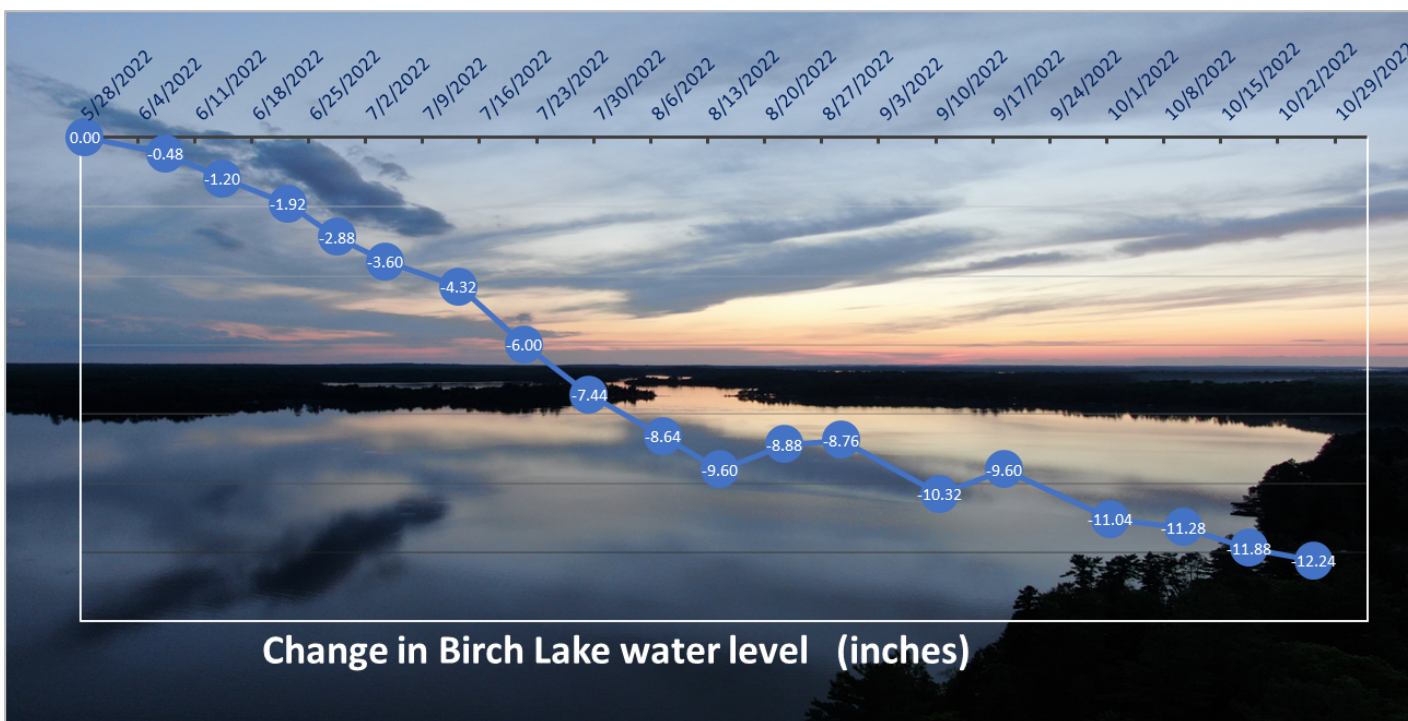
*Water Quality has been sampled this year (we have continuous sampling data since 2008). The data continues to show good stability for Phosphorus, Chlorophyll-a, and Secchi depth. Thanks to Jim Madland for leading this.

*We have conducted Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) sampling and have found no evidence of AIS in Birch Lake. This year we had a group of volunteers with the Cass County AIS specialist to help sampling at our public access and fishing pier areas. Zebra Mussel veliger net sampling had negative results for the 3rd straight year. Members continue to monitor Zebra tubes, dock post and lifts, and have reported no zebra mussels this year.

*The DNR added 755 pounds of walleye stock to the lake this summer. Thanks, Rick Zaske, for your work with the DNR.

*Fred Karlisch has continued regular lake water level recording this year, showing over 12-inches of variation from spring-to-fall in 2022.

We continue to promote best practices for shoreline restoration with our member property owners. *For a detailed report go to: [Birch Lake Health Report 2022](#)*



Our water level has dropped steadily over the past few months. As of today, we are down over 12 inches from where we started on Memorial Day. If you remember, with all last Winter's snow and the Spring rains we had...we started about 13 inches up from where we ended at the time of 2021 freeze-up. I think everyone would agree it was a pretty nice summer overall- but the lack of rain the past 60 days or so has taken its toll. Let's hope we have another snowy Winter to replenish our lake!

Fred Karlisch

We are continuing to work on putting our membership data and dues into an online format. In the meantime, you can update your membership books with the following new members:

Lori Zappa
Lake: 3521 Ford Drive NW
Hackensack, MN 56452
Home: 19622Cty Rd 35
Elk River, MN 55330
612) 201-7595
lzappa80@outlook.com

Anne & Steve Jakala
Lake: 3990 Walnut Trl NW,
Hackensack, MN 56452
Home: 11422 71st Ave North
Maple Grove, MN 55369
(651) 283-1727 (612) 559-0647
apjakala@gmail.com

Joe & Nancy Lucas
Lake: 4945 Woodland Drive NW
Hackensack, MN 56452
Home: 200 S 31st St
West Des Moines, IA 50265-6429
(515) 205-3818 (515) 770-9836
joelucas7272@gmail.com
nancy7272@gmail.com

Marilyn & Tim Hanson
Lake: 5199 Woodland Dr NW
Hackensack MN 56542
Home: 2100 Michigan Dr
Northfield, MN. 55057
(612) 735-3828. (612) 743-7309
marilynmessage@gmail.com
thanson.email@gmail.com

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/>

BLA Officers 2020

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

BLA Board Contact
Mybirchlake@gmail.com

BLA Board Members

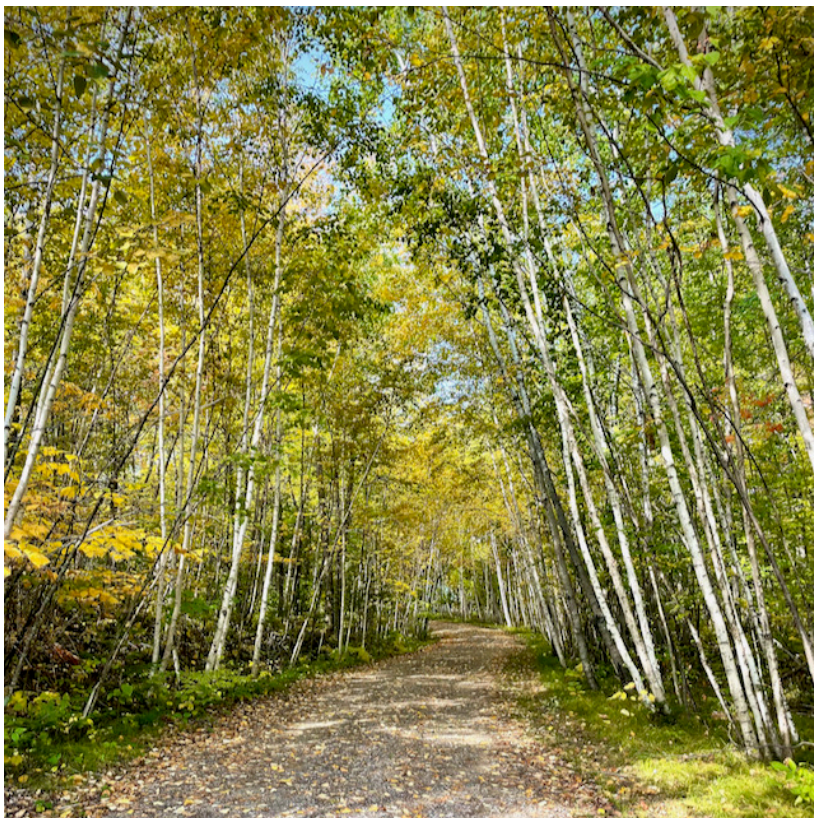
Sue Holthaus (Website)
Shirley Johnson
Mary Knautz
Gary Krimmel
Mark Larison (AIS)
Jim Madland (Water Quality)
Betty Martin
Katie Noonan
Jackie Schumacher (Newsletter)
Rick Zaske (Water Quality)



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



I'm so glad I live in a
world where there are
Octobers.

L. M. Montgomery