



Spring, 2020

www.mybirchlake.org

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

From the President –

WOW. That is about the only way to summarize the current situation.

First and foremost, I hope every one of you and all of your family members are safe and healthy. I don't know if it is possible to make anything positive out of a global pandemic, but one sentiment that has been reinforced for me is that we are all in this together. If it is containing a deadly virus or combating aquatic invasive species (AIS) – we all have to come together to be successful. Never in my life has it been more apparent that my neighbor's well-being is utterly intertwined with my own. I have talked and written about Birch Lake Association creating a sense of community and I hope you take comfort in the fact you are not alone during this trying time.

Birch Lake Association is moving into the lake season on strong footing. We continue to build our community, which will be critical in the next couple years as we face the challenge of zebra mussels in Ten Mile Lake. Having this threat looming so close to our precious lake makes it very real indeed. If you haven't seen the report Ten Mile Lake Association put together, please take a couple minutes to read it as it is quite informative. There is a link to it on page 2 of this newsletter.

As you put boats, lifts, etc. back into the lake please make certain that they are clean and have all been out of the water for **at least** 21 days **ESPECIALLY** if they have been in Ten Mile. Keep an eye on our website or Facebook page for updated information. Please consider talking to your neighbors about joining the BLA. Growing BLA helps increase the number of informed and educated lake owners, as well as adding resources to fight an AIS infestation.

On the bright side, our renovation of the Birch Lake Association Memorial Butterfly Garden is continuing forward. The garden near the boat landing is the sole physical showpiece of our Association and it is BEAUTIFUL! To fund the project, we have already

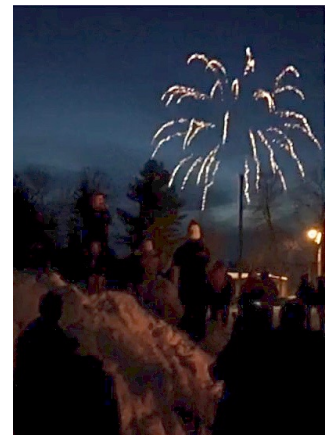
raised more than \$2000 in dedicated donations and have also applied for a community grant. Please consider a special donation of any amount to help us fund the renovation. The project is being undertaken to enhance the garden and reduce ongoing maintenance and expenses. Several skilled gardeners on the Board are spearheading the project, but we may need laborers in the spring to further reduce the cost. I believe our Garden is worth enhancing for future generations because it is a special place that forever memorializes BLA members' connection to the lake and dedication to protecting it.

Please keep watching our website and Facebook page for updates on events such as the annual meeting and boat parade. Speaking of which, although it seems like a long way off, does anyone have any suggestions for an unofficial boat parade theme?

Stay safe and I hope to see you soon out on our lake!!

Paul Blomgren

President, Birch Lake Association



Fireworks and bonfire on February 29 as we leapt Back to Hack. Mother nature gave us a much better evening Leap Day than she did January 18th when the celebration had to be postponed.

2020 Upcoming Events

May 9 - Opening fishing – Walleye, Northern

May 23 – Opening date for Bass

July 4 – BLA Boat parade

July 7-11- Sweetheart days

*Fireworks at dusk on Saturday 7/11

July 25 *TENTATIVE* Annual meeting

August 8: 25th Annual Northwoods Art & Book Festival

TBD Annual Chainsaw Event

Northwoods Arts Council Cancels 2020 Music Festival

It is with sad hearts that we must announce the cancellation of our 2020 Music Festival, which was to be held July 24-25th in Hackensack. We are so grateful for the ongoing support and excitement shown by our community for Josh Duffee and his Big Band, who have brought us quality, big-city entertainment at small-town prices since 2015. Our decision was based on the uncertainty of when society will be allowed to return to normal in our area, and out of concern for the safety of our audience, volunteers and entertainers. However: We look forward to having Josh return to us in 2021 and will share further news with you as soon as we can. At this time, we are still planning to present our 25th Annual Art & Book Festival to the community on August 8, 2020, pending further instructions from our state governor. Please check back for further information.

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/

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/>



Zebra Mussel Report

In February we received a report on the zebra mussel situation in Ten Mile Lake. The article was written by Bruce Carlson, a biologist and ichthyologist who has been studying Ten Mile Lake since the 1950s. The most relevant information for Birch Lake is included below. I've also included the link to the entire article. A key takeaway is that Ten Mile has detectable veligers (tiny, larvae stage) which assumes adult zebra mussels must also be present, even while adult zebra mussels have not been found. So, for Birch Lake's AIS plan, Mark Larison will be requesting that we do Veliger sampling in 2020 summer (this would require some lab cost). Let's not wait until we detect adult zebra mussels.

We already sample for adult zebra mussels, Mark has zebra mussel sampling tubes, if people are willing to hang one on their dock, they can contact him at mslarison@gmail.com. These tubes are a preferred landing spot for adult Zebra mussels.

From the Ten Mile Lake report-

“A final note about the spread of AIS both into and from Ten Mile Lake. Since Ten Mile is at the top of the Boy River watershed, all lakes downstream could be exposed to zebra mussel veliger-contaminated water emanating from Ten Mile. Birch Lake is the first downstream lake, and it is connected to Ten Mile by a roughly mile-long stretch of the Boy River. What are the prospects for Birch? Fortunately, the characteristics of that stretch of stream will be protective of Birch Lake. A number of studies have looked at downstream spread of zebra mussel veligers. For a typical stream, any lake less than 12 miles downstream is considered to be at great risk of contamination by veligers coming from an upstream contaminated lake. For highly vegetated, slow-moving streams, however, even a mile of separation may be sufficient for protection. The Boy River is in this latter category. Both its low flow and abundant aquatic vegetation may act as deterrents to rapid spread of veligers. Nevertheless, Birch lake should be closely monitored from now on.”

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/55e08846e4b094cea50ed816/t/5e51453c9fa7880e2a2263d9/1582384444968/11-22-19+Zebra+Mussels.pdf>

WHO CAN DRIVE THE BOAT?

AGE OF OPERATORS -You can obtain an operator's permit by successfully completing the Minnesota NASBLA-approved boating safety course.

- If you are age 12 - 17, visiting Minnesota, and already possess a valid watercraft operator's certificate/permit issued by your home state, you don't need to obtain another one from Minnesota.

- If you do not have a certificate from your state, you may obtain one from Minnesota by successfully completing the DNR's boating safety course.

Adults who want to broaden their boating knowledge can also take the Minnesota boating course. Many boat insurance companies offer discounts to boat owners who have taken an approved boating safety course. Online boating course available at :

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/boatwater/education.html>



Local Boat and Water Safety Training

Sponsored by Hackensack Lions Club Instructed by the Sheriff's Water Patrol and the DNR

Date to be determined by Sheriff Deputy Bob Landreville (usually around the 4th of July). Location at the HUB in Hackensack. Check our website mybirchlake.org or the chamber of commerce for date and time.

For more information contact:

Rick Hughes-218-838-2566 or Mark Sand 952-239-4484
<http://www.hackensackchamber.com/> or Hackensack, MN Lions Club

Scholarships are Available for Deep Portage Summer Camps

Deep Portage is planning to operate their camps, but are also prepared to cancel 2020 camps based on guidance from Mn Dept of Health and other information that comes out as we get closer to summer.

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 June 1, 2020!**



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

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

Camps for the Summer of 2020 include
Forkhorn I, II, III and IV Youth Firearms Safety & Deer Hunting

Mini-Camp (3 days)

Upland Bird Camp

Izaak Walton League Camp

Deep Fishing Camp

Check the Deep Portage website for descriptions and dates.

A Little Bit of History

part 2.....

This is a continuation of Birch Lake/Hackensack history written by Vernon Martin (1912-1992) in 1991, compiled by Diane Zaske.

“In those days (1920’s), Hackensack had two hotels (Spain’s and Wendover’s). Many people came up on the train and stayed a week or more at the hotel. Most people did some fishing and fish was served every day at the hotels. Several boys around town made good money in the summer rowing a boat and guiding these people. A dollar a day was the standard wage.

The cabins those days were mostly on Little Birch north and south of Hackensack, close to town. There were several cabins on Big Birch, and several in the west bay. One of the oldest cabins I know of is Dick Johnstone’s cabin and the cabins on the northwest shore next to the mouth of the thoroughfare. Dad’s first log cabin was built in 1917.

Winter was a busy time on Birch Lake in the early days. It was much easier to travel by lake than it was to travel by road during the winter. We had several roads that we took to travel to Hackensack. From Hackensack to the narrows was one road, then the road branched out into four roads. One road went north to the thoroughfare then up to Ten Mile Lake. Another road went northwest past the island, then way back into the west bay and over toward Ten Mile. There were also roads from the narrows west and south. One road went to Kuro’s Landing, then as far as Kenfield Bay. The next road branched off and went to the rice bed, then to Perry Lake and south and west almost down to Deerfield Town Hall.”

(To be continued in the next BLA newsletter.)



M & I Depot 1925

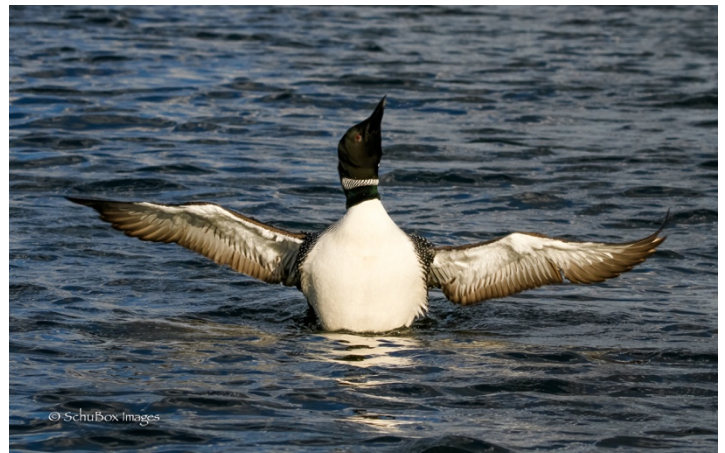
The Little Island

This is a reminder that the Little Island on Birch Lake is privately owned. It is a loon nesting area and we ask people to keep their distance away from the island



from ice off to when the loons permanently leave the nest. This usually occurs by July 4th, but sometimes it is later. It is okay to visit the island at other times. We just ask you treat the island with respect and leave it undisturbed. No clearing or cutting of limbs, trees, etc. Please take your trash with you. We want to thank everyone who helps us maintain the natural beauty of the island. Please free to contact us with any questions.

Tom & Sue Maloney
218-675-6568



Birch Lake 4/22/2017

Birch Lake Loons

On April 1st the first loon was reported on a lake near Nevis. This particular area has open water very early and the loons congregate there every year before other area lakes lose their ice.

On April 11, Mark Hughes reported a pair of loons in Miller Bay on Birch Lake. That same day there were over 100 loons on that lake in Nevis!

For more information or to join the Birch Lake Association, please check our website at <https://www.mybirchlake.org/>

Everyone should have received a new 2019-2021 Membership Book. In addition to contact information for association members, it is a treasure trove of information about watercraft training & regulations, environmental issues and county contact numbers.

The following new members should be added to your book!

Dean & Nancy Carlson
PO Box 484
Hackensack, MN 56452
Lake Address: 4901 Woodland Dr. NW
Phone 218-838-9808
Email: sailfairwind@yahoo.com

Joan Mulligan
1759 Patriot Rd
Northfield, MN 55057
Phone: 507-649-1085
Email: Joansmulligan@lcloud.com



BLA Officers 2020

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

BLA Board Contact

Mybirchlake@gmail.com

BLA Board Members

Tim FunkMeyer
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)



Box 125, Hackensack, MN 56452

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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And so it begins.... April 8, 2020