



Summer, 2020

www.mybirchlake.org

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

From the President –

Welcome to summer 2020! It might be the strangest summer of our lives, but it is summer nonetheless. I sincerely hope you and your family are healthy and happy. The Birch Lake Association continues to focus on protecting our lakes, but as with everything during these times we have had to adjust. We have had to make the difficult decision to change our Annual Meeting to a virtual format. We will definitely miss seeing all of you in person. Please see our Facebook page and website for those details. From a business standpoint, the Board of Directors continues to function effectively through virtual meetings, and following our normal schedule we have already had two productive meetings. There should not be any impact on Board operations such as budgeting. However, since we will not be able to hold elections at the Annual Meeting we will maintain our Board of Directors as it stands now with the same directors serving in their respective roles for an additional year. We remain committed to full disclosure and will make all relevant information and documents usually available at the Annual Meeting available electronically, with the ability to access them physically if requested. Likewise, I will make myself available in-person after our virtual Annual Meeting for those who cannot access the virtual materials. I ask that you please observe social distancing standards.

On a fun note, the 4th of July Boat Parade will have an unofficial theme of Celebrate Your School! We will be honoring the graduates of 2020 from all schools. Please feel free to represent your favorite school, high school, college, university, etc. in any creative way you choose. Show off your school spirit! And as always, it is appropriate to honor this great country on its birthday with patriotic decorations!!!

Lastly, I wanted to acknowledge what a privilege it is to work with such an amazing Board. These people

are a dedicated group of ACTION!! When the Memorial Garden needs workers they are the first to show up...early. When we identify a worthy cause such as the Hackensack/Backus Relief Fund they step up and give...\$750 in personal donations from the Board. They continually back up words with action!! Please join me in expressing our gratitude to each of the Board members for their tireless commitment. As a BLA member, you should know that you have a wonderful Board working hard on your behalf to protect OUR lake!

Stay safe and I hope to see you soon on our lake – at a safe distance!!

Paul Blomgren

President, Birch Lake Association



2020 Upcoming Events

Covid-19 has certainly changed our summer plans! While most large gatherings have been cancelled, at least we can still enjoy the lake!

July 4 – BLA Boat parade

CELEBRATE YOUR SCHOOL!

July 8 Sacred Heart CCW 2020 Flea Market

If all goes well, they will also have the August Flea Market. Please be advised it is the Flea Market only, there will be no lunch served and the little church will not be open. They expect vendors and shoppers to practice social distancing, use hand sanitizers and wearing masks is strongly recommended.

July 25 Annual meeting via Facebook Live

1. Tune in to Facebook at 9:00 AM
2. BLA officers will be broadcasting on FB Live.
3. They will provide information about Board activities over the past year
4. You will be able to ask questions/make comments during the broadcast.
5. Prior to the broadcast, you may submit questions via email at <http://www.mybirchlake.org>
6. with the subject “Annual Meeting Question”
7. If you do not have access to Facebook and have a specific question, Paul will be available at 11:00 that morning under the pavilion at the City Park for questions – *at a safe social distance.*
8. The broadcast will be available on YouTube later that day.
9. There just *might* be a few door prizes! (although not the hundreds that are given out at the
10. in-person meeting each year)

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/

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/>

At the BLA Board Meeting on June 13 the board approved the donation of \$800 to the Deep Portage Learning Center. The amount is what was set aside for scholarships for 2020. Since Deep Portage cancelled all of their 2020 camps, we felt it was a way to continue our support until we can get kids back at camp



Dear Birch Lake Association - We have greatly appreciated your support over the years by providing scholarships for our summer campers. We were very disappointed that we were not able to hold summer camps this year and are truly thankful for your continued support with the direct donation of the scholarship funds. Your partnership means a great deal to us.

We look forward to when we can offer our camps and environmental programs in person again. In the meantime, our educational staff is taking advantage of this time by updating and enhancing programs and curriculum, conducting research on water quality, invasive species and renewable energy. We are excited about increasing our connections to our local communities and looking for ways to deliver our programs in new ways.

Thank you, Lynne Harrington, Deep Portage Board President



There is no new information to report about the zebra mussel presence in Ten Mile Lake. Rest assured the board is following the issue closely. Your efforts to keep boats and lifts clean are critical to help keep our lakes healthy..

A Little Bit of History
part 3

compiled by Diane Zaske

This is a continuation of history by Vernon Martin (1919-1992), written in 1991.

“1920’s: Many people traded in Hackensack. If you were coming from town with an empty sled, it was customary to pull off the main road and let the man with the load stay on the regular track. If the weather was nice, it was nice to stop and talk for a while and also rest the horses.

Some years the lake froze over and we didn’t get any snow until the middle of December. We would have skating parties on the lake. A few romances were started on the lake that eventually led to marriages.

My dad drove school bus for many years. When roads got too bad to get through the snow, we picked up children west of our place with the horses and a covered wagon on a sled. There was a small fish house type stove in the front by the driver. There was a four pane window in front and lines in a slot underneath. The children sat on either side and there was a door in the back with a small window in it. We always went across the lake until it started breaking up.

The Boat and Water Safety Training

that is usually held in July has been cancelled for 2020, however online training is available at:

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



(Random internet picture)

One year sister Ruth and I drove a horse and buggy to school. In the spring and fall we had to drive around by road. When winter came and the lake froze, we took off the wheels and put the sled runners on the buggy. We carried a heavy robe to put over our legs to keep warm.” (To be continued in the next BLA newsletter.)

Martin House Report 2019

From Gary Martin



Jim Madland and I again cleaned and maintained the martin house by the public access. The last time we checked and cleaned was July 6, 2019. There were 76 young birds or unhatched eggs on that date. When I cleaned the boxes in April, 2020, there were 6 unhatched eggs and 2

fledglings that did not survive.

This year looks to be the best ever. Two things were new this year. Every box or gourd had eggs! There were 95 eggs when I checked on June 12, 2020. This is a new record. There is a terrific hatch of dragon flies. Keep those buffer zones going! They grow dragon flies and they grow purple martins.

Shoreland Restoration and Guide

This is the time of year when we are all thinking about landscaping and improving our shoreline and lake lots. And this year we have plenty of time to do that! As you begin planning, be sure to look at the Cass County Environmental Services website for lots of information.

The Soil & Water Conservation District makes cost-sharing dollars available to Cass County landowners for a variety of conservation projects. Eligible practices must meet technical specifications and be maintained by the landowner for a minimum effective life of 10 years. Shoreline erosion control measures have been the most often requested projects in Cass. Other cost-sharing projects could include pollinator habitat improvement and erosion control. There is also funding available on a competitive basis from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources for larger projects.

http://www.co.cass.mn.us/government/county_directory/soil_and_water_conservation_district/forms.php

This Shoreland Guide from Cass County environmental services also contains lots of great information

http://cms4.revize.com/revize/casscounty/document_center/esd/Shoreline_Owners_Guide.pdf

BLA GARDEN RENOVATION UPDATE

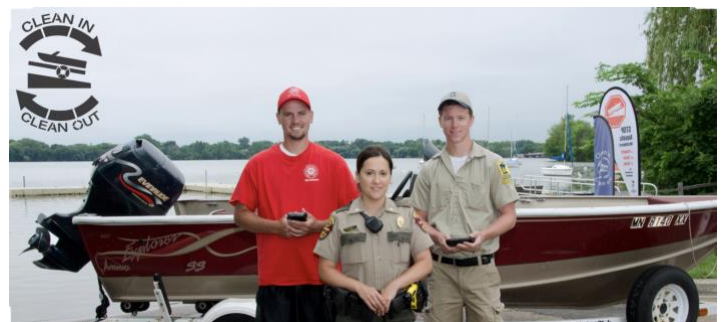
Work has begun on the complete renovation of the Birch Lake Bird and Butterfly Memorial Garden. Two crabapple trees that had reached their end of life cycle were removed. In early May, several board members and family began preparing the site for the new design by Landsburg. Installation is scheduled to begin July 6th.



Boat Cleaning

A note from Gary Martin –

We had an interesting experience last week. We had fished Red Lake and wanted to get the boat cleaned before putting it back in Birch Lake. I called Northwoods Dock and they made an appointment for the next morning. The wash took 20-30 minutes and was free! Cass County pays NW Dock. You receive a form verifying the wash so you're good to put in at any lake!



For information about Clean Drain Dry and aquatic invasive species a good start is the MinnesotaDNR website:

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais/index.html>

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!

Chris Hopkins
Julie Soule, Bladen Hopkins
Lake Address: 322 Lakeshore Drive; Hackensack, MN 56452
Home Address: 2939 MNIOWE Trail, Prior Lake, MN 55372
Phone: 985-261-9754
Email: cjhopkins@gmail.com



BLA gear – polo shirts, t-shirts, jackets, glassware etc. - is available at: <http://www.feartherodent.com/birch-lake-association/>



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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Hackensack and Birch Lake by Jerry Eklund Photography