

Birch Lake Association

Box 125, Hackensack, MN www.mybirchlake.org

Dedicated to the Preservation and Improvement of Birch Lake and Its Environment.

NEWSLETTER

SPRING, 2014

Sponsorships Available for Deep Portage Summer Camps PLEASE APPLY!

Do you know some youngsters that would like to go to camp? Each year, the Birch Lake Association sponsors two scholarships to Deep Portage Summer Camps for children (or relatives) of BLA members. This year, BLA will sponsor campers to the Izaak Walton League camp (July 27-August 1) or to the Mini Camp (June 30 - July 2). Information on the camps is included in the Deep Portage brochure attached to this mailing or can be found on our website (www.mybirchlake.org).

To apply for a camp scholarship, please have the student write a short *handwritten* letter telling why they would like to attend camp and send to:

Sue Campbell
3667 Canary Way
Eagan, MN 55123

Letters should be postmarked by **May 1st** to be considered. If you have questions regarding the scholarship process, please email Sue at suecampbell80@hotmail.com



Photo by Deep Portage Learning Center

SAVE THE DATE!!

>> **JULY 26, 2014** <<

The Birch Lake Association will hold our Annual Meeting this year on **Saturday, July 26, 2014**. Mark your calendars! Look for details in the Summer (June) newsletter.

What would YOU like to see at this meeting?

Send us a **Comment** on www.mybirchlake.org
or write to: BLA President Paul Blomgren
33 7th Ave NE, Minneapolis, MN 55413

Freezing Pipes? It's COLD Up Here!

From an www.mprnews.org story on 2/27/2014

Minnesota's rural water systems are seeing more problems than normal with underground water pipes freezing this winter. The situation may be the worst ever, said Mark Johnson, chief executive of Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water in southwest Minnesota.

"We're experiencing extreme cold this year and this is causing, to us, a phenomenal problem with freeze-ups," said Johnson, who runs the state's largest rural water system, serving more than 4,000 customers. **The ground may be frozen as far as seven feet below the surface.**

Many communities across the state are also dealing with frozen pipes. Lincoln Pipestone is telling its customers to take the temperature of the cold water coming out of the tap and let a thin stream of water - about the size of lead from a pencil -- run if the water temperature is below 35 degrees. Clients should "continue this until mid-April or until the water temperature comes back up over 34" degrees the utility said. They tell us that so far this winter is the coldest in 30 years, depending on which numbers you measure.

So friends, CHECK YOUR PIPES!

Understanding Watersheds and How You Can Help Keep Our "Clean Waters Clean"

From the Leech Lake Watershed Area Foundation Newsletter

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has produced a 4-part video series on Minnesota's watershed approach to restoring and protecting the state's water quality. Once every ten years, the MPCA will assess the health of all the major 81 watersheds in Minnesota.

NOTE: If you receive this newsletter in the mail, go to our website to click on the links. If you receive an electronic copy, click on the links below to view the videos:

[Part 1: What is a Watershed?](#)



[Part 2: How We Got To Where We Are](#)

[Part 3: The watershed approach and 10-yr cycle](#)

[Part 4: Getting Involved in the Process](#)

The Leech Lake Watershed and Pine River Watershed are now in the third year of a four-year project to assess the health of these regional waters. Most lakes within Cass County and northern Crow Wing County lie within these watersheds. Extensive monitoring, both biological and chemical, has been conducted over the past two years. After data evaluation, if impaired waters are identified, plans to restore those waters will be developed. For waters that meet water quality standards, which most do in these watersheds, strategies will be identified to protect water quality.

There are many opportunities for lake associations, individuals, businesses, and interested citizens to be involved in setting priorities and strategies for future water quality protection.

Minnesota's Pending Groundwater Challenge

From the Leech Lake Watershed Area Foundation Newsletter

Even in the land of 10,000 lakes, water is no longer unlimited. Lakes shrink, groundwater drops, wells go dry or get contaminated. Some cities have to look harder for good municipal water or pay more to treat it. Twenty years ago these were isolated problems. But three-quarters of Minnesota's residents get their water from aquifer-tapping wells, and today parts of the state seem to be on a path that is not sustainable. In the Twin Cities, a tussle is growing over whether growing suburbs should shift from tapping wells to pulling water from the Mississippi River. Elsewhere, Park Rapids, Marshall and other cities have had to spend millions of dollars to respond to dropping water levels or contamination. The state has mapped "areas of concern," and an ambitious plan to test 70,000 wells is renewing questions about how much farmers (private and corporate) should be required to do to limit nitrate contamination in groundwater.

A new Public Radio sponsored project "Beneath the Surface" shines a light on the pressures facing Minnesota's groundwater and how residents, businesses and officials are being asked to adapt. For interviews, links to articles and more about Minnesota's groundwater issues, go to this link: <http://minnesota.publicradio.org/projects/2014/01/ground-level-beneath-the-surface/>

State of Water Conference 2014

From the Leech Lake Watershed Area Foundation Newsletter

Minnesotans Protecting Our Lakes and Rivers Thursday, May 1st – Friday, May 2nd Cragun's Resort on Gull Lake in Brainerd

The 2014 State of Water Conference is a unique opportunity to: network with other citizens interested in improving and protecting water resources; connect with resource professionals from around the state; gain technical insights; and find opportunities to protect and restore your favorite lake or river. For more information, see: <http://www.conservationminnesota.org/state-of-water-conference/>

DNR Statewide Aquatic Invasive Species Advisory Committee 2013 Annual Report

The DNR Advisory Committee has released a report discussing the status of aquatic invasive species (AIS) in Minnesota. Go here for the report:

<http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/aboutdnr/aisadvisory/report-annual-2013.pdf>

Here's just a sampling from that report:

Why Should We Care?

"Minnesota" means "sky-tinted waters" and water is central to Minnesotan's lifestyle, to Minnesota's economy, and to Minnesota's heritage. Fishing alone supports 43,000 jobs in Minnesota yearly and outdoor recreation generates \$4 billion annually. In over 250 taxing districts, water-related real estate makes up more than half the tax base, paying for schools, roads, and other critical infrastructure. Surface water resources are critical to many communities across the state for drinking water, fire fighting, and agricultural irrigation. Lakes, rivers, and wetlands draw millions of visitors to Minnesota each year. Healthy lakes and rivers are a core Minnesota value and cornerstone of Minnesota's economy.



Aquatic Invasive Species, (AIS) threaten these values and compromise Minnesota's way of life, economy, and future. But only \$8.5 million/year is being spent to protect our lakes and rivers from AIS.

Minnesota has an opportunity to take action and avoid the crippling costs endured in other areas. The best and cheapest solution is to keep AIS out of a water body when possible. Finding safe and economic ways to control AIS in infested waters would be enormously beneficial as well.

Minnesota has been battling AIS since the 1940s with the introduction of the common carp. Today Zebra mussels pose the most urgent need. In 2005 the DNR designated only 7 water bodies as infested with zebra mussels. Today over 170 are designated.

Birch Lake Association Directory Updates

Please make these changes in your 2013-2015 Birch Lake Association Directory:

Detlefsen, Roy & Dee

On the Lake: 5111 Island View Drive

Mailing Address:

13897 Community Drive, #301

Burnsville, MN 55337

Local Phone: 218-675-6988

Eull, Bill & Liz

Kendra, Natalie, Gabrielle

On the Lake: 4909 Sorrel Lane NW

Mailing Address:

2099 Hoyt Ave W

Falcon Heights, MN 55108

Phones: 651-238-6435, 651-644-5035

Emails: eullx001@umn.edu

donerighthandyman@yahoo.com

Starks, Doug & Jodi

On the Lake: 3991 Island Bay Trail

Mailing Address:

3059 NE 50th Street

Owatonna, MN 55060

Phones: 507-451-8844, 507-456-3619

Emails: dsjstarks@gmail.com

dfstarks@gmail.com

We are Pleased to Welcome These New Members

Maidl, Todd & Paula

Summer Address:

4813 Bark Lane NW

Hackensack, MN 56452

Winter Address:

200 Mallard Lane

Loretto, MN 55357

Email: pmaidl@frontiernet.net

Do you have something to include in the Newsletter or on the BLA web site? Send submissions by May 15 (for June Newsletter) to wordsmith@live.com OR by US mail to: K Loftis, 408 4th Ave NE, Minneapolis, MN 55413

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Box 125, Hackensack, MN 56452

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



Visit us at: www.mybirchlake.org

Hackensack Canoe Derby/Garage Sale

From the Hackensack Chamber of Commerce Newsletter

Start making plans now for **June 14-15** when the Sweetheart Canoe Derby and the Community Garage Sale will take place. Plans are in the works to expand the canoe derby and it is hoped that some of you will enter your businesses in a race between business racers. It'll provide bragging rights for several months to come.

We will also attempt the community wide garage sale for the second year. We encourage the retail businesses to have a "garage sale" that weekend - whether it's a sidewalk sale or a major clearance sale to get rid of merchandise you are closing out, your participation is requested.

So give both events on the same weekend your consideration and then join in the fun.



Photo credit: Pilot Independent, 6/22/11

HELP WANTED



Gardeners and others who like to dig: Put your talents to work on a GREAT project. The Birch Lake Association maintains the lovely Memorial Butterfly Garden at the City Park (behind the "old" Chamber Building). Contact Shirley Johnson at sjohaz@aol.com for details on how YOU can help. So you're not a master gardener? No problem! We still need able hands to haul and dig!