

# Birch Lake Association

Box 125, Hackensack, MN [www.mybirchlake.org](http://www.mybirchlake.org)

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

NEWSLETTER

FALL, 2012

## President's Corner

*From: Gary Martin, Association President*

I was disappointed by the LACK of people at the BLA Annual meeting this year. I was encouraged by the increase in membership after Rick Zaske and the Membership Committee did such a good job last summer. I was hoping some of you new people would come to the meeting. We had a very interesting lady discuss invasive species in Minnesota Lakes.

We have been approached by a company called CI BioBase about a lake study. We would like some input from members on this. If you have strong feelings for or against, email me or one of the directors. The cost is \$2400.

There was some confusion on the 4th of July parade this year. When I got to the river area I was informed we were supposed to go the opposite way than we usually go. I had tied the BLA banner on the right side of my pontoon and with the wind blowing strongly couldn't change the banner without about a 15 minute delay. So I started clockwise and changed to the other way when we got to Little Birch.

I reversed the rotation so the banner was again on the shore side. By the time we got to the south bay, it seems people were confused by my antics. I take full responsibility for the confusion. In future we will put in the newsletter which way we are going so we can decorate the shore side of our boats.

I checked the Purple Martin house recently and there were no little birds there that did not fly away. We had 56 birds that survived (out of 59 eggs!). That is outstanding! Congrats to Jim Madland and me.

There are some outstanding buffer zones around the lakeshore this year — keep up the good work! Hope to see you at the Chainsaw Event Sept 28-30!

## 2012 Chainsaw Event; BLA Booth September 28-30 in Hackensack

### **\*VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO STAFF THE BOOTH\***

Last September at the Chainsaw Event in Hackensack, Mark Glende and Barb Harrington represented the Birch Lake Association at a booth. DNR Officer Jennifer Hardy was also on hand on Saturday with demonstration items and information on Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). It was deemed a rousing success, with over 100 people stopping for information and 40+ kids in kid activities.



*Photo by Mark Glende*

So, the Association will again provide and staff a booth at this event. If you can help staff this booth or have any input on what we should provide, **please contact Barb or Mark.**



*The "Narrows" at Sunset; Photo by K Loftis*

## Board of Directors Meeting

**Present:** Gene Tuftin, Shirley Johnson, Paul Blomgren, Rick Zaske, Betty Martin, Gary Martin, Barbara Harrington, Jim Madland

The Board met before the Annual Meeting on July 28, 2012 at the Senior Center in Hackensack. Here is a summary of the minutes:

### Treasurer's Report Items of Note:

- Added \$125 in expenses to the budget for Chainsaw advertising/booth reservation.
- Did not spend the \$200 allocated for be aver control (at the dam on the Little Boy River channel between Birch Lake and Ten Mile).
- Spent more than budgeted on the Memorial Garden due to new mulch being added.
- Spent only half the amount budgeted on the Deep Portage Camp Scholarships (recipients chose to attend the less-expensive Mini Camps).
- Gary noted that there could be a slight increase coming for the RMB Water Sampling costs

**Ice Fishing Garbage Control:** Equipment is ready; still working on getting the City to agree to pick it up!

**Fish Art & Essay Contest:** There were only 4 entries this year (see note on back of newsletter). Shirley and Barb are arranging for prizes and notes to send to the winning entries. Barb suggested maybe linking this contest to the Chainsaw event to get more participation. The entries could be judged at the October Meeting and prizes awarded. Consensus was that this was a good idea. **Thank You to Joan Majeres** for judging this contest!

**New Business:** Barb Harrington suggested having a Director on the Board who is a local business member and also perhaps a designated Board position for the President of the Hackensack Chamber of Commerce. The Board will take this up at the next meeting.

### My Birch Lake" Logo Apparel

The "My Birch Lake" polo shirts are available for \$25. A "My Birch Lake" logo JACKET is also available for \$40.00. To order, contact Mark Glende.



## BLA Annual Meeting July 28, 2012

The 2012 Birch Lake Association Annual Meeting was held on July 28, 2012, at the Hackensack Senior Center. The Featured Speaker was Christine Herwig (shown at left), DNR Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist. She talked about the challenges we face from invasive species (see examples below). Her slide show is available at [www.mybirchlake.org](http://www.mybirchlake.org).



Photos by Lynne Harrington

Here is a summary of the business meeting:

### Treasurer's Report:

Total Assets as of 7/24/2012:	\$12,660.97
Income (dues and interest):	\$ 4,102.53
Expenses:	<u>\$ 3,035.35</u>
Net 7/20/11-7/24/12:	\$ 1,067.18

### **Membership** as of 7/28/2012:

Families/Individuals	132
Businesses	<u>45</u>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	177

\*\*This is GREAT! (2011 = 89 and 2010 = 169)\*\*

**2012-2013 Budget Expenditures:** The \$100 donation to PAMDA (Hackensack Clinic) was discussed by the membership and approved. The 2012-2013 expenditures as approved total:

Donations and Dues:	\$ 2,155.00
Ongoing Expenses:	<u>\$ 1,375.00</u>
<b>TOTAL 2012-13 Budget:</b>	\$ 3,530.00

*BLA Annual Meeting Minutes continued...*



*From l to r: Rick Zaske, Jim Madland, V. Pres. Paul Blomgren Betty Martin, Pres. Gary Martin, Treas. Shirley Johnson, Sec. Barb Harrington, Gene Tuftin*

**2012 Lake Fest/Birch Bash:** President Gary Martin reported that he made the decision to cancel this event due to organizational challenges. Any member interested in organizing this event for future years should notify any Board member.

**Beaver control:** Beavers continue to dam up the Little Boy River between Ten Mile Lake and Birch Lake which impacts our lake levels. Each year our budget includes up to \$200 for beaver control (last year we did not pay anyone to do this). The Board will contract with someone to trap beavers in this location in the fall.

**Website:** A big **thank you to Doug Toth** for setting up and temporarily hosting our website ([www.mybirchlake.org](http://www.mybirchlake.org)) at no charge after our MSN "free" site expired and we had to find a new hosting service. Doug originally created the site which is now maintained by Kristi Loftis.

**Fish Art & Essay Contest:** See back of newsletter for winners. Discussed moving this event to the fall next year to coincide with the Chainsaw Event.

**Future Annual Meetings:** The Board will survey members to see if another day/time (or possibly a pot luck?) would encourage more members to come to the Annual Meeting. If you have a suggestion, please email one of the directors.

**Floating docks and debris:** Barb Harrington reported that Cass County Water Patrol has been "chasing boats, boat lifts and docks" on several lakes after this summer's storms. On our lake, some floating docks and other items were discovered on the loose and breaking up into garbage on the lake. Owners may want to consider running a tie line from boat/dock/boatlift to shore to help prevent them from blowing away in storms.

*BLA Annual Meeting Minutes continued...*

**Buoys/channel markers/signs:** Errant buoys that went astray during the storms have been rounded up and will be returned to their proper sites. President Gary Martin has placed some buoys in the south bay on the big lake with signs urging "slow" and "caution."

**Backpack donation:** Mark Glende has again arranged to donate backpacks (50-75 of them) to the Walker- Hackensack-Akeley School on behalf of the Birch Lake Association. **Thank you, Mark,** for making this donation again so that children who would otherwise not have a backpack will get one.

**Membership Committee:** Rick Zaske reported on the very successful membership drive last August (more than doubled the number of paid members!). **Thanks to Rick Zaske, Lynne Harrington, Paul Blomgren, Jim and Sue Duchene, Donna Gardner, Sandy Secora, and Kristi Loftis** for this successful campaign!

The Committee also took Birch Lake welcome bags (logo water bottle, can cooler, beach ball, in a logo backpack with membership flyer/application) to area Realtors to hand out to clients who purchase property in the Birch Lake area. So far, at least one new membership has come in due to these bags!



*Photo Courtesy of Gene Tuftin*

**Loon Watchers:** Gene Tuftin reports there are 5 nesting pairs of loons on Birch Lake and "some bachelors." Loon activity is one indicator of the health of a lake. Ted and Jo Broberg also participate in this effort.

**Deep-Portage (DPCR) camp scholarships:** Scholarships were awarded this year to Nick and Joshua Hadzima, grandsons of George and Rose Marie Steiner. **Thanks to Joan Majeres** for selecting the scholarship recipients. **Gene Tuftin** has agreed to take over this project for next year.

*BLA Annual Meeting Minutes continued...*

**Memorial Garden:** A big **Thank you to Shirley Johnson and Vivian Palmer** for their wonderful job maintaining the Memorial Garden sponsored by the Association. Volunteers are needed and welcome! Call Shirley if you are interested (a good excuse to play the in dirt).

**Water Clarity and Quality:** Recent secchi disc readings show clarity to 13-14 feet. We also continue to collect and submit water quality samples to a testing service for evaluation.

**BLA Purple Martin House:** Gary Martin reported:



*Purple Martin House; Photo by K Loftis*

- There were 59 eggs in the Martin house this spring (TWICE as many as last year!)
- 56 little chicks hatched, and appeared to have grown very plump while reducing our mosquito population.
- Gary and Jim will clean the house once these chicks have flown the nest.

**Zebra Mussel Monitoring:** We continue to monitor for zebra mussels in both basins of Birch Lake, with no infestation found to date. Signs added at the public access remind boaters to remove/replace their boat plug when leaving/entering the lake.

**Vegetation Mapping Services:** A company selling aquatic habitat mapping software, "CI BioBase" ([www.CIBioBase.com](http://www.CIBioBase.com)) has contacted the Association. Chuck Swanum mentioned that we have completed two prior vegetation map surveys and questioned the need for another (at a cost of \$2400!). The Board is looking for feedback on this issue and we would appreciate member input! To view a demo, go to [www.CIBioBase.com](http://www.CIBioBase.com) and log in with the user email [demo@cibiobase.com](mailto:demo@cibiobase.com) and password: **demo**.

## BLA Membership Directory Updates

Please add these NEW MEMBERS to your directory:

### David and Sue Campbell

3667 Canary Way  
Eagan, MN 55123  
Phone: 612 968 0062  
Email: davidcampbell80@hotmail.com  
Local Address:  
5534 Whispering Pines Lane NW  
Hackensack, MN 56452-2322  
Phone: Same

### Grace Noonan

1650 Koehler Dr. NW  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52405  
Phone: 319 377 1608  
Local Address:  
4961 Woodland Dr NW  
Hackensack, MN 56452  
Phone: 218 675 6598

### Gregg & Sandy Heuer

20162 Home Fire Way  
Lakeville, MN 55044  
Phone: 952 985 7011  
Email: grumpykraut1@charter.net  
Local Address:  
4961 Woodland Dr NW  
Hackensack, MN 56452  
Phone 218 675 6598

## Beware of Spiny Waterfleas!

*From the ACCL Summer Newsletter*

These ishy little critters, already in Mille Lacs and its tributaries to the south of us – and in Lake of the Woods to our north – are so tiny they are hard to detect with the naked eye. They usually attach to fishing line (clogging up eyelets and reels) in clumps. These clumps feel like gelatin on your fingertips. Besides clinging to lines they are spread by anchor ropes, fishing nets and by water in boats.

The fleas arrived here from Europe and Asia in ocean-going ships entering Lake Superior. They eat a lot for their tiny size, ingesting zooplankton, key food for fish. **The DNR warns:** Once in your waters, these critters are impossible to eradicate. They are now in NE Minnesota lakes, in the Arrowhead Country (Cook, St. Louis Counties) and along the border with Canada, such as in Rainy Lake. Let's hope they stay there!

## Tent Caterpillars; They're Baaaaack!

*From the ACCL Summer Newsletter*

They're baaaaack! A nuisance, yes, but unlikely to do lasting damage to trees, except those already diseased and dying. Tent caterpillars (they are NOT army worms) are native, ranging coast to coast, running in 10 to 20 year cycles. They attack mainly aspens and birch, but also basswood and oaks as well, gobbling leaves on most trees *except* red maple (no one knows why.)

The DNR says they have little effect on even totally defoliated trees since the leaves grow back, although smaller, in the same year. The DNR recommends NOT to use common insecticides because these are ineffective anyway and may cause other environmental damage if used on a large scale. More info is available at the DNR website under **tree care/forest health**.

## A Thank You from Hackensack C of C:

We received this thank you note from the Hackensack Chamber of Commerce for our donation of \$200 for the July 4<sup>th</sup> Fireworks.

Birch Lake Association Members,  
 Thank you for your generous  
 donation of \$200.00 to our July 4  
 Fireworks event.

It brings many people into  
 our community and businesses  
 each year.

*Thank You*

from the  
**Hackensack Chamber of Commerce**

## 2012 July 4<sup>th</sup> Boat Parade

Had great participation this year! Here are some photos (**Thanks to Shirley Johnson!**):



## A Thank You From LLAWF

We received a nice note from Paula West, Executive Director of the Leech Lake Watershed Foundation thanking us for our donation of \$200.

She writes: "Thank you for the continued support. We hope to place several conservation easements on critical shorelands on Birch Lake."

The LLAWF has completed 33 land conservation projects since its founding in 1995, conserving over 16 miles of sensitive shorelands!

Do you have something you would like to submit to the Newsletter or post on the Association website? Send submissions to [wordsmith@live.com](mailto:wordsmith@live.com) OR mail to:

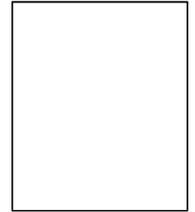
K Loftis, 416 Cedar Place, Maple Lake, MN 55358  
 Deadline for the Winter Newsletter (December) is November 15.

# Birch Lake Association

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

Box 125, Hackensack, MN 56452

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

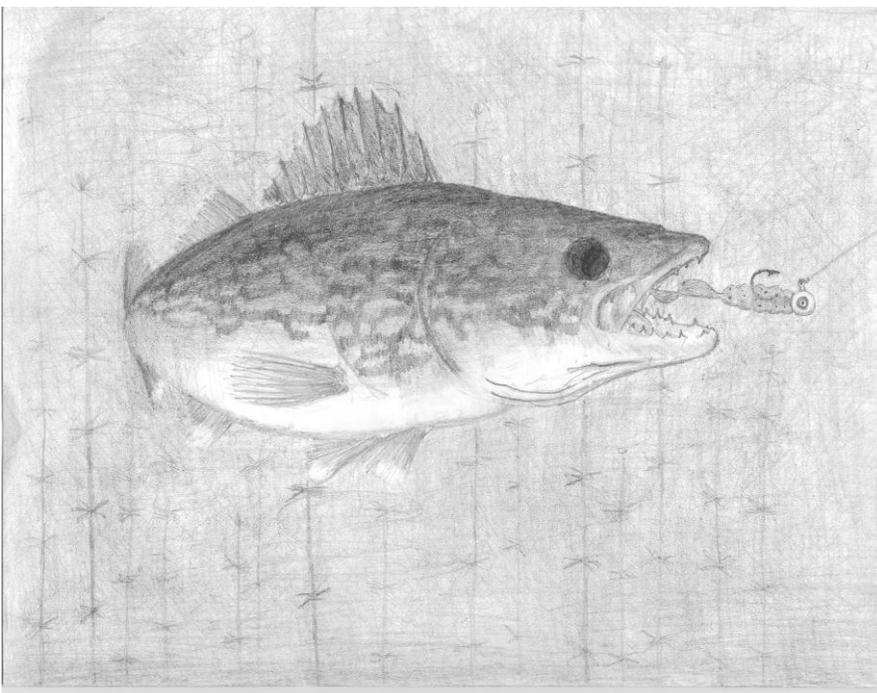


Visit us at: [www.mybirchlake.org](http://www.mybirchlake.org)

## 2012 Fish Art & Essay Contest Results

**Grand Prize Winner: Benjamin Hed (age 13)**

Go to: [www.mybirchlake.org](http://www.mybirchlake.org) to read Benjamin's winning essay.



Congratulations to all this year's winners:

**Joseph Hed** (age 7)  
**Jaden Christ** (age 5)  
**Kylee Christ** (age 3)

**Thanks to Joan Majeres** for judging this contest for the past two years. Artwork will be on display in the First National Bank of Walker (Hackensack branch).

*\*\*Are you receiving a PRINTED copy of this newsletter?? You can save BLA RESOURCES by receiving newsletters by email. Simply send a note to [wordsmith@live.com](mailto:wordsmith@live.com) to request this.\*\**