

Spring, 2019



[www.mybirchlake.org](http://www.mybirchlake.org)

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

**From the President –**



Spring is FINALLY here!! It certainly was a long, cold winter, but I am looking forward. The change of season always brings renewed optimism, especially springtime. As we transition into warmer weather and softer water, there are many ways to enjoy Our Lake! I personally can't wait for my first opportunity to cast a surface lure for bass!! I also enjoy being outside working in the yard or garage. Honestly, getting my boat ready to fish is one task I eagerly anticipate every year.

As we all get busy again planning activities, I thought it would be good to make you aware of opportunities to help your lake, your neighbors, and your Birch Lake Association. We have numerous events and ongoing projects that involve dedicated volunteers.

- The BLA Board is always looking for reliable people to serve as members and officers. You do not need any prior board experience, and there are several roles available. The Board usually meets 4 times a year from May through October with coffee and **treats** at each meeting!
- One of the most important activities is the Association membership recruitment/renewal drive that takes place every other year. This is a membership recruitment year! A BLA representative makes an **in-person** visit to every lake property owner we have identified who is not a current BLA member. Our goal is to inform them of the BLA efforts to protect our lake, let them know about the Annual Meeting (July 27, 2019), and give them an opportunity to join the Association.
- Other activities include a major Memorial Garden renovation in June, helping at the Kid's Fishing Contest, water quality and clarity testing, water depth monitoring, loon observations and nesting platform placement, and assisting the DNR during fish sampling every 5 years (next in 2023).
- We also have several ad hoc and ongoing projects that are more indoor-oriented: BLA can always use

assistance with content for the newsletter and our website. Articles, pictures, and suggested topics are welcome contributions.

- BLA has recently identified a need for an updated Lake Management Plan. We have a brave Board member spearheading the project, but could use volunteers to lend additional support.
- The Newsletter is one of our main means of staying in touch with the membership. We can always use help getting this publication put together and out to our members.

Hopefully, one (or more!!) of these spark your interest and give you an appreciation for all the work your dedicated Birch Lake Association does. Have a wonderful spring and I hope I see you on the lake!!

Paul Blomgren,  
President, Birch Lake Association

**BLA Officers 2017-2019**

**Paul Blomgren, President**  
**Gary Martin, Vice President**  
**Secretary**  
**Shirley Johnson, Treasurer**

**BLA Board Members**

**Tim FunkMeyer**  
**Denny Harnstrom**  
**Sue Holthaus (Website)**  
**Mary Knautz**  
**Gary Krimmel**  
**Mark Larison**  
**Jim Madland (Water Quality)**  
**Betty Martin**  
**Jackie Schumacher (Newsletter)**  
**Rick Zaske (Water Quality)**

**Contact Information**

**[Mybirchlake@gmail.com](mailto:Mybirchlake@gmail.com)**

## 2019 Upcoming Events

June 11 through August 13. Kids Fishing Contest  
Tuesdays at City Pier 11 AM – 12:30PM

July 3 – Water Safety Class \*See details below

### July 4: BLA Boat Parade



July 9-13 Sweetheart Days

<http://www.hackensackchamber.com/sweetheart-days>



July 9: 6 PM Sweetheart Days Parade

July 13 - Sweetheart Days Fireworks  
at dusk

July 12-13: Josh Duffee Concert “The  
Ladies of Song” 7:30- PM each night.  
Sponsored by the Northwoods Arts Council



First

**July 27: BLA Annual Meeting Birchwood Char House  
5 PM Social Hour. 5:30 PM Meeting**

August 10: Northwoods Arts Council Art & Book Fair

September 27-29: 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Chainsaw Event

### 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/](http://www.facebook.com/mybirchlake/)

Another resource for area happenings is the  
Hackensack Chamber Website

[www.hackensackchamber.com](http://www.hackensackchamber.com)

BLA is a member of Minnesota Lakes and Rivers  
Advocates:

<http://www.mnlakesandrivers.org/>

**Don't forget the Lending Library is open 10-2  
Monday-Saturday all summer. The**

**Lending Library is housed in that cute  
little log cabin next to the boat launch  
and behind the Memorial Garden. It's a**

**free library and you don't even need a library card!**



## BLA 4<sup>th</sup> of July Boat Parade

One of our favorite activities! You are  
welcome to join the parade or cheer  
from your dock. **This year's theme is  
The Vikings!**



– in any way you'd like  
to interpret it!

We will line up at the channel on Little Birch  
at 12:45 for a 1 PM start and proceed counter  
clockwise around the lake.



## Memorial Garden

We are working with Barb's Greenhouse to renew and  
redesign the Memorial Garden. It got a good cleanup just  
before Memorial Day and we are planning for the new  
planting. We will need volunteers when that time comes –  
watch your email and Facebook for that call for volunteers.



Huge THANK YOU to Shirley Johnson for spearheading  
and organizing the work at the Garden. Also to Betty Martin,  
Rick Zaske, Lori & Mike Coleman and Jackie Schumacher  
for putting in cleanup time!

The Birch Lake Association accepted donations to the  
Memorial Garden in honor of Liala Forsberg (\$50), Marilyn  
Baken (\$20), Roy Detlefsen (\$300) and Robert Feldkamp-  
Karen Shearen's father (\$20)).

\*Cass Co. Sheriff Water Patrol will sponsor Water Safety  
Class for 12-17 year olds on Thursday July 3rd from 8:30-  
2:30 at the HUB in Hackensack (behind Post Office). The  
Hackensack Lions will provide lunch and a snack. Part of  
the training will be hands on watercraft at the city beach.  
Bring your favorite life vest (or one will be provided). Free  
of charge, sponsored by Hackensack Lions and area lake  
associations. Youth aged 11 may take the class but the  
permit won't be valid until 12th birthday. To register or for  
questions, send your name, birthdate, and contact info  
to [leann\\_sand2001@yahoo.com](mailto:leann_sand2001@yahoo.com).

## Introducing our newest Birch Lake Association Board Members

### Mark Larison (appointed 5/18/2019)

I am enthusiastic about the chance to spend more time at Birch Lake, now that my wife, Susan and I have recently retired. Our careers have kept us busy, our jobs led us to many parts of the world, but we have always come back to where we grew up, to Northern Minnesota. Over 20 years ago, we bought a little cabin on Birch Lake and it has been our refuge (and project) since then. We were fortunate to have the cabin while our (3) kids were still young. Now, they're all grown adults, still enjoy coming here, and we have a grandchild who also loves the Lake.

Birch Lake provides so many enjoyable activities for us. If you can see the big island from your shore, you have no doubt seen our sailboat tacking our way around the island. Seems like there is always at least one of us out there in a boat, kayak or paddle board.

What I think is so important, the Lake is essentially the same great place it was when we first saw it 20 years ago, even seems the same as the lake I grew up on (many more than 20 years ago). It's very important to me that we preserve it, which is why I have become involved in the Birch Lake Association. BLA members include a very high % of the property owners, which shows it is well aligned with owners' interests. I am most interested in the Lake Management Plan, where I think I can contribute.

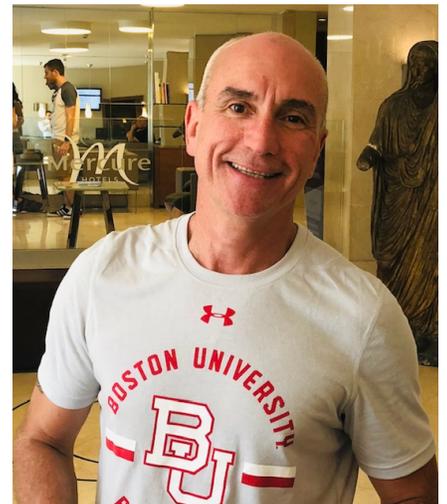


### Tim FunkMeyer

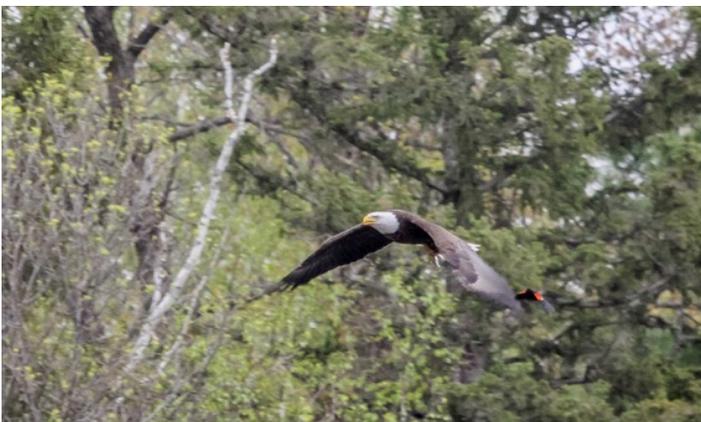
Tim was elected to the board of directors at the 2018 annual member meeting. He and his husband Mark along with their three adult sons Pablo, Andres and Rudy have a cabin across from the little island on the south shore of the bay. Look for a large flagpole with rotating Hawkeye, Boston University, and University of St. Thomas flags on their flagpole throughout the summer!

Tim has been coming to Birch Lake since 2003 when his now in-laws Steve and Lori Mitts bought a cabin that was once the owner's cabin at Shady Shores Resort. Tim has fallen in love with the area and enjoys waterskiing, 'pontooning' and entertaining family and friends at the lake.

He is the St. Thomas grad and has spent nearly 30 years in the older adults service profession and currently co-owns and operates an assisted living in St. Paul. He is thrilled to serve on the BLA board and looks forward to working together with the board and members to make Birch Lake the best lake around!



**The eagles in our area are healthy and active. This sequence was captured one spring afternoon as the red winged blackbird chased these eagles. The eagle obviously got what he was after!**





The DNR has announced that they are suspending the 2019 Loon Watcher Survey. The project has collected data for 39 years! Here is part of the announcement:

*The Minnesota Loon Watcher Survey began modestly in 1979 with 56 volunteers on 73 lakes and subsequently has grown to over 300 volunteers on upwards of 350-400 lakes. The kind of information volunteers like you have provided has also grown, with more detailed observation data being collected in recent years to help us make sense of environmental contaminants and the importance of deep, cold water lakes for pre-migration staging. Altogether, you have sent us over 10,000 individual surveys over the years, many representing multiple observation days. This is an incredible and unparalleled dataset that will provide essential insights into Minnesota loon biology, behavior and population characteristics*

*As the spring of the 40th season nears, however, we have decided to take a break.*

*We will spend the next several months re-evaluating the program objectives and considering our options for relaunching the survey including development of a revised database platform, all with the hope of being able to restart the volunteer survey program in the near future. We strongly feel that taking time to evaluate our options, build the necessary pieces if we are able, and then restart the survey will ensure a much smoother operation and will ultimately benefit the program while being respectful of our dedicated volunteers' time*

I will continue to keep data about the loons on Birch Lake and share it with all of you as the season progresses. Please feel free to email me with any information about the loons, particularly when new chicks are born. We currently have at least 5 pairs of loons on the lake and have observe 3 nesting. I expect chicks will hatch sometime around the first of July.

### Help wanted:

We have not had any luck with loon platforms on our lake, but part of the reason may certainly be that I/we are unable to get the platforms out immediately after the ice is out. The loons are here even before the ice is completely off the lake and those platforms need to be out as soon after ice-out as possible. The association has two platforms. If you are interested in "hosting" one please get in touch with me.

**Jackie Schumacher** [jrschu49@gmail.com](mailto:jrschu49@gmail.com)

The DNR has been advertising a different Loon Count program

[https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/nongame/projects/mlmp\\_state/minnesota-loon-monitoring-lake-availability-map.html](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/nongame/projects/mlmp_state/minnesota-loon-monitoring-lake-availability-map.html)

This program is only available on specified lakes, and our lake is not one of them.

In the meantime, enjoy our loons, watch them from a distance, especially when they are nesting or have young chicks.



### Fun facts

Loons' lives are filled with fun facts. For example:

- The bones of most birds are hollow and light, but loons have solid bones.
- The extra weight helps them dive as deep as 250 feet to search for food. They can stay underwater for up to five minutes.
- Because their bodies are heavy relative to their wing size, loons need a 100- to 600-foot "runway" in order to take off from a lake.
- Loons can fly more than 75 miles per hour.
- The red in the loon's eye helps it to see under water.
- Scientists think loons can live for 30 years or more

***Our Membership Drive is in full swing!***  
***Dues will increase to \$50 for a two year membership 2019-2021***

There are two ways to renew your membership:

1. **Online using PayPal or a credit card through Pay Pal, go to**  
<http://www.mybirchlake.org/read-me>
2. **By mail use the attached form, or download it from the above website and mail it and your check to**

Birch Lake Association  
PO Box 125, Hackensack, MN 56452

The first place drawing winner of the BLA jacket was Rick and Kathie Russell on Birch Lake Lane . The second place drawing winner of the BLA baseball cap was Thomas and Sharleen Hankins on Woodland Ave. ***A big thanks to all that renewed their memberships already and a reminder to everyone else that it really helps us for you to get them sent in soon. Thanks BLA***

## **Lucette's Lunch**

### **A tall tale**

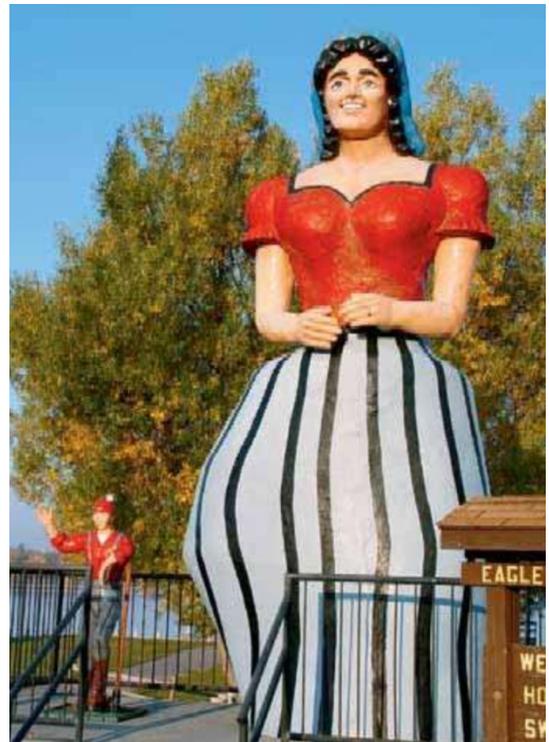
In the days after Paul Bunyan and Lucette got married, Lucette was faced with the unenviable task of making lunch for her giant husband. Even a woman as big and strong as Lucette was expected to provide a good lunch in those days and the truth of it was she didn't mind too much, more than that, she was dern good at it.

Now in those days, your basic lunch in the northwoods was a minnow sandwich, on account of them being the only fish around. That was fine for your typical lumberjack, but Lucette and Paul were larger than life people who needed a larger than life lunch. Well, first off Lucette tried just stacking the sandwiches high and wide, but it was an awful chore of a job and a lot of little fish to clean. It weren't more than a week of that before she knew there had to be a better way.

Lucette waded down into Birch Lake and began to work on them minnows. She'd grab one and start to knead it in her powerful hands. She'd press and she'd pull, she'd twist and she'd smooth, until she got that fish stretched out a size she liked it. Then she'd set it free and tell it to make some big babies real quick. Her first day out she made about a dozen types of good fish, bluegills, perch, crappie and many of the kinds we still find in the lakes today. The second day she got one pretty big before it tried to make a meal of her thumb, 'course, her thumb's bigger than ours and that one became a largemouth bass.

Lucette reckoned none of those fish would make a lunch for Paul and her, so on the third day she really put her back into it and created the walleye. Finally she had the perfect fish for a lunch sandwich. That first one was over forty pounds of pure fish but they've been getting smaller ever since.

If you don't believe me, ask any old fisherman around these parts and they'll tell you the walleye were bigger back in their days.



***A new membership book will be printed and distributed in the Fall. In the meantime, welcome these new members!***

*New Members (6/9/2019)*

David & Michele Albrecht  
244E North Road, Danforth, IL 60930  
M-815-383-7101 D 815-644-1673

Elizabeth Becker, Jody & Joe  
3619 Ford Drive, Hackensack  
7550 Auburn Ct, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077  
651-208-7013. [ebecler6@comcast.net](mailto:ebecler6@comcast.net)

Bob & Barbara Bromeland  
5376 Towering Pines LN NW  
411 North Linton St, Blue Earth, MN  
507-526-3722 [Bbrom411@bevcomm.net](mailto:Bbrom411@bevcomm.net)

Jeremy & Chris Cardinal, Ana, Olivia & Emma  
115 Summerfield Ct., Waverly, MN 55390  
763-658-2118; 612-240-8601  
[momcardinal@gmail.com](mailto:momcardinal@gmail.com)

William & Vicky Cary  
5500 Hillaway Dr NW, Hackensack  
17308 Hickory Plaza, Omaha, NE 68130  
402-419-3172 [cary8@windstream.net](mailto:cary8@windstream.net)

Dan & Terrie Embloom  
5290 Whispering Pines Rd NW, Hackensack  
21378 Alcott Lane, Sauk Center, MN 5637  
D 320-808-7378. T 320-808-9276

David & Nancy Fuchs, Zachary  
5027 Woodland Drive, Hackensack  
15780 56<sup>th</sup> St NE  
St. Michael, MN 55376.  
651-260-5945 [dfuchs@icloud.com](mailto:dfuchs@icloud.com)

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212 Lakeshore Drive, Hackensack  
PO Box 242, Falfurrias, TX 78355  
956-874-3223 [cfunk10@aol.com](mailto:cfunk10@aol.com)

Jean & Christina Gryc  
304 Lakeshore Drive W, Hackensack  
895 Crest Drive, Eugene, OR 97405  
541-285-4132 [tinagryc@yahoo.com](mailto:tinagryc@yahoo.com)

Jeffery & Diane Halbmaier  
265 Murray Avenue W, Hackensack 56452  
320-226-1685 320-226-1684  
[dianehalb@gmail.com](mailto:dianehalb@gmail.com) [djhalb@gmail.com](mailto:djhalb@gmail.com)

Tom & Sharleen Hankins  
4935 Woodland Dr NW, Hackensack  
45062 171<sup>st</sup> Ave, Waterville, MN 56096  
507-595-3768 507-323-0424 [tshankins@frontier.com](mailto:tshankins@frontier.com)

John & Tracie Johnson Nick & Jordan  
225 Fleisher Ave South, Hackensack  
13881 Wintergreen St. NW, Andover, MN 55304  
763-755-4575. 763-221-9794. [YMHSno4@comcast.net](mailto:YMHSno4@comcast.net)

Fred & Beth Karlisch  
253 Murray Ave W, Hackensack  
PO Box 99, Hackensack, MN 56452  
612-458-4844 [doxx60@outlook.com](mailto:doxx60@outlook.com)

Jane Kelly  
5490 Whispering Pines Ln NW, Hackensack  
402 S Vermont St., Maquoketa, IA 52060  
563-357-3004 [Jane.kelly1946@icloud.com](mailto:Jane.kelly1946@icloud.com)

Monica Kristo & Eric Bergenbring  
5103 Bluff Trail NW, Hackensack  
8437 Little Road, Bloomington MN 55437  
952-300-7110 [monicak22@gmail.com](mailto:monicak22@gmail.com)

John & Diana Kuyper  
5666 Whispering Pines Dr, Hackensack  
6948 290<sup>th</sup> Street W, Northfield, MN 55057  
612-930-6793 [danakuyper@gmail.com](mailto:danakuyper@gmail.com)

Scott & Amanda Murphy  
5593 Lower Ten Mile Lake Road  
Hackensack, MN 56452  
218-536-1850. [seawarrior3@gmail.com](mailto:seawarrior3@gmail.com)

Edwin & Geradette Nies  
5011 Woodland Dr NW, Hackensack  
613 N 17<sup>th</sup> St, Bismark, ND 58501  
701-777-8885

Ann Schmidt  
4777 Birchlake Lane NW, Hackensack  
8717 Beard Road, Bloomington, MN 55431  
952-831-8430 [acsam107@gmail.com](mailto:acsam107@gmail.com)

Keith & Kim Smythe, Erin & Megan  
5103 Island View Drive NW, Hackensack  
11226 Marshview Ln N, Champlin, MN 55316  
763253-0305 763-248-9023.



New Membership  Renewal Membership  Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Birch Lake Association Membership Application 2019-2021

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Add'l Family Names: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Lake Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_



**Birch Lake Newsletters:** The newsletter is published up to four times a year (see website for previous editions). May we send you the **BLA Newsletter** to your email address (instead of mailing a copy)? Indicate below:

E-mail Newsletter  Mail Newsletter

Membership Dues 2019-2021      \$50  
Donation to Birch Lake Association      \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Due      \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail this form and send it in with your check written to:**

Birch Lake Association  
PO Box 125, Hackensack, MN 56452

*If you would like to pay by PayPal or by Credit Card through PayPal follow the link on the website for the **Online Membership Registration Form** [www.mybirchlake.org](http://www.mybirchlake.org)*

Do you have a special talent that we could use? Please check off any of your interests below and we will contact you.

- |                                                  |                                                         |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Loons and Loon Watching | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Quality and Lake Monitor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BLA Memorial Garden     | <input type="checkbox"/>                                |
| _____                                            |                                                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BLA Martin House        | <input type="checkbox"/>                                |
| _____                                            |                                                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Drive        |                                                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board Member            |                                                         |

*Birch Lake Association is a 501 (c)4 non-profit organization.*

**Thank you for supporting the Birch Lake Association!**

\*Get Your Membership form and dues in by May 15th to be included in the drawing.  
1<sup>st</sup> place, BLA Jacket, 2<sup>nd</sup> place BLA Hat



New Membership  Renewal Membership  Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Birch Lake Association Business Membership Application 2019-2021

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Owner Names: \_\_\_\_\_  
Business Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Primary Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Business Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Website Address: \_\_\_\_\_

♻️ SAVE OUR RESOURCES ♻️

**Birch Lake Newsletters:** The newsletter is published up to four times a year (see website for previous editions). May we send you the **BLA Newsletter** to your email address (instead of mailing a copy)? Indicate below:

Email  Mail to my Business  Mail to my Primary Mailing Address

Business Membership Dues* 2019-2021	\$ 50.00
Donation to Birch Lake Association	\$ 0.00
Total Due	\$ 50.00

**Please mail this form and send it in with your check written to:**

Birch Lake Association  
PO Box 125, Hackensack, MN 56452

**Note: Your canceled check is your receipt**

\*Business membership dues entitle you to an ad for your business in the 2019-2021 BLA Directory. Please send a business card along with this membership form or email an electronic copy of a 3.5"x 2" ad to [mybirchlake@gmail.com](mailto:mybirchlake@gmail.com)

\*Please have applications and dues in by August 1, 2019 for your business listing in the membership book. If you would like to pay by PayPal or Credit Card (no PayPal account needed) follow the link on the website for the Online Business Registration Form [www.mybirchlake.org](http://www.mybirchlake.org)

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**Thank you for supporting the Birch Lake Association!**

# Clean In Clean Out

When boating or fishing in Minnesota, protect your waters by following state aquatic invasive species laws

## Remember!



1. **CLEAN** all visible aquatic plants, zebra mussels, and other prohibited invasive species from watercraft, trailers, and water-related equipment before leaving any water access or shoreland.



2. **DRAIN** water-related equipment (boat, ballast tanks, portable bait containers, motor) *and* drain bilge, livewell and baitwell by removing drain plugs before leaving a water access or shoreline property. **Keep drain plugs out** and water-draining devices open while transporting watercraft.

[Q&A – Boat draining, drain plugs, and bait container draining](#) PDF



3. **DISPOSE** of unwanted bait, including minnows, leeches, and worms, in the trash. It is illegal to release bait into a waterbody or release aquatic animals from one waterbody to another. If you want to keep your bait, you must refill the bait container with bottled or tap water.

## KNOW THE LAW: You may not...

- Transport watercraft without removing the drain plug.
- Arrive at lake access with drain plug in place.
- Transport aquatic plants, zebra mussels, or other prohibited species on any roadway.
- Launch a watercraft with prohibited species attached.
- Transport water from Minnesota lakes or rivers.
- Release bait into the water.



Box 125, Hackensack, MN 56452

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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

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