



www.baylake.org

Fall/Winter 2021-2022

Fond farewell to the 50th

As the leaves fall and we take out our docks, the summer of 2021 is in the rearview mirror, but what a ride! Thanks to all who attended our 50th Anniversary summer events. They were memorable as we celebrated in many special ways.

The decorated Pontoon Parade in June was a fun return of an old historic Bay Lake event. Thanks to Jane and Phil Rollins for planning our parade. It was great to watch the boats pass by and see so many of you out on your docks to cheer. Congrats to the winners! If you would like to see the boat parade continue, we are looking for a person or two to plan the event again. Contact Amy Grady at (952) 818-4148 if you would like to run this event in the future.

Music on the Lake was not only full of fun, great music and perfect sunshine, but the huge crowd was happy to party in the water again for this beloved event. For many Bay Lakers, the WWII air show in the skies above us was the highlight of the summer as a P-51 Mustang, a Corsair and a TBM Avenger arrived from the west and roared over the crowd as the band played "God Bless the USA." While we thought that was it, they returned in formation and thrilled the crowd with rolls, wing waves and other tricks. We had goosebumps! The sense of community was palpable and unforgettable as we, as Bay



The White/Herberg Family showed their creativity to win Best of Boats in the Pontoon Parade in June.

Lakers and Americans, gathered to celebrate our independence and our 50th Anniversary as a lake association. Thanks to the pilots from Wings of the North, Josh Goolsbee, Amy Goolsbee and all the staff and friends of the Lonesome Pine for

providing us this great 2021 summer memory.

The Orwoll family wowed us on July 4 as we gathered in North Bay for a magnificent fireworks show. Did you see the special "BLIA 50" and "USA" fire spelled out near

BLIA 50th, cont. on Page 4.

From your new president

A few words about buoys

Congratulations! If you received this issue of the Breezes, it means you are a member/supporter of one of the best lake associations in Minnesota. I hope you were able to join the fun when we celebrated the 50th anniversary of our association this past summer.

By way of introduction, I am Terry Coss, the new BLIA president as of July 2021. I assumed this role from Phil Rollins, the outgoing president, whose term ended this past summer. Together with the other volunteer association officers (vice president Amy Grady, treasurer Mark Feriancek,

Buoys, cont. on Page 6.

More than 700 BLIA members!

WE DID IT! We made our goal of 700 BLIA members! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you to everyone who joined this year!

This is SO EXCITING. We have more than 700 members so far. I'm sure there is no other lake association that can match us!!

The other news is that I am finally retiring as Membership Chair — after 25+ years! Hard to believe it's been that long. How time flies when you're having fun! Taking my place is Jen Qualen. She will be the new chair beginning in

2022, so I know membership will be in good hands. I'm sure you will all welcome her.

Thank you to all the BLIA Board members I have served with. They all gladly give of their time to help keep Bay Lake the wonderful place it is, has always been and will always be, as long as we continue to support the BLIA as we are doing so well at this time!

Betty Marquardt
Retiring Membership Chair

Remembering

We've recently lost several present and former Bay Lakers. Our sympathy to the families and friends of:

Mary Beth (Trones) Carlson
Linda Jean Nelson Fisher
Kathryn (Kate) Ann Krueger
Janice Lange
Jill Mithun
Ken Novak
Debi Anne Souder
Alan Stark
Gloria Tamte
Mary Tegeder



Officers

President.....Terry Coss
Vice President.....Amy Grady
Secretary.....Chris Ruttger
Treasurer.....Mark Feriancek

Directors

Terry Coss, David Devins, Josh Goolsbee, Amy Grady, Bobbie Keller, Phil Malkerson, Ally Oakes, Jennifer Qualen, Matt Qualen, Phil Rollins, Chris Ruttger, Brent Souder

Committee & Event Chairs

AIS prevention.....Phil Rollins
Amazing Race.....Nancy LaTourneau
Aquatic plant management.....David Devins
Bay Lake Ambassadors.....Amy Grady
Blasts.....Paul Erickson
Breezes.....Bobbie Keller, Editor
Env. Protection Fund.....Phil Rollins
Facebook page.....Scott Shekels
Fireworks.....Josh Goolsbee, Charlie Zajicek
Fishing resources.....Matt Qualen
History.....Paul Erickson
Holiday Party.....Louise Sorenson
Insurance & Risk Management.....Chris Gondeck
Membership.....Jennifer Qualen
Nominations.....Phil Rollins
Runtilla.....Jim & Heidi Bye
Security.....Ty LaTourneau
Shoreline Protection/Plant Giveaway...Brent Souder
Water quality.....Terry & Debbie Coss
Water safety.....Chris Gondeck, Paul Trebe, Karl Krueger
Website.....Scott Shekels, Paul & Ward Erickson

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Editor.....Bobbie Keller

Zebra mussels' spread spotty; BLIA working to keep other invasives out of Bay Lake

Zebra mussels — As expected, the mussels continue to spread, although it appears their concentration is spotty. That is, they seem to be proliferating in some areas, not in others. Please let me know the situation on your lakeshore: cabin location, level of infestation (1 - minimal, 10 - overwhelming). Send to philfishing@gmail.com.

We continue to partner with the U of M-based Minnesota AIS Research Center. Much of their research is focused on how to control and eliminate zebra mussels with copper sulfate, a known mussel inhibitor. Those who have their shoreline treated with copper sulfate for swimmers itch may see fewer mussels. A number of Bay Lakers use Central Minnesota Aquatics out of Nisswa for this purpose. The association provides an annual donation of \$10,000 in support of this research.

Holiday Party back Dec. 4

The BLIA Holiday Party is back.

Plan to join your Bay Lake friends and neighbors on Dec. 4 for an evening of Holiday cheer. The event will be held at Ruttger's White Oak Grill because Ruby's Dining Room will be under construction. The evening will feature dinner and entertainment by the JS Trio.

You will soon receive an invitation in the mail if you haven't already. Please mark your calendar and plan on an enjoyable evening with friends and fellow Bay Lakers!

Louise Sorenson

Here's the link to MAISRC. Please consider joining as a private donor: www.maisrc.umn.edu.

Other aquatic invasives such as starry stonewort and spiny water fleas are threatening northern Minnesota lakes. We continue efforts to keep these species out of Bay Lake through an aggressive inspection

program at the public access and will do so again in 2022.

Your donations to the BLIA Environmental Protection Fund support the inspection program and other efforts to protect the lake. Thank you.

Phil Rollins
Aquatic Invasive Species

Our EWM control program continues to be effective

We continued our Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) control program by surveying the lake for EWM in June and in September. We treated 7.6 acres of EWM in June and 89.7 acres the first part of October, totaling 97.3 acres for the season.

While the levels of EWM were normal this spring, the explosive growth of EWM and native plants in the lake was very predictable, with the low water, drought, and very warm and sunny weather.

While this summer's weeds in general were much worse than we have seen in 10 years or so, we have seen much worse conditions several times and treated as much as 200 acres in a season successfully.

What this shows is what could happen if we weren't treating. Our primary goal is to not let EWM become the dominant plant in the lake, and controlling it the way we do has been very

effective at not allowing EWM to take over large areas and allowing the natives to thrive and help hold EWM in check. We were fortunate to have perfect conditions for our treatment in October and expect excellent results in the spring.

Thank you for the great response to our e-mail request to check your docks, watercraft and shoreline for EWM and zebra mussels. It helps and is appreciated.

As usual, we will continue our EWM control program next spring and will send a notice a week or so before treatment.

We will not need approval signatures to treat your shoreline and will treat shorelines as necessary unless you notify the association that you do not want your shoreline treated. Thank you for your support for this program over the years. We could not have done it without you.

Thank you.

David Devins



Past BLIA presidents were honored at a luncheon in Ruby's Dining Room, where they reminisced about their time as leaders.

BLIA 50th, cont. from Page 1.

the shore? There were so many new and fun rockets and a finale that wouldn't end. Thanks to Kent and Kim Orwoll and all their crew, Josh Goolsbee and Charlie Zajicek, our fireworks committee chairs, and the countless volunteers who helped set up and take down the show. And thanks to Ruttger's for letting us use their property to blast off our fireworks show. Your contributions to the BLIA fireworks fund help us continue this great Bay Lake tradition.

Past presidents of the Bay Lake Improvement Association gathered for lunch in Ruby's Dining Room to reminisce about their time leading the association and to hear how much the association has accomplished over its 50-year history. President Phil Rollins and his wife, Jane, hosted the group and ran the event with help from Bobbie Keller and the wonderful staff at Ruttger's.

On July 17 more than 300 Bay Lakers gathered on the Ruttger's golf course grass for fun, contests, food and our annual meeting. People brought home their keepsake Hansen's store charge books and caught up with friends and neighbors. As the sun set, we watched the 50th Anniversary documentary, "A Day on Bay Lake," on a giant 30-foot screen. Many recognized their cabin, their boat, and their family and friends as they recounted what makes Bay Lake such a special place. We sold more than 250 DVDs, and more are available at Hansen's store.

The Runtilla sported an Olympics theme with lots of flags and Olympic metals for all the race winners. Again, we had a beautiful day and a huge crowd. The Runtilla far surpassed all prior fundraising goals as so many of you donated and participated in the 5K event. The Runtilla could

not happen without the tireless dedication of event chairs Jim and Heidi Bye and their numerous Runtilla volunteers. The great lunch prepared by Charlie, of White Hawk fame, the Bloody Mary bar hosted by Josh Goolsbee and crew, and all the details behind the scenes make for a 38-year tradition that is a true gift to Bay Lake.

Finally, in August, the Amazing Race brought silly and fun challenges to 27 teams in costumes as they traveled from dock to dock trying to complete each challenge in the shortest time. The winning team members each received \$50 in honor of the 50th Anniversary. A little drizzle did not dampen the fun and adrenaline each team experienced together. The Amazing Race idea is the brainchild of Nancy LaTourneau, who brings a huge amount of energy and creativity to the event. Thanks to Nancy and her family, all the cabin hosts, the volunteers, the teams, and this year to Ruttger's for generously hosting the after-awards party.

All summer, it was great to see Bay Lakers in their 50th Anniversary loon logo clothing and to see the new Bay Lake flag on flag poles and boats. While the clothing is now only a keepsake, we will continue to sell Bay Lake flags, so let us know if you want one.

A special personal thanks to Paul Erickson, who creates our Bay Lake Blast e-mail notice, which serves as one of our means to communicate with our members. We kept him very busy this summer!

Happy 50th Anniversary, Bay Lake Improvement Association! Here's to many more years enhancing our lives on Bay Lake!

Amy Grady, Chair
BLIA 50th Anniversary Celebration

Enthusiasm high as Runtilla returns after skipping 2020 for COVID-19

The 38th annual Bay Lake Runtilla was the highlight of the summer for many Bay Lakers, after COVID-19 took away the event last year.

“The crowd turnout was outstanding and sponsor participation was amazing,” said Jim Bye, Runtilla coordinator. “It was fun to see people come out and all the volunteers who help put the event together come back and do it again.”

In honor of the Summer Olympics happening in Beijing, this year’s race had an Olympic theme. Instead of the traditional ribbons, age-group category winners received gold, silver and bronze metals, which many wore with pride after the ceremony. Jack and Ann Ruttger, longtime supporters of BLIA events, including the Runtilla, were the official starters.

Bye thanked Dennis and Jackie Charles, who provided the traditional tasty picnic to top off the day, and Josh Goolsbee and his Lonesome Pine crew for enhancing the festivities with their adult beverage bar. Goolsbee donates all profits from the day to



Runtilla participants line up under the starting/finish line. The event was a special treat for many after it had to take a year off in 2020 because of COVID-19.

the Bay Lake Environmental Protection Fund. Representatives of the Bay Lake Improvement Association also had a booth offering BLIA 50th anniversary merchandise for purchase.

This year’s sponsorship total of \$91,000 more than doubled

the highest previous yearly total of \$42,000.

“I’m overwhelmed with the generosity of Bay Lakers,” said Bye. “They stepped up in a huge way this year. The tremendous economic support along with the joy of Bay Lakers in being able to have the event again made this a special year.”



Two Runtilla winners pose with Jim Bye, right, with medals around their necks and an Olympic “flame.”

Amazing Race still amazing

It was another AMAZING day on Bay Lake!

A huge thanks to all captains (teams) and volunteers (helpers) for the Bay Lake Amazing Race! What a day — from Church Island to Ruttger’s Bay Lake Resort in rain with 10 stops in between. And WOW — 27 teams! Congrats to Boats and Crows for winning first place.

This year we added two new categories: Best Costume went to Bay Lake Community College. And Best/Funniest Station was a tie: Chips & Daly’s (with newcomers on the lake) and Shark-Bay-Do1. Congrats to them also.

Mike from Ruttger’s agreed to host the award ceremony. More than 200 people showed up! One more special thanks to Quinn and her team of four for supplying us with sufficient treats and drinks.

Nancy LaTourneau

Buoys, cont.from Page 1.

secretary Chris Ruttger), board members and committee chairs, we are committed to keeping our shared lake experience a positive one.

With the financial and volunteer support of people like you, the Bay Lake Improvement Association has for five decades provided an array of environmental protection efforts, events and social activities to keep our lake clean and our community vibrant. Betty Marquardt, our outgoing membership chair, recently reported that the association's enrollment topped 700 members in 2021 for the first time ever. This is an amazing achievement for Betty, and we sincerely thank her for her many contributions to the association.

I want to focus this fall message on buoys, which was a hot topic this summer. Every boater knows that the difference between a fun day on the lake and a wrecked motor can be one inch of extra water depth. Those familiar with Bay Lake know that water levels were unusually low in 2021, perhaps 16-24 inches below recent years. We received numerous reports this summer of damage to boats passing through areas that are normally thought to be "safe." There are also more large, deep-draft boats in use now that simply can't go where smaller boats safely pass, even under normal conditions.

There are two "No Wake" zones on Bay Lake, one in the "first" (or middle) narrows and another on the eastern tip of Church Island, often called the "second narrows." These "No Wake" zones are designated in county ordinance. BLIA installs "No Wake" buoys at these locations on behalf of the

Sheriff's Department, but only the sheriff and DNR (Department of Natural Resources) have enforcement authority. Some property owners also install "Swim Area" buoys near their beaches. Swim buoys require a permit and can't be placed in a way that interferes with navigation. (Contact Crow Wing County for information.)

The remaining navigation & safety buoys on the lake ("Rock," "Shoal," etc.) are installed and maintained by the association as a courtesy to our members and the boating public. This program is funded through membership dues and general donations. Buoy placement and markings comply with United States Coast Guard standards and every boater is expected to be knowledgeable with that system. Buoys are normally installed shortly after spring ice-out and are removed in October before lake freeze occurs.

The association makes a good faith effort to install buoys each year to warn of major hazards but can't possibly mark all hazards on the lake, such as shallow areas and isolated individual rocks, due to the sheer number of them. Furthermore, conditions change throughout the year and buoys can become lost or moved off-location due to weather or other incidents. The absence of a buoy does not mean it is necessarily safe, so boaters unfamiliar with the lake should always refer to a lake-depth contour map. Available for purchase are Android and Apple apps that provide even more detailed lake bottom mapping and can show

your precise GPS location and bearing as a map overlay on a mobile device's screen. However, even the best app or map won't reflect changing water levels, and it won't flag that random rock sitting on the bottom hungry for your prop. Boaters must always exercise due caution.

The association will continue to monitor and adjust buoy placement with an emphasis on marking obstructions/large rock groupings in what might otherwise be considered safe boating areas under normal conditions. If you notice a buoy missing or off-location, contact Chris Gondeck (612-325-2477, chrisj.gondeck@gmail.com) and/or Paul Trebe (paul.trebe@gmail.com), who jointly coordinate the association's buoy program.

As a final note, we all owe a big "thank you" to the association's outgoing president, Phil Rollins, who contacted the DNR this summer regarding the deteriorating condition of the public landing. As a result, the DNR reconstructed the landing ramp in late September and it is now much better to use, especially for large boats. Thank you, Phil, for this gift to us all, and thank you for your leadership as association president for the past three years.

If you have questions or concerns, please send an e-mail to me at bliaprez@baylake.org. I will either respond personally or direct your inquiry to the proper committee chair or event coordinator. I hope you have a safe winter and look forward to seeing you on the lake next summer.

Terry Coss, BLA President

New Bay Lake Camp owner to provide mental wellness programs in the island camp setting

This past October, a new chapter in the historic legacy of Bay Lake Camp began as Northern Pines Mental Health Center acquired Bay Lake Camp and immediately began a process to partner its programs focused on wellness and whole-person health into the island camp setting. In addition, transitions will focus on welcoming many youth, families and guests from past Bay Lake Camp groups as we move into our new, shared future.

Northern Pines (NPMHC) is an established leader in providing evidenced-based clinical mental health therapy and skills services throughout the lifespan, with offices in central Minnesota. Pairing the island camp experience with mental wellness and supportive services will truly enhance lives and restore hope! We look forward to bringing the strength of experienced staff

infrastructure into an outdoor setting, and hold deep appreciation for Bay Lake Camp’s history, welcoming generations of campers. Northern Pines is eager to introduce new possibilities and explore ways in which all guests can continue to enjoy, thrive and grow through the camp experience on the Island, as well as continuing community-based events throughout the year — we look forward to more community pizza nights, hiking the island trails, labyrinth walks and summer services.

Bay Lake Camp is a storybook that is still unfolding — from the first chapters filled with joy and trepidation, as early supporters journeyed several hours by Model-T to bring supplies and

volunteers to work on a rustic Dining Hall and Bunkhouse — to new cabins in the ‘30s, ‘50s and ‘70s — to the joy-filled collaboration as Bay Lake Camp alongside the entire Bay Lake community joined together to place the Island into a permanent Conservation Easement more than a decade ago with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. The wonderful history remains, and the next chapter of the Island is at hand — welcoming all to experience the joys and healing of life at the lake!

See you on the Island!

Brenda Olson Bingea
Executive Director
Bay Lake Camp

Laura Vaughn
Executive Director
Northern Pines Mental Health



Bay Lakers gathered on the greens of Ruttger’s Golf Course in July for the BLIA Annual Meeting and to see the premiere of the documentary “A Day on Bay Lake.”



For years, Hansen’s store has kept running accounts for many Bay Lakers. Historical account books were available for Bay Lakers to pick up as a memory at the BLIA Annual Meeting celebration.

Bay Lake Breezes
Bay Lake Improvement Association
P.O. Box 461
Deerwood, MN 56444-0461

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**Celebrate the Holiday Season
with your Bay Lake friends
at the BLIA Holiday Party**

Saturday, Dec. 4, 2021
Ruttger's White Oak Grill

You should have received reservation
material in the mail. For more
information call Louise Sorenson,
(507) 219-8338.

Looking ahead to Summer 2022

May 28	Plant Giveaway
June 25	BLIA Annual Meeting
July 2	Music on the Lake
July 3	Fireworks
July 23	Amazing Race
Aug. 6	Runtilla
Dec. 3	Holiday Party