



Bay Lake Breezes

Bay Lake

Improvement Association Inc.

www.baylake.org

Spring/Summer 2023

Many thanks for your volunteer and financial support; Bay Lake 50 volunteer program huge success

Greetings, Bay Lake Improvement Association members. As we patiently endure the on-again/off-again spring of 2023 in anticipation of summer fun at the lake, there are a few messages I'd like to share.

First, a sincere "Thank You!" to all of you who supported BLIA last year with the volunteer gift of your time and talents. It requires the involvement of many people to successfully implement the many environmental programs and events under the umbrella of BLIA activities. The creation of the "Bay Lake 50" volunteer program last year was a huge success by providing committee chairs and event organizers with a ready and waiting pool of people to reach out to quickly when assistance was needed. The positive response to this effort and the willingness of so many to step up during times of need was invaluable. If you are interested in participating in this group or simply learning more, please reach out to Kristy Davis at 612-720-8819 or baylakelife@gmail.com.

By now you should have received your 2023 membership

materials by mail, including a letter from Membership Committee Chair Jennifer Qualen describing the many ways the association uses the funds raised through dues and donations to enhance everyone's use and enjoyment of Bay Lake. I encourage you to renew your membership early by mail or online using the link at baylake.org to assist the board with 2023 planning and budgeting. While renewals and donations are gratefully accepted at any time of year, knowing sooner rather than later how much money we have to work with makes planning so much easier.

The ice is not out yet as of this writing, and while I don't have a crystal ball, it appears likely we will be faced with high water levels at the start of the boating season due to the heavy snowfalls received in the Brainerd Lakes area. Those high levels could persist into the spring and summer if we experience above normal rainfall. Please be mindful of the lake level when boating and the potential impact of your wake on docks and shorelines that are more vulnerable when the water is high.

In closing, thank you again for your continued support of BLIA as we all look forward to a fun and safe 2023.

Terry Coss
BLIA President



Memberships help support BLIA events, protect lake

Dear Bay Lakers,

Spring is in the air, well sort of, here on Bay Lake. Sooner than we think, summer will be here and we will be rolling out docks and boats, and dusting off the patio furniture! Spring also means it's

time to rejoin the Bay Lake Improvement Association for the upcoming 2023 season. As you know, your membership needs to be renewed each year.

If this is going to be your first season on Bay Lake, welcome! You are in for a real

treat here on Bay Lake. We are a community like no other! As always BLIA has all our usual events planned for you this summer -- including but not limited to Music on the Lake, Fireworks and the Pontoon Parade.

Your membership and donation dollars to BLIA help provide these events and the ongoing protection of our lake. So, with that said, PLEASE join BLIA; the \$30 tax deductible membership is an essential part of keeping BLIA functioning each year. This amount helps to cover costs of buoy maintenance, repairing and replacing; publication of the Breezes semi-annually; the membership letter in the spring and informational flyers that are essential to lake residents. In addition to your membership, your contributions to the Environmental Protection Fund are of vital importance. When you join you will receive the annual BLIA sticker and a discount card exclusive to BLIA members for the stores at Ruttger's Resort.

So please fill out your membership cards that come with the spring mailing -- all members of your household can and should be members. Don't forget to include your furry friends! We have a special place for Bay Lake Pets, and they will receive a unique Bay Lake tag to proudly wear on their collars! Take note that once again there is a Special Events line on the card where you can donate to a social event for Bay Lake.

Any frequent guests who also enjoy the beauty of our lake and

Membership, cont. on Page 5.

Officers

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

Directors

Terry Coss, Kristy Davis, David Devins, Josh Goolsbee, Amy Grady, Bobbie Keller, Phil Malkerson, Jennifer Qualen, Phil Rollins, John Rusciano, Brent Souder, Paul Trebe

Committee & Event Chairs

- AIS prevention.....Phil Rollins
- Aquatic plant management.....David Devins
- Bay Lake Ambassadors.....Amy Grady
- Blasts.....Paul Erickson
- Breezes.....Bobbie Keller, Editor
- Env. Protection Fund.....Phil Rollins
- Fireworks.....Josh Goolsbee, Charlie Zajicek
- Fishing resources.....Matt Qualen
- History.....Paul Erickson
- 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

Bay Lake Breezes is published twice a year by the Bay Lake Improvement Association, P.O. Box 421, Brainerd, MN 56401.

Website: www.baylake.org

Editor.....Bobbie Keller

Working to keep new invasives out of Bay Lake

We are expecting another summer of strong efforts to continue reducing the risks of new invasives finding their way into Bay Lake. Here's a quick summary of our current situation and what we'll be doing this coming season.

Zebra Mussels (ZMs) will continue to make their presence known. Water quality should again be clear, as the ZMs are filter feeders and filter as much as one liter of water per day. Based on ZM growth in other lakes, we should reach maximum expansion of ZMs this summer or in 2024, as their population reaches the point where the lake environment should not support continued buildup.

We will continue partnering with the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) on a pilot project to learn more about how the mussels proliferate. In June, 20 ZM detectors, consisting of two or three stacked plates, will be hung off docks in locations around the lake and retrieved in September. We are looking for volunteers to help with this project. Contact me if you are interested.

BLIA provides financial support to MAISRC, joining many other lake associations.

Spiny Water Flea. These pests clog eyelets of fishing rods and can prevent fish from being landed. They prey on native zooplankton, which are an important food source for native fishes. We will sample the lake twice over the summer.

Starry Stonewort. This algae grows densely, covering sediment and forming mounds of vegetation up to six feet tall. It can outcompete other aquatic plants, harming habitat for fish and other wildlife by reducing cover and food sources. It also impacts ecosystems by absorbing

phosphorous and changing the chemistry of sediment. Few lakes report finding starry, and we have not seen it in Bay. If caught early, it's possible to remove it before it becomes embedded in a lake. Several BLIA members are trained to identify starry and we're looking for others to join the team.

Public Access. Working with Crow Wing County, we will again have DNR-trained inspectors checking boats on our public access from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily, mid-May through mid-September. Inspectors are trained to detect invasives on incoming boats and to make sure boats leaving

Successful EWM control continues

We will continue our Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) control program again this spring. This will be our 32nd season successfully controlling EWM in Bay Lake. We will conduct a survey of the lake around Memorial Day, followed by a treatment of EWM approximately the third week of June. We will repeat this process in the fall starting around Labor Day, followed by treatment the first week of October.

As a reminder, we are not required to collect authorization signatures from individual property owners to treat shorelines. We are working by exception. If someone does not want chemical treatments along their shoreline, they need to contact us and let us know. We will send an email blast notification to all about a week before we treat in June and again in September. If you don't want treatments along

Bay do not contain ZMs or milfoil that could be transferred to other lakes. The county pays for about half the cost, with BLIA covering the rest.

Periodically, you may see a DNR inspector and boat decontamination unit on our access.

These activities and the treatment of Eurasian watermilfoil consume a big part of our annual budget. Thanks to those who donate to the Environmental Protection Fund, which supports these programs.

Phil Rollins
AIS Prevention
philfishing@gmail.com

your shoreline or have questions, you can contact me anytime. Treatment notification will also be posted on the Bay Lake website at the same time.

Following our same plan over the years has worked, so we will keep at it. Our goal from the beginning was to not allow EWM to dominate the lake, realizing that native vegetation was critical to the health of the lake, and it has worked very well; the native plants are healthy and diverse.

In August there will be an email blast with aquatic invasive species information asking residents to inspect their shoreline for EWM, zebra mussels and starry stonewort, and report back with findings.

Our EWM control program has been successful because of your support! Please keep giving to the Environmental Protection Fund.

Thank you.

David Devins
davidd953msn.com
612-237-1827



Save these dates for special fun

Looking forward to another Amazing Race July 22

The Bay Lake Amazing Race started in 2012. It has been a successful and exciting event annually due to all the fantastic support from the teams, volunteers and sponsors.

The teams consist of four participants each who will participate in 10 events that are hosted at different locations spread around the lake. Each event is timed; some will take place on shore and some will take place in the water! The actual time involved is approximately two hours, and we will have a party at the end with an award ceremony. We love seeing creativity in team costumes and themes!!

Be sure to contact Nancy LaTourneau (612-240-5959) for more information. Registration forms will be available by the end of May online and at Hansen's Store.

SAVE THE DATE: JULY 22

The fun begins at 10 a.m. on Church Island.

Pontoon Parade celebrates summer

Hello Bay Lakers!

Happy spring! I am looking forward to summer, as I am sure you are too. Just a reminder that plans are underway for a Pontoon Parade on Aug. 19, 1-3 p.m. The trophies have arrived for first, second and third place. Numbers used to identify your boat have been printed. Flyers and registration forms will be printed shortly. These forms will be available at Hansen's Store, the plant giveaway in May and the June 24 BLIA annual meeting, as well as online. Registration is \$20 per boat. This money will be donated to BLIA.

Hoping you are brainstorming ideas for decorating a pontoon using the theme "Celebrating Another Glorious Summer at Bay Lake." Dates to keep in mind: Aug. 6 is the deadline to enter. Aug. 12 : Information with all the details will be delivered to the address on your registration form. Have fun with your ideas and decorations. All that is needed now is your participation! Looking forward to a fun time.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Nancy Herberg and Family
218-678-2045
baylaker48@gmail.com



Fireworks!



Sunday July 2 over North Bay at dusk Rain day July 3

.....

Bay Lake 50 help make Bay Lake events happen safely

Thank you to the Bay Lake 50 volunteers. With several events planned for 2023, we will again need your commitment to ensure everything is safe and enjoyable for our lake community.

To the event chairs, if you need volunteers, please reach out to me at 612-720-8819 or baylakelife@gmail.com. Let me know the date, time, location, approximate time commitment and number of volunteers you need as well as a few details about the work to be done. I will reach out to the volunteer group to ensure you have the helping hands you need.

Now, bring on summer!

Kristy Davis

Come join in the Runtilla Aug. 5

At 9 a.m. sharp on Saturday, Aug. 5, runners, walkers and skaters of all ages will take off to the sound of the starting gun for the 39th annual Bay Lake Runtilla.

They'll start near the former White Hawk parking lot and go down Brighton Point road and back, cheered on by other members of the Bay Lake community gathered on the sidelines. Even canine members of the family and kids in strollers can be part of the fun.

Runners vie for trophies in male/female age-group categories. Registration begins at 8:15 a.m.

Josh Goolsbee and his Lonesome Pine team will be there with adult beverages for purchase, and complimentary water will be available for runners. Additional booths with maybe some surprise treats will also be there.

After the award ceremony following the race Bay Lakers are invited to stay for the traditional picnic hosted by Dennis "Charlie" and Jackie Charles.

As always, sponsorships are encouraged and appreciated. With a donation of \$50 you can have the name or dedication of your choice on the back of the Runtilla t-shirt. Names of \$250 to \$1,000 donors will appear on the sleeve, and a \$1,000-plus donation will earn space on the front.

"The last two years, we've exceeded \$90,000 in total sponsorships," said Jim Bye, Runtilla coordinator, thanking sponsors for their generosity. All funds support the Bay Lake Environmental Protection Fund.

Jim reminded grandparents that this is a great opportunity to have their grandchildren's names listed.

"Kids' faces light up when they see their names on the shirt," he said.

Names could also honor other people or a favorite pet.

Artists age 20 and younger, and age 70 and older are invited to submit an original design for the t-shirt front. Advance registrations, original drawings and sponsorships are due at Hansen's July 22. Registration forms will be available at Hansen's Memorial Day weekend. Participants and donors should preregister for a t-shirt to ensure they get the right size.

"Lynn Hanson does a marvelous job of collecting sponsorships and designs," said Jim. He also thanked the many volunteers who help make the event a success each year.

"We've had such a great following," said Jim. "The Runtilla is a great, fun community event. I hope people continue to come out."

Remembering

We lost several Bay Lakers over the winter. Our sympathy to the families and friends of:

Fred Amram
Bill Bale
Shirley Bard
Tom Brandt
Bob Carls
Jean Dyste
Elaine Fletcher Svenson Lalim
Rita Lehnert
Sally Nydahl
Dr. George Roth
Patrick Ruane
Edward Seaton
Milan Sebek
Todd Sosey
Todd St. Cyr

Membership, cont. from Page 2.

all that it has to offer can join too. Have them sign up as A Friend of Bay Lake. If you prefer to do your membership online, go to www.baylake.org and follow the link to our online donation page. If mailing your membership and donations into BLIA, send to BLIA, P.O. Box 421, Brainerd, MN 56401. (NOTE the Deerwood mailing address is no longer valid.)

With all of that said, please keep in mind that anything you see happen on Bay Lake is done via volunteers. Volunteers are VITAL to this lake. Please consider becoming a Bay Lake volunteer. Any help with any of the events is appreciated and needed. Please consider joining the program called The Bay Lake 50. To join this special group of volunteers or learn more about what it entails, please send an email to Kristy Davis at baylakelife@gmail.com.

In closing, know that as a member you are free to attend any one of the BLIA Board meetings on the calendar to find out what we do and what YOU can do to be a participant of anything lake related. This year's big annual meeting is June 24 at Ruttger's Resort.

Jennifer Qualen,
Membership Chair
jqualen@gmail.com



Northern Pines Mental Health Center plans busy summer on Church Island

We are extremely excited to be starting our second summer after getting a full year under our belt! We have been so appreciative of all the support from our community partners and our Bay Lake neighbors, who have been so welcoming. We were happy to utilize the island this winter for programming and had a successful community candlelight snowshoe event that we are looking forward to planning as an annual event!

We have a busy summer planned with several external groups booked who are either returning from the previous year or new to Bay Lake. We have the Initiator Fellowship, BOLD (girlsarebold.org), Laurel Leef Yoga and Retreats, The Naming Project, Pierz Track, Tangled Anchor, UNIDOS, Twin Cities Ayllu of Inkan & Andean Wisdom, Salem Lutheran, Galilee and others in process! Several of these have openings for youth and adults if you or anyone you know is interested. We have internal NPMH programming scheduled as well as community events such as pizza nights, open house, Saturday night campfire singing and other events that will be announced soon. Stay tuned! Our website has been updated with staff pictures and bios, upcoming events, contact information, booking process, and calendar and donation options.

We are happy to welcome our new Island Chef Estelle Cole, who is arriving this spring and will be here for the summer! She comes to us with years of amazing experience and will be an excellent addition to our Bay Lake Retreat

team. Her life's passion and knowledge of planning and preparing home-cooked meals, managing and utilizing the garden in this process, and a great deal of experience with utilizing the wood-fired oven for pizza and baking!! It is a good thing that we have lots of outside projects to keep us busy and active with all the tasty food around. For more information on Estelle and her bio, please visit our website and be sure to visit us for our events.

We continue to move forward with buildings and grounds projects. Fall of 2022 we started a two-to-three-year project of staining the main buildings. The dining hall and director's cabin were completed fall 2022, and the lodge building, office and additional decks are scheduled for completion summer 2023. This past fall we also received a donation from Falls Plows in Little Falls. They donated large metal custom signs, which look amazing! One of which is approximately six feet in width and diameter, with a backlight mounted on our island shed for those to see when getting off the dock or when passing by. This summer, several new docks will be purchased, thanks to the Bay Lake Fellowship. The docks will be an excellent addition and will provide safer access to the island. Two roll-in docks were donated in the fall of 2022 and have already been put to good use. We appreciate all those who continue

volunteering to help with docks! Our island staff are new to the dock-in-and-out days but have really appreciated the help from Bay Lakers this past year (especially Director Deb!!).

We are more than halfway through to being fully accredited by the American Camp Association (ACA). This has really helped us to further implement training and processes for hospitality and safety. The guidance and assistance we received from other local camps and our regional representatives has been enormously helpful.

Northern Pines Mental Health Center continues to grow, as we are opening a Mental Health Urgent Care Clinic in Brainerd to help address mental health and crisis needs. We encourage you to visit our main Northern Pines website at npmh.org to explore all that we have happening in the six counties we currently cover for mental health and well-being.

If you have questions or would like additional information on Bay Lake Retreat Center/ Northern Pines Mental Health Retreat Center (www.npmh.org/bay-lake-retreat-center), please reach out to Program Director Deb Watson at island@npmh.org, cell 715-371-0287, or check out the Bay Lake Retreat Center Facebook page.



Swimmer's Itch Committee begins work to lessen problem on Bay Lake

The BLIA Swimmer's Itch Committee has met monthly since September 2022. Our primary focus has been obtaining a State of Minnesota DNR and US Fish and Wildlife Services permit for addressing the Swimmer's Itch problem on Bay Lake.

Unfortunately, Swimmer's Itch is not a topic on the DNR's list of serious lake problems. It's not considered something that needs their attention, unlike aquatic invasive species (AIS). Swimmer's Itch is considered a nuisance. Educating the MN DNR of the S.I. problem, our solution, the magnitude on Bay Lake as well as the severity of the problem to some Bay Lakers became our first task.

The S.I. Committee developed a survey with a few simple questions along with space for Bay Lakers to provide feedback on their experiences with S.I. Paul Erickson assisted our committee with the distribution to his master email list of Bay Lake Blast recipients. The results illustrate how widespread and important Swimmer's Itch is to Bay Lakers.

We received 232 responses. Here are the survey question results:

Have you, a family member or guest had Swimmer's Itch in the last year? Yes -- 82.8%

Has Swimmer's Itch impacted your, a family member's or a guest's enjoyment of Bay Lake in the last year? Yes -- 80.2%

Have you, a family member or guest sought medical attention due to Swimmer's Itch in the last year? Yes -- 14.7%

Some of the comments we received mentioned how family members and guests avoided the water for several weeks. More than one respondent shared how their young children or grandkids are now afraid of the lake due to an experience with Swimmer's Itch on Bay Lake.

The survey also allowed for the creation of a GIS map based on lake address information supplied on the survey. The map indicates areas on Bay Lake where Swimmer's Itch has been encountered. With roughly 1/3 of the properties responding to the survey, the map clearly showed the widespread nature of the problem. The results of our survey, the map of the lake with cabin owners impacted by Swimmer's Itch along with scientific data have been provided to the State of Minnesota DNR.

Recently our service provider, Swimmer's Itch Solutions (S.I.S.), and the State of Minnesota Wildlife Research Manager in St. Paul discussed our permit application and the specific methods for addressing Swimmer's Itch on Bay Lake. We're awaiting word from the DNR on the next step in the process. (S.I.S. has a pending federal permit from the US Fish and Wildlife Services. We need to receive the State of Minnesota permit to tie to the US Fish and Wildlife Services permit.)

Our method for reducing the cases of Swimmer's Itch is also a new concept to the DNR. We are not applying any chemicals or treating the water in any way. Our method addresses the relationship between the common merganser and a specific snail, both found on Bay Lake. By live capture and relocation of common mergansers to Lake Superior, a suitable nesting ground that does not have the snail necessary for Swimmer's Itch, the symbiotic relationship is broken, and cases of Swimmer's Itch become less and less common. This method has worked in multiple lakes in Michigan and is approved at the federal level. Another benefit of the "capture and relocate" method is the reduction in the use of copper sulfate, an inorganic compound that accumulates on the lake bottom.

The Swimmer's Itch Committee remains optimistic a permit will be issued by the DNR this spring. However, we are committed to continuing our efforts in reducing Swimmer's Itch cases on Bay Lake in the event our permit is not issued in 2023.

BLIA Swimmer's Itch Committee
David Devins, Rick Giertsen Jr.,
Phil Malkerson, Phil Rollins



Bay Lake Breezes
Bay Lake Improvement Association
P.O. Box 421
Brainerd, MN 56401

2023 Bay Lake Events

May 27 10 a.m.	Tree/Plant Giveaway , Lonesome Pine
June 24 8:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	BLIA Annual Meeting , Ruttger's Continental Breakfast Meeting
July 1 1 p.m.	Music on the Lake , Church Island
July 2 Dusk	Fireworks , over North Bay (rain date July 3)
July 22 10 a.m.	Amazing Race , Church Island
Aug. 5 8:15 a.m. 9 a.m.	Runtilla , Brighton Pt. Rd. & Co. Rd. 10 Registration Race start
Aug 19 1-3 p.m.	Pontoon Boat Parade
Dec. 2 4 p.m.	BLIA Holiday Party , Ruttger's
Dec. 31 TBD	New Year's Fireworks , Lonesome Pine Shoreline

BLIA Board Meetings

June 24	Ruttger's After Annual Meeting
July 15, 9 a.m.	Ruttger's
Aug. 19, 9 a.m.	Ruttger's
Sept. 16, 9 a.m.	Ruttger's

BLIA members are welcome at all
BLIA Board meetings.

*****Any changes to the listed
dates and/or times will be
announced via a Blast.**