



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

Summer 2011

Fellow Bay Lakers,

After a long winter and what seemed like an even longer spring; summer is finally here. It's hard to believe that the 4th of July is right around the corner. The weekend of the 4th will be busy on the Lake. We hope you will be able to join us for the Annual Meeting, at Ruttger's, at 9:30AM on July 2nd. Also on the 2nd will be the annual Bay Lake Children's Party (formerly known as Minnow Camp) on Church Island beginning at 1:30PM and running until 3:30PM. Finally, we hope that you will be out on the lake at dusk that night for the fireworks. Thanks to BLIA members the Orwolls this year's show promises to be spectacular. BLIA's mission is to preserve the natural beauty of the Lake, educate our members about issues facing the Lake and help foster a vibrant community.

The Annual Meeting is a wonderful time to learn about the topics the board feels are the most pertinent, while the Children's Party and the fireworks build our social fiber. Our educational and social activities are a small part of the overall budget. The majority of the money raised on the Lake goes to fight Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) and to attempt to keep other Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) out of the Lake. This is where we need your help.

During the last five years BLIA has spent, on average, ten thousand dollars more per year than we have received in contributions to the Environmental Fund. BLIA has done this to keep Milfoil in check and, with Zebra Mussels now in Mille Lacs and Gull, to ramp up our access monitoring. By being proactive as opposed to reactive, the board has spent a small portion of BLIA's cash reserves. While the board felt it was prudent to do this, we cannot continue to do so indefinitely. Therefore we have set a fundraising goal for 2011 of \$175,000. This goal will allow BLIA to begin to replenish the cash reserve while continuing to protect and preserve the Lake.

As we have said before, and are sure you are well aware of, Bay Lake is a special place and a significant investment for the majority of our members. If you have made a contribution in the past, thank you! This year please think about increasing your gift. If you have not made a gift in the past, please consider doing so this year. No gift is too small and they add up quickly. As with BLIA memberships, we are open to more than one gift per family. Talk to your parents, children and grandchildren who enjoy the Lake and ask them to make a gift. Our current generosity will allow all of us and future generations to enjoy the splendor that is Bay Lake.

See you at the Lake,

Dominic Ciresi & Patricia Jespersion

P.S. Please look for our letter at the end of the summer with the 2010 Donor Contribution List.