



Bay Lake Breezes

Bay Lake

Improvement Association Inc.

www.baylake.org

Fall/Winter 2022-2023

ZM expansion should peak in 2023/2024; no spiny water flea or starry stonewort in Bay Lake now

It was another busy summer, trying to keep up with the various invasives threatening Bay Lake.

Here are the highlights:

Zebra Mussels (ZM)

By now, most Bay Lakers will have seen the mussels on lifts and docks as they were pulled from the water this fall. You may have also noted the enhanced water clarity. Based on ZM growth in other lakes, we should reach maximum expansion of ZMs in 2023 or 2024, as their population reaches the point where the environment won't support continued buildup.

We participated in a ZM pilot project, managed by the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC). In June, 20 ZM detectors, consisting of two or three stacked plates, were hung off docks in locations around the lake and retrieved in September; ZMs were found on all devices. A small group of volunteers then disassembled the devices, photographed and uploaded about 2,000 pics to the MAISRC servers for evaluation. Later, MAISRC staff hand-counted up to 4,000 ZMs on just one plate.

BLIA continues to partner with and provide financial support to

MAISRC. So do 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 sampled our lake twice over the summer and fortunately no spiny was found. They have infested Mille Lacs and a few other lakes in our area. As with Zebra Mussels, once in a lake, there is no way to eliminate them.

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. In 2023, we will work to develop a group of volunteers to keep a watch out for starry. If caught early, it's

Invasives, cont. on Page 7.

From your president

New board member, swimmer's itch and more

Greetings to all Bay Lake Improvement Association members and other friends of the lake who receive this newsletter. I'm already looking ahead to spring 2023 ice-out and a return to family fun on the lake. I want to use this message to relay a couple of updates regarding BLIA and what's happening on the lake.

First, we had an unexpected resignation from the BLIA Board of Directors in late summer 2022, so the board took action per the bylaws to appoint Bay Lake resident John Rusciano to fill out the remainder of the departing director's term. John was one of several people who responded to a call for board candidates earlier this year but at the time we had twice as many applicants as

President, cont. on Page 7.

Your membership helps keep our lake healthy, BLIA events strong

Well, Bay Lakers, another beautiful summer on Bay Lake has drifted away to make for a lovely autumn. I sure hope you had the chance to see the spectacular colors our lake was blessed with this season.

It truly has been a great 2022 on Bay Lake. The Bay Lake

Improvement Association hopes that you were able to enjoy all or some of the great events that took place on the lake this summer. Beginning with the Plant Giveaway all the way to the Amazing Race, which seems to get more amazing with each passing

year! All these wonderful memories we get to make on Bay Lake are due to the many volunteers and to all the members of BLIA. Next year we will even have another Pontoon Parade, thanks to volunteers stepping up! Your yearly membership dues are a very important part in keeping these events going and vital to help keep our lake environmentally sound. So, a BIG thank you to the 752 members we have to date and the 19 pets that have joined this season and hopefully are proudly wearing their Bay Lake 2022 sponsor tags! If you have not joined yet this year, there is still time! It's never too late. The \$30 yearly dues are so important to help keep our lake fun, safe and clean. If you feel you have joined but never received your letter, decal and Ruttger's Discount Card, and you have an auto renew set up, please check that your credit card is not expired. Many cards need to be updated on the online system. You can also mail your dues to:

BLIA
P.O.Box 421
Brainerd, MN 56401

Have a great rest of the year on Bay Lake. Our next big event is fireworks for New Years!

See you next season, Bay Lake 2023!

Jennifer Qualen
Membership Chair
jqualen@gmail.com

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
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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Website: www.baylake.org

Editor.....Bobbie Keller

Swimmer's Itch Committee forms

Swimmer's itch (Cercarial Dermatitis) has been a growing problem on Bay Lake over the years. Due to the frequency and widespread reports from around the lake, BLIA hired biologists from Michigan specializing in swimmer's itch to test the lake this summer for the presence of the swimmer's itch parasite. Their two-day on-the-water assessment found two key components to the life cycle of the swimmer's itch parasite: a specific species of snail and the common merganser duck, both of which are required for the parasite to survive. Testing was performed on the snails and fecal samples from the mergansers, and both were confirmed to be infected with the swimmer's itch parasite.

As a result of the lake assessment, a swimmer's itch committee was formed. Members David Devins, Phil Rollins, Phil Malkerson and Rick Giertsen meet monthly to determine the next steps in formulating a plan to successfully reduce swimmer's itch cases on Bay Lake.

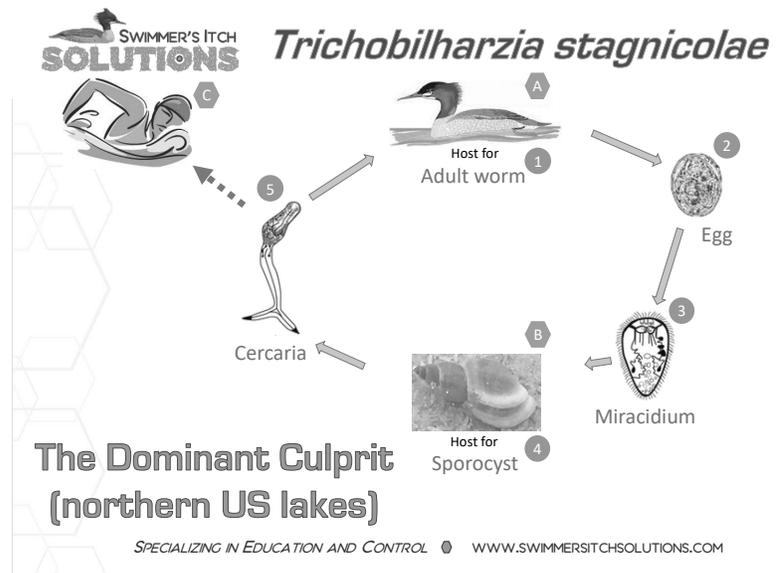
We need your help! A swimmer's itch survey was recently sent out to the email addresses provided to BLIA membership. If you haven't already, please complete the short survey and submit. We hope to quantify the cases of swimmer's itch and its impact on Bay Lakers' enjoyment of

the lake. It's the first step in our plan.

If you have any questions or are interested in the Swimmer's Itch Committee's work, feel free to reach out to one of the committee members.

Rick Giertsen Jr.

Swimmer's Itch Life Cycle



Eurasian watermilfoil still under control in Bay Lake

We continued our Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) program this season with lakewide surveys in June and September. We treated 9.1 acres of EWM in June and 41.1 in October, totaling 50.2 acres. This compares to a total of 97.3 acres last year.

With a cooler, wet spring and early summer, we got a break from the hot, dry and sunny weather the previous year. We had perfect conditions for this past October's treatments and expect excellent results. The native plants

flourished this season and many areas people thought were EWM were in fact native species. Our control efforts do work. We're never going to get rid of EWM, but we can control it and will continue to do so.

I want to remind everyone that we are not collecting signatures any longer. We are working by exception, so if someone does not want the area along their shoreline treated, they need to notify me. A resident's onshore area is

defined as areas within 150 feet of shore and property line to property line. Offshore areas outside of 150 feet will be treated if needed. I send out an email blast a week or 10 days in advance of treatment, so everyone is aware. We also post it on the website.

Thank you for your continued support of our EWM control program.

David Devins
Aquatic plant management
davidd953@msn.com

26 teams compete in 2022 Amazing Race

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

What a day we had this year. We had our start at Church Island and a very quick detour to Ruttger's for pizzas to wait out the weather and a restart at 4 p.m. It was another fantastic BAY LAKE AMAZING RACE with 26 teams completing nine challenges with a photo opportunity at the totem pole. The event raised \$6,420 in entries and donations for BLIA!



First place, Nacho Problem

A huge thank you to Ruttger's for supplying pizzas! And also many thanks to all the volunteers for their creativity in the various challenges.

Once again the annual Bay Lake Amazing Race was successful and the "FUNNEST" event on Bay Lake.

SAVE THE DATE: JULY 22, 2023!

Nancy LaTourneau
Jessica Sells



Second place, Cheeta With Wings



Third place, Bud Light Camp

Busy first summer on island for Northern Pines Mental Health Center

Our first summer on the island flew by! We ran internal programming for clients in the Children and Adult programs. Internal programming was on the island a total of six weeks and brought out more than 350 clients to enjoy the serenity of the island. We also had external groups such as the National Guard Teen Summit, The Naming Project, Pierz Cross Country Team, Yoga Retreat and Women's Retreat. Themes for these groups have been focused on resiliency, relationship building and most of all WELLNESS!

Training has been another focus this summer. We have hosted trainings for multiple internal NPMH programs.

Projects continued throughout the summer, including tree trimming, landscaping, continued grounds cleanup, trail cleanup, security enhancements, internet upgrades, deck repair and assembling training tables and chairs.

After being approached about donations by community members, Bay Lake Retreat Center has created an Amazon Registry for key items that are

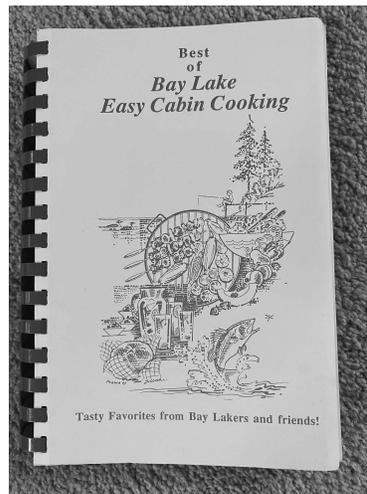
needed to enhance client and community experiences. Items range from small to large and any amount is greatly appreciated. With using the registry system you will have the benefit of knowing exactly what your money is going towards and that donations will be delivered directly to Bay Lake Retreat Center.

We are a nonprofit organization (501c3); this will be counted as a tax-deductible donation. Please reach out to Deb Watson (island@npmh.org) for the tax donation receipt.

Calling all cooks!

In 1993 a “Best of Bay Lake Easy Cabin Cooking” cookbook was published. Some of you may even have a copy. It contained more than 300 recipes submitted by Bay Lakers. The Bay Lake Improvement Association plans to develop and print another custom cookbook that features favorite recipes from current Bay Lakers. The cookbook will be professionally published and contain special pages of interest, table of contents, index, recipes from you, helpful cooking hints and more!

We are looking for volunteers for the Best of Bay Lake Cookbook Committee. If you are interested or would like more information on what’s involved in being a committee member, contact Linda Orwoll at linda.orwoll@gmail.com. If you submitted recipes in the original cookbook or were a member of that committee, we would love



to get your input for this new cookbook.

Once the Cookbook Committee completes the planning and timeline for the cookbook, we’ll announce when and how to submit recipes. We’re hoping to launch the project late winter/early spring 2023.

Linda Orwoll

Pontoon Parade 2023

Hello Bay Lakers!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, Aug. 19, 2023, from 1-3 p.m. Decorate your pontoon to the theme “Celebrating another great Bay Lake summer.”

So, here’s to the voices heard after the last pontoon parade: “When is the next parade? I’ve got an idea for one!” (You may just win an award for that idea.)

Got an idea of your own “floating” around? Watch for more details and opportunities to register for this fun event in the near future.

Nancy Herberg and family
baylaker48@gmail.com

Welcome 2023

Join your Bay Lake friends to welcome 2023 with a bang. Enjoy New Year’s Fireworks on Lonesome Pine shoreline, Sunday, Jan. 1, 2023.

Join us at the annual Holiday Party, Ruttger’s

Please mark your calendar. The Bay Lake Holiday party will be held in Ruby’s Dining Room at Ruttger’s Bay Lake Lodge on Saturday, Dec. 3. Social hour (cash bar) will begin at 4:30 p.m., with dinner at 6. Please bring canned goods or nonperishable food items for the food shelf. Bay Lakers received invitations in early November.

Louise Sorenson
Ellen Brandt

Looking ahead to 2023

For those who like to plan ahead, here is our BLIA list of events for next summer:

May 27	Plant Giveaway
June 24	BLIA Annual Meeting
July 1	Music on the Lake
July 2 (rain date July 3)	Fireworks
July 22	Amazing Race
Aug. 5	Runtilla
Aug. 19	Pontoon Boat Parade

Early rain didn't scare away Runtilla participants

An early morning shower didn't stop Bay Lakers from participating in the 38th annual Bay Lake Runtilla Aug. 6. By the time the starting gun sounded, the rain had stopped and Bay Lakers were lined up at the gate, ready to go.

Christian Carlson was the first to cross the finish line with a time of 20 minutes, 28 seconds. JoEllen Arons won the women's division with a time of 20 minutes, 50 seconds.



This year the event raised more than \$92,000, surpassing the amount of more than \$91,000 raised last year.

The growth of support has been “astounding,” said Jim Bye, event founder and coordinator, who thanked the donors. The three years before last, donors contributed amounts totaling in the low \$40,000s, the three years before that, in the low

\$30,000s and the three years before that, in the low \$20,000s. “The generosity of Bay Lakers is unsurpassed,” said Jim. “It proves people are serious about continuing to help preserve the beauty of our lake.”

Participants of all ages and those on the sidelines cheering them on stayed for the traditional picnic hosted by the Dennis Charles family. Jim thanked the team who “produced the lovely Bay Lake picnic for everybody to enjoy.” He also thanked the 30 support staff people who help make the Runtilla happen, Josh Goolsbee and his team for their beverage table and Amy Grady, who staffed a BLIA booth.

“In spite of threatening skies and rain earlier in the day, we still had 400 to 500 people come out to enjoy the experience,” said Jim. “We’re looking forward to the 39th annual Runtilla the first Saturday in August 2023.”

1 - Ben Bowman, 23:05
2 - Seth Hilgert, 29:25
3 - Kevin Koynel, 29:37

Age 0 to 10

1 - Etta Sorensen, 4, 32:50
2 - Maddie Gravel, 8, 36:02
3 - Bella Day, 7, 37:27
1 - Grady, 10, 27:24
2 - Cormac Kohonen, 8, 28:14
3 - Louis Mason, 8, 33:23

Age 11 to 15

1 - Lucy Hilgert, 12, 23:55
2 - Finly Kohonen, 11, 30:30
3 - Kylah Holte, 14, 30:49
1 - Christian Carlson, 15, 20:28
2 - Noah Ludwig, 15, 22:27
3 - Theo Pax, 15, 23:55

Age 16 to 20

1 - Abby Estrube, 19, 23:03

Age 21 to 30

1 - Sylvie Thode, 22:37
2 - Anna Ruff, 32:35
1 - Nolan Meyer, 22:50
2 - Jakob Bartels, 24:23
3 - Thomas Hall, 26:51

Age 31 to 40

1 - JoEllen Arons, 20:50
2 - Cate Jacobson, 31:22
3 - Jackie Christensen, 32:50
1 - Steve Arons, 20:29
2 - Mat Thomas, 22: 58
3 - Britt Goetze, 23:27

Age 41 to 50

1 - Lisa Ness-Lay, 26:32
2 - Natalie Martin, 28:19
3 - Jessica Koenig, 30:51

Age 51 to 60

1 - Ann Lendrio, 23:20
2 - Linda Sudman, 24:48
3 - Kristin Finberg, 34:30
1 - Frenchie, 49:52
2 - Luigi Bernardi, 52:00

Age 61 to 70

1 - Diane Meyer, 32:10
2 - Dominique Vennino, 34:00
3 - Bonnie Clementson, 48:00
1 - Dean Hansen, 24:30
2 - Brian Sudman, 24:40
3 - Steve Sherry, 29:55

Age 71 to 80

1 - Art Erdman, 32:33
2 - Ben Cooney, 51:40
2 - Sherm Malkerson, 51:40

President, cont. from Page 1.

positions, so he was put on our unofficial standby list. We are excited to add John to our BLIA leadership team so please join me in welcoming him to the Board of Directors.

Second, I wanted to let you know that the board has been discussing the many concerns members expressed regarding the more frequent occurrence of swimmer’s itch episodes in recent years. As you will read elsewhere in this newsletter, we are investigating a relatively new but science-supported approach to reducing swimmer’s itch lake-wide by humanely managing certain species of waterfowl on the lake, in particular the common merganser. I am commenting here only to reiterate that while we are

excited about the potential this may offer, it is not a “silver bullet” and results are not guaranteed. Furthermore, special pre-approvals are needed from the DNR before we can even proceed with a trial, so we must get over that regulatory hurdle first. That said, I am hopeful for the first time ever that there may be a solution better than individual lakeshore treatments with Copper Sulfate, which offer temporary results at best.

I want to extend a heartfelt “thank you” to the volunteers who support our wonderful association as event volunteers and coordinators, committee chairs and on the board, and to all of you who

donate financially to BLIA. It takes a lot of work and money to pull these efforts off safely and successfully, and we all owe a debt of gratitude to all who help us in ways large and small.

I wish you all a safe and happy Holiday season, with a great 2023 to follow.

Terry Coss
BLIA President

The new Bay Lake 50 volunteer program was launched in early summer, just in time for the big jobs of setting up and tearing down the fireworks platforms. The 50ish volunteers each committed to volunteering for at least two BLIA events over the summer. Thank you to all who participated. We’ll relaunch next spring.

Invasives, cont. from Page 1.

possible to remove it before it becomes embedded in a lake.

Public Access

We continued working closely with the county to schedule DNR-trained inspectors who check boats for these and other invasives. Periodically, DNR staff take over inspections, often with a decontamination unit. However, county and DNR staffing difficulties caused some gaps in inspection coverage this year. In 2023, we will work to fill the open hours with volunteers.

These activities and the treatment of Eurasian watermilfoil consume a major part of our annual budget. Your donations make all of this possible. A huge thank you to those who contribute.

Phil Rollins
Aquatic Invasive Species



Remembering

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

- Michael Amram
- Marjorie Becker
- Mary Becker
- Connie Elasky
- Don Holm
- Arvid Johnsen
- Lois Johnson
- Mike Kelly
- Betty (Glass) Kuniey
- Ruby Olson
- Tom Pierce
- David Sponsel

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

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Celebrate the Holiday Season with your Bay Lake friends

Join us at the 2022 BLIA Holiday Party

Saturday, Dec. 3
Ruby's Dining Room at Ruttger's

Social hour starts at 4:30 p.m., dinner at 6.

You should have received reservation material in the mail.
For more information, call Louise Sorenson, (507) 219-8338
or email Lsoren952@gmail.com.

See you there!