



No 102

April, 2011

## President's Letter

### Calendar

BBLA Board Meeting	4/16/2011
BBLA Board Meeting	5/21/11
Annual Ladies Luncheon	5/21/11
BBLA Board Meeting	6/18/11
Annual BBL Golf Outing	6/24/11
BBLA Board Meeting	7/16/11
BBLA Annual Meeting	8/20/11

Your lake association board has met in March to begin another year of work to enhance Big Birch Lake and its' environs. After ice out occurs, activity on the lake drastically increases and so does the work of the BBLA. Buoy markers need to be placed, secchi disc and water quality sampling begins again in earnest. Loon beds are placed as early as possible. Aquatic vegetation sampling and buffering issues need to be addressed along with water safety etc, so there is lots to do.

We are always in need of volunteers and this year will be no different. I was informed at our March board meeting that we will be looking for volunteers to help with secchi dish readings and aquatic vegetation sampling. If anyone is interested in helping out with any of these activities please don't hesitate to call me.

Once again this year we will be exploring the possibility of expanding our buffering program based on need.

We continue to encourage lakescaping projects and septic system upgrades. We continue to work with Todd County officials to insure complete septic system compliance as well.

Along those lines, I would like to let you

know that upon invitation from the Todd County Board and Environmental Services, I have been asked to join a committee focusing on environmental resources in Todd County which includes Big Birch Lake. I would like to express my appreciation for the invitation and the opportunity to sit in and give them our opinion as to what we feel is important to protect Big Birch Lake and its surrounding environment. This is important for inclusion in Todd County's long range plan. This is indeed a refreshing change in cooperation, and we are grateful for the opportunity. After all, I think our concerns are the same as theirs!

Please don't forget the Big Birch Residents Golf Outing. Come and meet your neighbors and friends and talk about what is important for the protection of our lake. Please keep the Ladies Luncheon on your agenda, as well. The details on these two activities are on the back page of the newsletter, so keep them handy.

Also, we are working on getting a Blanket Bog Removal Permit from the DNR. The specific guidelines will be included in a separate article in this newsletter and I encourage you to **President's Letter** *continues on page 7*

## Floating bog guidelines change for Big Birch Lake

The Minnesota DNR has recently granted a permit to the BBLA that changes the way that unattached floating bogs are handled.

Past newsletters outlined the previous DNR policy which only allowed floating bog removal or staking in conjunction with a DNR permit for a specific situation. The new Blanket Permit will allow removal or staking of smaller floating bogs under the supervision of a BBLA board member without notifying the DNR.

Smaller bogs (up to 8' by 8') may be removed as long as they are moved to an area away from the shore line that is not a wetland. The floating bog may be cut up by hand for

ease of removal but use of a backhoe or Bobcat is not allowed. Floating bogs that are not suited for removal but smaller than 8' by 8' may be towed or pushed to a DNR designated area on the lake and reattached or staked. The DNR Designated Area on the upper lake is the cattail area just north of Cow Point and the Designated Area on the lower lake is the Hunter's Bay area. Floating bogs may not be staked in areas adjacent to private property that would block their access to the lake.

If a floating bog is too large to facilitate removal or staking in the designated areas, the BBLA board member for your Area will contact the DNR for further action.

**Floating Bog** *continues on page 4*

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Big Birch Lake Association Inc.  
Report on Activities

	Jan-Feb '11	Jan-Feb '10	Jul '10-Feb-'11	% of Income
<b>Income</b>				
Book Proceeds	0.00	140.00	220.00	0.00%
Donations-Members	885.00	2,160.00	1,195.00	14.10%
Golf Outing	0.00	0.00	595.00	0.00%
Interest Income	462.17	422.48	1,323.83	7.30%
Legacy-Don Pitt	0.00	0.00	2,700.00	0.00%
Membership Dues	4,170.00	7,680.00	4,470.00	66.30%
Memorials-Other	0.00	275.00	125.00	0.00%
Misc. Income	0.00	0.00	35.00	0.00%
Product or Service Income	0.00	0.00	15.00	0.00%
Sponsors Contributions	775.00	1,820.00	925.00	12.30%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>6,292.17</b>	<b>12,697.48</b>	<b>11,603.83</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Annual Meeting	0.00	0.00	87.96	0.00%
Internet & Publicity	0.00	0.00	111.00	0.00%
Membership Drive	656.86	490.21	656.86	10.40%
MN. Lakes Assoc./MN Wat	0.00	0.00	400.00	0.00%
Newsletter	654.38	712.37	1,964.11	10.40%
Printing & Postage	0.00	19.80	0.00	0.00%
Rent	0.00	0.00	750.00	0.00%
Secretary Compensation	0.00	0.00	750.00	0.00%
Social Events	0.00	0.00	1,919.91	0.00%
Supplies & Copies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Uncategorized Expense	0.00	0.00	71.90	0.00%
Water Projects	0.00	540.00	616.00	0.00%
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>1,311.24</b>	<b>1,762.38</b>	<b>7,327.74</b>	<b>20.80%</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>4,980.93</b>	<b>10,935.10</b>	<b>4,276.09</b>	<b>79.20%</b>

By sons, Jim (Jan) , Steve (Kathy), Grandchildren, Amy Kelley, Molly and Charlie, two great grand children, brother Frank (Judy) Ellering, sisters, Mandy (Tony) Bauman, Marge (Don ) Hopson, numerous nieces, nephews and friends. Memorials are preferred to the Big Birch Lake Association.

Services were held January 28 at the Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Minnetonka.

Nandine was born in Grey Eagle and moved Watkins as a child. Eventually she moved to Minneapolis where she married Richard (Dick).

They purchased their cabin on Big Birch Lake in the late 1950's and were strong supporters of the lake association.

She spent many happy hours sitting on the patio watching the lake, fishing from the dock and fishing from the pontoon boat out on "the bar." She loved frying up a meal of sunnies or a "Birch Lake Platter" which would include everything that was caught that day.

**Jean Margaret Provinzino**, age 88 of Waite Park (formerly of Melrose) died February 21, 2011.

Services were held at the Church of St. Joseph in Waite Park on February 25.

Jean was born December 14, 1922, in Mahnomon, MN to Joseph and Ethel (Godding ) Jedlicka.

She married John Provinzino on January 5, 1944 in Clarissa, MN. Most of their married years were spent in Melrose. Jean Taught 4th grade in New Munich and Melrose for 21 years. She moved to Waite Park in 1981 after he husband died.

Jean was a proud mother and grandmother, and an amazing quilter. She also enjoyed playing cards, beading, woodworking, golfing and spending time in nature.

Jean volunteered at the St. **Obituary continues on page 7**

## Obituaries of lake residents

**Gerald H. Spoo**, age 70 of Grey Eagle, died Thursday, January 6, 2011 at St. Michael's Nursing Home in Sauk Centre, Minnesota.

Funeral Services were held January 12 at the Patton-Schad Funeral Home in Grey Eagle with Rev. Fred Kutter officiating. Interment was in Lakeview cemetery.

Gerald Henry Spoo was born October 20, 1940 in Eureka, California, to Henry and Edith (Yaple) Spoo. He graduated from Upsala High School in 1959 and then served in the U.S. Army for three years. He was united in marriage to Sharon Lee Meldaus on October 31, 1964. Gerald worked for United Parcel Service for 34 years. Soon after his retirement, they built their home on Big Birch Lake.

Survivors include his three children, Tammy Spoo of St. Francis, Shawn Spoo of Milaca, and Heather Spoo of Elk River; sisters, Linda Spoo and Judy Spoo of Brandon, South Dakota; mother-in-law, Loretta Meldaus of Grey Eagle; and brother-in-law, Robert Meldaus of Grey Eagle.

Gerald was preceded in death by his wife, Sharon Lee Spoo on October 30, 2010; parents, Henry and Edith Spoo; father-in-law, Clarence Meldaus in 1972; and brother-in-law, Dale Meldaus in 2009.

**Nadine A. Grossman**, age 86 of Minnetonka died January 25, 2011. She was preceded in death by husband Richard, parents John and Amanda Ellering, brother John, sister Yvonne "Tootie" Curtis. She is survived

# Snow and more snow made the winter long

Owls hooting in the night and summer birds migrating from the south gave lie to the return of spring.

Two piliated woodpeckers came often to a suet feeder in the yard and demonstrated teamwork in January. The male pecked at the suet while clinging to the tree, and the female ate the pieces of suet that fell to the ground. Never before have they been such frequent winter visitors.

Whether cross country skiing or just walking, winter can be invigorating. Breathing fresh cold air, hearing the crunch of snow under foot, and the songs of birds in the distance, give one an appreciation of a season many escape. Falling asleep reading a book in a comfortable chair on a cold winter afternoon is the epitome of winter relaxation.

The coldest night of the season came with a full moon that shone across the lake's white surface. Not like the summer full moon reflecting off the ripples of water, the winter moonlight produced a dimly glowing landscape.

January ended with another winter storm—snow and cold temperatures. Throughout the month, frequent Alberta Clippers piled snow gradually in two and three inch increments. Those of us who live here never had to think about where to exercise. There was always snow to remove from driveways and walkways.

Even though it was 24 below zero at sunrise on the 10<sup>th</sup> of February, signs of spring emerged. A muskrat ran across our yard, entered the adjacent lake access and most likely made its way to Bass Creek. Gold finches gathered at the bird feeders were showing more gold in their feathers.

After two-and-a-half months of cold temperatures with very few breaks, the weather shifted to a warm spell on February 11. Temperatures in the upper 20's and lower 30's were greeted with

enthusiasm by nearly everyone. Walking outside was something to be savored rather than something to be endured.

We all know that ice fishing houses have become much more luxurious, and one I saw being pulled onto the lake in February had a TV reception dish attached to it. One can only wonder what other modern amenities were inside.

Three robins were in the yard February 16 feeding on the first bare ground we had seen since the end of November. After five days with temperatures in the 30's and 40's, the snowpack was getting thin.



A 1960's era travel trailer converted to an ice fishing house on BBL

As our hope for a slow snow melt began to materialize, Mother Nature thought we needed more snow. On February 20, snow began to fall, and before it was done 24 hours later, more than a foot of new snow had accumulated. At that point people began to grumble about the accumulation of snow and repeated efforts to clear it from driveways and walkways. On top of the mounds of snow was the reality that March, historically the second snowiest month, was still a week away.



## Kutter's Column

March came in like a lamb. Fish houses disappeared from the ice. Five inches of light, fluffy snow fell on March 6, and daytime temperatures rose above the freezing point. In other words, it was a normal start to March. Another dusting of snow came on March 12 accompanied by strong northwest winds.

The normal freeze thaw cycle of March was a good thing for snow melt. The above freezing temperatures allow the snow to diminish during the day and the below freezing temperature retard the thawing at night creating an even approach to the spring thaw that prevents flooding. However, we learned that this cycle can create another problem. We awoke March 14 without any water. A well technician discovered that our well had a large chunk of ice in it preventing the water from flowing. Then well technicians had to thaw the well and replace some wires in order to get the well working normally.

Just when the snow banks were well on their way to oblivion, a late March snow storm covered our dreams of spring weather. Snow began falling the evening of March 22 and continued through the next day. It was winter déjà vu.

A small flock of redwing blackbirds came to the bird feeders on March 24. Two pair of mourning dove followed.

It did not appear the snow would be gone by the end of March this year, and to think we had a snowless March in 2010.

In spite of the long, snow covered winter, heaven seems a little closer in a house beside the water.

Big Birch Lake Association, Inc  
**Balance Sheet**

**Floating Bog** *continued from page 1*

Individual BBLA members or groups are allowed to perform the removal or staking but need to contact their Area Director for direction and advice as to proper disposal of each unattached floating bog. It is the responsibility of the property owner, not the BBLA, to actually perform the bog removal or staking.

It is important to note the above Permit and Policy applies only to bogs that are already floating unattached in the lake and in no way allows or condones the cutting of existing attached bogs, which continues to be illegal and should be reported to the DNR if observed.

The new Blanket Permit does not allow lakeshore owners to push floating bogs back out into the lake to let them float to someone else's property.



**Floating bogs on BBL in a past spring.**

		Feb 28, '11
<b>ASSESTS</b>		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
	Cert of Deposits-CMFCU	\$127,434.00
	Checking-Central MN CU	\$16,501.94
	Money Mkt.-Central MN CU	\$10,075.35
	Share A/C Central MN CU	<u>\$20.90</u>
	<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<b><u>\$154,032.19</u></b>
	<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b><u>\$154,032.19</u></b>
	<b>TOTAL ASSESTS</b>	<b><u>\$154,032.19</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>		
Liabilities		
Long Term Liabilities		
	Buffer Obligations-Strip Agreement	\$9,996.50
	<b>Total Long Term Liabilities</b>	<b>\$9,996.50</b>
	<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$9,996.50</b>
Equity		
	Opening Bal Equity	\$25,233.98
	Retained Earnings	\$114,525.62
	Net Income	<u>\$4,276.09</u>
	<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$144,035.69</b>
	<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b><u>\$154,032.19</u></b>

**2nd Annual Lakeside Cleanup  
 June 11, 9-noon**

Got junk lying around your lakeside property? Want to get rid of it? The BBLA Board has made arrangements with Tom's Refuse of Melrose to collect miscellaneous junk, old appliances and other unused items on June 11, 2011, from 9 a.m. to noon at the parking lot of the Rock Tavern located at the intersection of Todd County 2 and 47.

There are fees for large items, so you may want to call 320-836-2206 ahead of time to ask about fees and acceptable items. Fees range from \$5 to \$20.

**Golf outing seeks new leadership**

Are you interested in helping with the annual golf outing? If so, please contact Ralph Mehr, BBLA president.

Mehr has organized the event at the Melrose course for several years and would like to hand it off to some new people.

The golf outing is held annually in June. (See registration form on page 8.) It includes an afternoon of golf followed by a meal which is also open to non-golfers.

The event usually attracts approximately 50 participants, and is an opportunity to socialize with other Big Birch Lake residents.

The Big Birch Lake Association Newsletter is an official publication of the Big Birch Lake Association, Inc.

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## 2011 Big Birch Lake Association Members

Anderson, Derry  
 Anderson, Marge  
 Anderson, Todd & Debbie  
 Anderson, Warren & Chadyienne  
 Andrews, Mike & Jackie  
 Arvig, Tom & Emily  
 Athmann, Judy  
 Atkinson, Dan & Jan  
 Atwood, Duane & Cindy  
 Beckermann, Fran & Linda  
 Beekhuizen, Julie & Steve  
 Bell, Bradley  
 Benson, Marilyn  
 Berg, Aaron & Becky  
 Berg, Andy & Chelsea  
 Berg, Ken and Bev  
 Berg, Louise & Dwaine  
 Bergmann, Ken & Marilyn  
 Beste, Tom & Julie  
 Beyer, Harlowe & Lillian  
 Blommel Family  
 Blommel, Leroy & Marilynn  
 Bohlig, Silverius (Ves)  
 Bomstad, Gary & Sue  
 Braegelmann, Patrick & Sandy  
 Brattensborg, Ruth  
 Broman, Ruth & Raleigh  
 Brooking, Betty  
 Brunner, Paul & Lauri  
 Bruyere, James & Marks-  
     Bruyere, Connie  
 Buchanan, Kent & JoAnne  
 Budde, Sheldon & Joan  
 Burger, Rob & Nanette  
 Bushman, Wayne  
 Butte, Rick & Colleen  
 Campbell, Mel & Sherry  
 Carlson, Allen & Shirley  
 Carpenter, Todd & Laura  
 Cebuhar, Chuck & Mary  
 Chirhart, Jim & Penny  
 Chmielewski, Daniel & Barbara  
 Claussen, Kimberly  
 Collins, Joyce  
 Collins, Ken & Margaret  
 Costello, Ann & Kevin  
 Czap, Neil & Catherine  
 Daly, William  
 Damrow, June & Paul  
 Davis, Scott & Marjo  
 Dinndorf, Don & Floss  
 Dobesh, Jeff & Jill  
 Doth, Steve & Jean  
 Dougherty, Joan  
 Dougherty, Tim  
 Dubiel, Marvin & Pam  
 Duclos, Ed & Verina  
 Ebnet, Michael  
 Elfering, Vic & Evie  
 Elieff, Daniel  
 Ell, Mar & Wendy  
 Ellering, Ben & Jenn  
 Enneking, Gene & Cheryl  
 Enright, Amy & Jennifer  
 Enright, Jack & Kay  
 Erdman, Chuck & Lyla  
 Erickson, Russ  
 Ersland, Lynn & Mary Kay  
 Eugel Law Firm, Greg Eugel  
 Fehn, Kenneth & Barbara  
 Felling, Merle & Kathy  
 Finken, Ida  
 First, Pete & Nicole  
 Flaws, Michael & Marilyn  
 Fox, Tom & Laurie  
 Freeman, Dave & Sue  
 Freeman, Ralph & Laurie  
 Frerichs, Al  
 Froehling, Joe & Jeanie  
 Funk, Rob & Carolyn  
 Gagne, Robert & Christine  
 Gallagher, Michael  
 Gallagher, Pat & Caryn  
 Gerads, Dale & Mary Lou  
 Gerding, Dewayne & Alvina  
 Gerdts, Bud & Elaine  
 Gerner, Robert & Charlene  
 Gervais, Greg & Cathy  
 Glaros, Tim & Neiger, Vivian  
 Goffin, G M  
 Gordon, Brian & Kirsten  
 Grossman, Steve & Kathy  
 Gruenke, Bernie  
 Hammarsten, Jim & Beth  
 Hammerstrom, Lee  
 Hanson, Earl & Carri  
 Hartmann, Alex and Betsy  
 Hatton, Rene & LuAnn  
 Heffron, Larry  
 Heinen, Doug & Nancy  
 Heisick, Rosemary  
 Helleman, Joe & Sheila  
 Henderson, John & Mary  
 Hennemann, Kitty  
 Henry, Paula  
 Hess, Herb & Mary Kay  
 Hinman, John & Kathryn  
 Hinnenkamp, Bill  
 Hinnenkamp, Ebe & Helen  
 Hinnenkamp, Hollis  
 Hird, M. Clark  
 Hughes, Bob & Sally  
 Hughes, Dan & Liz  
 Hughes, Frank & Bonnie  
 Hughes, Kathryn  
 Humbert, Rick & Lois  
 Huseby, Craig & Nicole  
 Hylden, Thomas & Shelley  
 Ingold, Kirk & Mandi  
 Ingold, Linnea  
 Jacobsen, James & Marjorie  
 Jaeger, Dwight & Audrey  
 Jarnow, Dean  
 Jepperson, Craig & Mary  
 Johnson, Craig & Debra  
 Johnson, Dale & Janet  
 Johnson, David & Betty  
 Johnson, Evelyn B.  
 Johnson, Jim & Mary  
 Johnson, Kay & Adrian  
 Kam, Erv  
 Kappes, Mike & Jannie  
 Kaschmitter, Jack & Terry  
 Kemper, Linda & Jeff  
 Kennedy, Dennis  
 Kerfeld, Art & Rosie  
 Kerfeld, Don & Diane  
 Kerfeld, Glenn  
 Kerzman Construction, Jeremy  
     Kerzman  
 Killian, Joe & Delores  
 Kirchner, Jerry & Jonelle  
 Kirscht, Dwight & Inez  
 Klaphake, Florian & Doreen  
 Klaphake, Pam & Steve  
 Klaphake, Rick & Deb  
 Klapperich, John & Suzy  
 Klapperich-Straw, Julie  
 Klasen, Vern & Marlene  
 Klocker, Barb  
 Kluempke, Dave  
 Kluempke, Jim & Cathy  
 Kluempke, Sarah & Paul  
 Klug, Jim & Darlene  
 Koch, Bob & Connie  
 Kohorst, Don & Lonnie/Bob &  
     Joann  
 Kollodge, Marv & Mary Jane  
 Konsor, Stephen & Karen  
 Kotsmith, Randy & Karen  
 Kotsmith, Terry & Sharon  
 Krebs, Jean  
 Krekelberg, Daniel  
 Krig, Gary & Peggy  
 Kuehne, Ron & Midge  
 Kuhlmann, Mary  
 Kutter, Robert & Nancy  
 Kylo, Carole  
 Lafayette Inc. Johnson Family  
 Lambrecht, Paul & Sandra  
 Langer, Denise  
 Larry's Construction Co. Pat & Larry  
     Kerzman  
 Larzelere Cabin  
 LeBrun, Tim & Judy  
 Lenzen, Ruthie & John  
 Lieder, Bill & Renee  
 Lilligren, Kirk & Cathy  
 Linz, Curt & Mary  
 Loehr, Jim & Renee  
 Lundeen, Darrell & Marlys  
 Maeder, Nik & Brandee  
 Martin, Cris & Bonnie  
 Matchinsky, Gary & Larson-Matchinsky,  
     Susie  
 Matchinsky, Jim & Rose  
 Matchinsky, Karl & Sharon  
 Matchinsky, Mike & Jill  
 McQueen, Kathleen  
 Mehr, Ralph & Mary Ann  
 Meyer, Barry & Stacy  
 Meyer, Glenn & Dianne  
 Meyer, Juel C.  
 Meyer, Ken & Sherry  
 Meyer, Leo & Janice  
 Meyer, Mark & Barb  
 Meyer, Roy & Susie  
 Meyer, Virg & Joyce  
 Mies, Roger & Mary  
 Miley, Rod & Nancy  
 Moening, Lee & Judy  
 Mohr, Richard & Marilyn  
 Mohs, Dean & Sandy  
 Molitor, Jon & Pat  
 Moser, Scott/Greg/Patrick  
 Muellner, Harry & Joanie  
 Muellner, Thom & Paula  
 Mullen, Steve & Sockalingam, Suganya  
 Nathe, Mike & Laura  
 Neibling, Peggy  
 Nelson, Gary & Pat  
 Neville, Jim & Judie  
 Neville, Steve  
 Niehaus, Bob & Mies-Niehaus, Deb  
 Niehaus, Tony & Carol  
 Nohner, Bernice  
 Nohner, Kevin & Mary  
 Nordman, Alan & Judy  
 Olson, Cathy  
 Orth, Dave & Linda  
 Osendorf Family  
 Ostendorf, Mark & Lisa  
 Ostendorf, Ozzie & Lenore  
 Ostrem, Justin & Amy  
 Palmquist, Mary Pluth  
 Patch, Dick & Lois  
 Pavlicek, John & Kathy  
 Pearson, John & Diona  
 Pelo, Rod & Phyllis  
 Peterson, Tom & Ginger  
 Pflipsen, Charles & Arlene  
 Phillips, Roger & Rosemary  
 Piersak, Tom & Jeff  
 Plafcan, Paul & Deborah  
 Plombon, Roger & Gloria  
 Poganski, Rob & Lisa  
 Poganski, Roger & Joyce  
 Poganski, Rock & Marcia  
 Powers, Robert & Kathleen  
 Provinzino, John  
 Pung, Kenneth & Mary  
 Rahn, Dave & Lisa  
 Rediske, Dick & Marilyn  
 Reed, Beverly  
 Renard, Jeanine & Tom  
 Richardson, David & Anna  
 Richie, Lovell & Betty  
 Rieger, Pamela & Joel  
 Rieland, Chuck & Lucy  
 Rieland, Shirley  
 Rieland, Mike & Mary  
 Roe, John & Janet  
 Roehrl, Mel & Ann  
 Rolfes, Robert & Charles  
 Rose, Herm & Therese  
 Rose, John & Sharon  
 Rudolph, Jerry & Debbie  
 Russel, Jim & Mindy  
 Rutherford, Laurel & Peter  
 Salwasser, Jim & Louise  
 Sand, Dan & Mary  
 Savage, Bill & Sharon  
 Schanhaar, Tom & Knutson, Deb  
 Schiemann, Chuck & Ellie  
 Schiffer, Dean & Carla  
 Schlicht, Diane  
 Schlough, Tom & Joyce  
 Schmid, Ted & Julie  
 Schmidt, Tom & JoAnn  
 Schnettler, John & Jan  
 Schnettler, Mary & Ed  
 Schrom, Richard & Joyce  
 Schwartz, Steve & Joann  
 Schwieters, Chuck & Bea  
 Sealock, Don & Jennie  
 Seep, Terry & Kimberly  
 Seitzer, Jim & Belinda  
 Sexton Family Cabin, LLC  
 Shafer, Tom & Bonnie  
 Sieben, Ann & Chris  
 Sieben, Russ & Mary  
 Silbernagel, John & Marie  
 Sinclair, Jan & Ken  
 Sinclair, Jim & Carolyn  
 Sisters of the Order of St. Benedict  
 Smoley, Greg & Gretchen  
 Sorenson, Larry & Loanne  
 Sorenson, Lois  
 Stalboerger, Lorraine  
 Steffy, Trent & Mary  
 Strack, Laurie & Robert  
 Strait, Peggy  
 Stueve, Charlie & Doris  
 Stueve, Elaine  
 Tanner, Ed & Lucy  
 Taylor, Norm & Mildred  
 Tembrock, Henry & Marion  
 Thieschafer, Beth  
 Thome, Scott & Maxine  
 Thompson, Sally & Rod  
 Tiemann, George & Lorraine  
 Tiemann, Modonna  
 Timmerman, John & Molly  
 Timp, Art & Jean  
 Tomsche, David & Molly  
 Tomsche, Ed & Theresa  
 Trulson, Kent  
 Tweedale, Craig & Mary Lou  
 Vannatta, Jeremy & Jill  
 Vener, John & Corinne  
 Vener, Mike & Kim  
 Viere, Kevin & Ann  
 Voelker, Fran & Mil  
 Waldvogel, Dennis  
 Walker, Tom  
 Walters, George & Sue  
 Weitzel, Bob & Jean  
 Weitzel, Mary & John  
 Welle, John & JoAnn  
 Westpahl, Monte & Pat  
 Wiebolt, Bernard & Dorine  
 Wolf, Lori  
 Wolters, Ronald  
 Worms, Tim & Gidlow, Sonja  
 Wright, Walter & Phyllis  
 Zaborski, Tom & Julia  
 Zackoski, Mike & Kim  
 Zaczkowski, Marie  
 Zenzen, Art & Marilyn  
 Zimmerman, Larry & Marion  
 Zimmerman, Lowell & Kris  
 Zirbes, June



**Obituary** continued from page 2

Cloud Public Schools, St. Joseph Catholic School, St. Cloud Hospital, the Stearns County History Museum and with the Retired Senior Volunteers Program.

She was a member of the St. Cloud Legion Club, Retired Educators of Minnesota, Reading Room Society and St. Stephens Society. She was a member of the Church of St. Joseph.

Jean is survived by her three children: Dr. Richard (Lynn) Provinzino of Park Rapids, MN and Peoria, AZ. John C. "Chuck" (Jannine) Provinzino of St. Cloud and Jan Hasbrouck (Jack) of Sartell. She is also survived by 10 grandchildren and 11 great-grand children.

Jean was preceded in death by her husband, John and two brothers, Glen and Marvin Jedlicka.

**Joseph M. Killian** age 93 of Golden Valley died February 12, 2011. He was preceded in death by an infant daughter, son, Mark and first wife, Mary.

He is survived by his wife Delores, son, Randy (Gayle), daughters Jane Schmidt (Daniel) and Nancy Killian, grandchildren, Corrine, Paul, Mary Grant and Juliette. He is also survived by his brother, Emeron, sisters, Antoinette, Genevieve and Marion.

Joe was the founder of North End Hardware and other business ventures. He was a generous man and even established a preschool in Peru.

Joe enjoyed hunting and fishing especially at Big Birch Lake.

He was full of adventure, and he circled the globe with the Friendship Force, establishing life-long relationships.

Services were held at St. Margaret Mary Church in Golden Valley on February 15.

## Members comment about the lake association

The BBLA membership renewal form contains a space for comments from members. Here are some from the 2011 renewal forms.

"We are summer residents at Sunset Beach Resort. We thank the association for their diligence in maintaining a superior lake environment." —Dwight & Inez Kirscht

Big Birch Lake Association Board of Directors			
Director	Representing	Lake Phone	Home Phone
Ralph H. Mehr, Pres.	Area B Director		320-256-7416
John Roe, VP	Area E Director		320-285-4965
Jonelle Kirchner, Treas.	Area H Director		320-285-3677
James Chirhart, Sec.	Director at Large		320-256-7223
Ken Berg	Area F Director	612-578-3182	763-425-3182
Don Dinndorf	Director at Large	320-836-2800	320-845-2665
Jim Jacobsen	Area A Director	320-256-3804	612-729-5297
Janne Kappes	Area I Director		320-285-2002
Robert Kutter	Director At Large		320-285-5114
Lee Moening	Area J Director		320-250-1649
Dean Mohs	Area D Director		320-285-7155
Chuck Rieland	Director At Large	320-256-7148	763-571-9661
Jim Sinclair	Director At Large		320-285-5605
Gene Waldorf	Area G Director		320-285-8867
Monte Westphal	Area C Director		320-836-2988

BBLA email address: [bbla@meltel.net](mailto:bbla@meltel.net)

## News from the BBLA Board Room

The BBLA received many donations in memory of Mrs. Grossman.

The online newsletter is uploaded to the BBLA website as soon as it is sent to the printer.

A national pollutant permit is needed as of April 9 to spray for worms.

There are three rocks on the north side of the channel that caused some boater problems last summer. The board is looking into ways to move the rocks from the channel.

President Ralph Mehr will check the channel between Big and Little Birch Lake to see if it needs to be sprayed for weeds this year.

Volunteers are needed for the aquatic vegetation survey and for Secchi disk reading. If you are interested in volunteering for either job, please contact the BBLA president.

**President's Letter** continued from page 1 review it in its' entirety. With heavy snow melt and probable spring rains we expect high water and with that more than likely, bog problems.

Membership renewal and response is once again great. Sponsorship renewal is also fantastic as are donations to the Lake Association. Your board really appreciates all of the volunteer efforts, time and money which allow us to do what is necessary to keep Big Birch Lake the beautiful resource that we enjoy.

Thank you all for your continuing support and for taking ownership of all of the successes we achieve as a board. See ya on the Puddle!

Ralph H. Mehr  
President

*"May your troubles be less, your blessings be more and nothing but happiness come through your door."*

"Bob Kutter's column is always a welcome read. I consider it a true 'diary of BBL.' Thanks to every director. We put our trust in their good judgment from season to season." —Richard & Marilyn Mohr

"Thanks for preserving Big Birch Lake. I have been coming here since 1927 and still love it." —Mary Pluth Palmquist

"Thanks for all of your volunteer help. Not many lakes can boast of such an active successful lake association." —Tom Walker

Thanks to all of the members of the BBLA Board—past and present—for your dedicated service. It is greatly appreciated." —Bill & Sharon Savage

BIG BIRCH LAKE ASSOCIATION, INC  
PO BOX 342  
GREY EAGLE, MN 56336

*Address Service Requested*

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**Big Birch Lake Annual Ladies Spring Luncheon**  
**Saturday, May 21, 2011**  
**Hub Supper Club — Five miles north of Grey Eagle**

**Baby Field Greens with Balsamic Vinaigrette**  
**Homemade French Crepes stuffed with Chicken and**  
**Mushrooms**  
**French Bread**  
**Crème Brule**  
**Coffee & Ice Tea**  
**Gratuities & Taxes Included**  
**Cost—\$15.00**



**Open bar and social hour at 11:30 a.m.**  
**Lunch at 12:30 p.m.**

***Come meet your lake friends and neighbors***

Please return registration with payment by May 11 to:  
(Make checks payable to Big Birch Lake Association)  
Jonelle Kirchner  
Big Birch Lake Association  
PO Box 342  
Grey Eagle, MN 56336

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

No. of reservations \_\_\_\_\_ Phone no. \_\_\_\_\_

**14th Annual**  
**BIG BIRCH LAKE RESIDENTS GOLF OUTING**  
MEADOWLARK COUNTRY CLUB, MELROSE, MN. 56352  
**FRIDAY, JUNE 24TH 2011**

12:30 p.m. Sign in  
1:30 p.m. Tee off  
5:30 p.m. Attitude Adjustment  
6:00 p.m. Buffet Dinner and Awards  
\$35.00 Entry fee includes golf, carts, dinner and prizes  
**BURGERS AND BRATS AT THE TURN**

\$10.00 Entry fee includes dinner only, no golf and is  
non-refundable for no-shows **LIMIT 90 GOLFERS**  
**PLEASE RETURN ENTRY FEE BY JUNE 12TH 2011**

Please detach entry form below and send to:  
BIG BIRCH LAKE ASSOCIATION  
P.O. BOX 342  
GREY EAGLE, MN 56336

\_\_\_\_ ENCLOSED IS MY CHECK FOR \$35.00 GOLF AND  
DINNER

\_\_\_\_ ENCLOSED IS MY CHECK FOR \$10.00 DINNER ONLY,  
*NON REFUNDABLE FOR NO SHOWS*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY AND STATE \_\_\_\_\_

INDICATE YOUR GOLFING ABILITY FOR TEAM BALANCE  
BY CIRCLING THE APPROPRIATE LETTER.

A--VERY GOOD  
B--GOOD

C-- FAIR  
D--- GOLF A FEW