



No 99

July, 2010

President's Letter

Calendar

BBLA Board Meeting

July 17, 2010

BBLA Annual Meeting

August 21, 2010

9 a.m.

St. Joseph's Catholic Church

Grey Eagle

BBLA Board Meeting

September 18, 2010

Now that summer has arrived anglers and boaters will be using the lake and all of the accesses. With that in mind, the BBLA has discussed ways to cleanup and in some way standardize the access signage so that it would be more pleasing and visible to users. It turns out the DNR is also working on that issue and there are rules and regulations governing signage at public accesses. Therefore, many of the suggestions we had that we were working on will not be implemented. We will, nonetheless, be cleaning the BBLA signs and cutting brush so that all of the DNR placed signs will be visible. We will be able to work on any of accesses not owned and maintained by the DNR with proper owner permission. You may notice some changes at these accesses in the future.

Also, boat owners and anglers will be asked to take on more responsibility in the states ongoing effort to slow and control the spread of invasive aquatic species such as milfoil, zebra mussels, spiny water fleas, and Asian

carp, etc.

Beginning on July 1st of 2010, a new law went into effect making it mandatory for boaters and anglers to drain live wells, boat wells, bilges and drain plugs before leaving a boat landing and transporting a boat on a public highway. Under the new law a person may not dispose of bait in waters of the state. On infested fisheries, fishermen will have to bring water from home to transport minnows or toss them in the garbage at the public landings. DNR enforcement officials and volunteers have been working invasive species programs for years but until recently most of the focus was directed toward invasive aquatic plants and the dangers of spreading them. As zebra mussels and spiny water fleas and now Asian carp problems have surfaced, educational practices will continue and enforcement of the new law will be much more rigid than in the past. Once again good common sense practices are something we should all be aware of when using the lake to protect it from these invaders.

President's Letter continues on page 2.

Members will elect BBLA Board members at annual meeting August 21

Four board members will be elected at the annual meeting on August 21, 2010. The board members whose terms expire are Ralph Mehr-Area B, Jonelle Kirchner-Area H, Renee Loehr-Area I, and Nancy Heinen-Area J.

Mehr and Kirchner will both seek reelection but Loehr and Heinen will not.

The nominating committee has prepared a slate of candidates. In addition to Mehr and Kirchner, Jannie Kappes is nominated for Area I, and Lee Moening for Area J.

Association members have an opportunity to nominate candidates from the floor provided they comply with the association by-laws which state: "Nominations may be made from the floor at the annual meeting provided that notice of the intent thereof has been given to the president or vice-president of the associa-

tion or any member of the nominating committee at least 10 days before the annual general membership meeting."

Members of the nominating committee are Dean Mohs, John Roe and Jim Jacobson.

Attend the annual meeting August 21

The annual meeting of the BBLA will be held Saturday, August 21 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Grey Eagle. The meeting begins at 9 a.m. with refreshments provided.

In addition to the usual business, a few board members will make short presentations about the association website, signage, lakescaping and Don Pitt.

Invite a neighbor to join you at the meeting.

Inside this issue:

Report on Activities	2
Kutter's Column	3
Association Membership	4
Balance Sheet	5
Annual Minutes	5
Contributing Sponsors	6

Big Birch Lake Association Inc.
Report on Activities May, 2010

	May '10	May '09	Jul '09-May '10	% of Income
Income				
Book Proceeds	0.00	0.00	392.77	0.00
Donations-Members	20.00	90.00	3,010.00	1.20%
Donations-nonmembers	0.00	0.00	200.00	0.00%
Golf Outing	440.00	300.00	780.00	26.70%
Interest Income	182.41	281.66	2,437.94	11.10%
Membership Dues	300.00	180.00	10,590.00	18.20%
Memorials-Other	0.00	0.00	540.00	0.00%
Product or Service Income	0.00	270.00	150.00	0.00%
Social Events	672.00	520.00	672.00	40.70%
Sponsors Contributions	35.00	0.00	2,965.00	2.10%
Total Income	1,649.41	1,641.66	21,737.71	100.00%
Expenses				
Annual Meeting	50.00	0.00	437.00	3.00%
Channel clearing & water	0.00	0.00	200.00	0.00%
Computer/Programs	0.00	0.00	74.80	0.00%
Fish Creek Project	5,161.65	0.00	5,161.65	312.90%
Insurance	0.00	0.00	2,457.00	0.00%
Internet & Publicity	10.00	5.00	45.00	0.60%
Membership Drive	0.00	0.00	490.21	0.00%
MN Lakes Assoc./MN Water	0.00	0.00	410.00	0.00%
Newsletter	708.96	798.13	4,198.32	43.00%
Printing & Postage	3.50	0.00	23.30	0.20%
Rent	0.00	0.00	1,875.00	0.00%
Secretary Compensation	300.00	0.00	1,650.00	18.20%
Social Events	650.00	784.00	1,636.04	39.40%
Supplies & Copies	22.00	0.00	29.29	0.00%
Uncategorized Expense	0.00	0.00	309.00	0.00%
Water Projects	71.55	0.00	611.55	4.30%
Total Expense	6,977.66	1,587.13	19,608.16	423.00%

President's Letter continued from page 1

I recently saw a DNR warden on the lake, and he advised that he is watching for violators who cut weeds and bogs without a proper permit and he is of the opinion activity in this area on the lake has decreased. If true, this is good news!

Have a safe, enjoyable and happy summer on Big Birch! See ya on the Puddle!

Ralph H. Mehr, President

Membership continued from page 4

Wander, Dave & Joan
Warnert, Ron & Lee Meyer
Weitzel, Bob & Jean
Weitzel, Mary & John
Welle, John & JoAnn
Westbrock, Larry & Daine
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
Zimmerman, Larry & Marion
Zimmerman, Lowell & Kris
Zirbes, June

Membership available to all lake users

Membership in the Big Birch Lake Association is not limited to lake property owners.

The BBLA Board encourages all self supporting children, relatives and friends of property owners who use the lake to become members by purchasing a membership.

The association already has many non-property owners who are members.

Membership is \$30 and the form is available by contacting bbla@meltel.net or by asking your area representative to get a form for you.

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
Nancy Heinen	Area J Director	320-285-2436	320-252-8697
Jim Jacobsen	Area A Director	320-256-3804	612-729-5297
Robert Kutter	Director At Large		320-285-5114
Renee Loehr	Area I Director		320-285-2823
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

Big Birch Lake Association e-mail address: bbla@meltel.net

Ice-out Dates

April 7, 2004 April 9, 2005
April 10, 2006 April 16, 2007
April 30, 2008 April 20, 2009
April 2, 2010

A fickle spring leads to summer

“April prepares her green traffic light and the world thinks Go,” wrote Christopher Morley.

We definitely had the green light in April. The ice went out of BBL on April 2, 2010. It was the earliest ice-out of the past 7 years. A loon arrived the same day and its mate came two days later. Other waterfowl used the lake as a stop-over on their migration: ducks, Canada geese, gulls.

Early April weather was pleasantly mild but no rain fell until the 12th when there was an inch. By mid-April temperatures were in the lower 70's for highs. In other words, it was an early spring. In fact, April weather was the second warmest April on record.

May began on the cooler side compared to April. Temperatures were in the range of 35 to 60. Cold and strong northwest winds kept the lake very choppy during the first week. By the middle of the month it seemed the normal April and May had exchanged places. Cool damp weather consumed the second week, but the good thing was the 2 ½ inches of rain, a much needed resource.

The rose-breasted grosbeaks arrived May 6, and the Baltimore oriole on the 11th. Their beautiful songs filled the air as they flew from treetops to feeders. A pair of Canada geese guided newborn goslings on the water May 13.

The fishing opener had beautiful weather for a change. Winds were light, the sky was blue and the temperature was in the low 70's. A couple of people I talked to didn't have good luck fishing the opener on BBL.

An eagle swooped down over the shoreline on Sunday evening, May 16 and perched in a tree. It was followed by a gull, some crows and an assortment of small birds. The eagle remained in the tree for a few minutes and then flew south across the lake. Later I could hear two loons giving their distress calls. I assumed the eagle had made a visit to their territory. Turning back toward the house, I noticed a dead loon washed ashore on our beach. My wife notified the DNR, and I buried the loon but did not notice any body wounds. Thinking it might be one of the pair on the northwest

shore of the upper bay, we watched for a solo loon. The next day the pair that occupies the northwest area swam by, and a few days later we saw a single loon meeting up with the pair.

One of the joys of spring is seeing all of the birds return on their schedule. The latecomers, green herons and kingfishers made their debut the third week of May. The only regular I did not see this year in May was the yellow-headed blackbird, but one came to the feeders the second week of June. Another joy is watching birds raise their young. Canada geese, with their goslings lined up between the parents, paddled by frequently. One pair had two goslings and the other had eight. A mallard hen swam by with eight little ones in tow.

A wide, softly shaded rainbow settled over the lake on May 25 at sundown. Reflecting across the water to the shore, the rainbow faded as the sun set.

June burst forth with beautiful weather including some gentle ground soaking rain showers, a big supply of lake flies, and plenty of predators to feast on the flies. One evening while sitting on the deck, I heard a rush of bird wings in a tree. I looked up and saw a large flock of cedar waxwings gobbling lake flies. The birds moved quickly through the tree munching as they went and then flew on to another tree down the beach.

The middle of June was cool, cloudy and rainy, a stark contrast to the past seven years. The rain was badly needed, but most lakeside dwellers tired of the clouds and cool temperatures.

The mallard hen with eight and later seven duckling was a frequent visitor to our shore. She would stand on our dock while her babies swam under the dock or found food in the immediate area. Maybe she was taking a respite from looking after the young or maybe the dock provided a great vantage from which to watch over her brood.

My wife and I took our fishing boat close to the old rock road to the smaller island, where we watched and photographed 18 pelicans as they preened and shuttled from rock to rock. Those large



Kutter's Column

birds appear to stand on the rocks for long periods of time. Occasionally they will glide above the lake or swim to find food. During the stormy weather on June 17, two pelicans were riding the strong winds after the rainstorm passed.

Father's Day weather was perfect for being on the water. Blue skies, calm winds, and warm temperatures provided the ideal setting for exploring the lake. The same day the Star Tribune began a three-part story on the conditions of Minnesota lakes. There was a stark contrast between the stories about some polluted lakes and the clear water of Big Birch. It was gratifying to spend time on water that has improved over the years.

While fishing on June 21, a friend and I heard and watched an osprey near Hammarsten's Island.

It turns out that June was wetter than the June's of the recent past. That also meant more cloudy days and overall lower temperatures, but the needed rainfall brought us closer to average rainfall for the season.

After hearing at the June BBLA board meeting that the number of newborn loons appeared to be down this year, it was gratifying and surprising to see the pair of loons from the northwest area of the upper bay feeding a tiny chick on June 28. Both adults dived and swam under water repeatedly to find food for the little one. With very clear water near the shore, we could watch the parents swim under water, something I'd only seen in videos.

So spring was as surprising as ever. April felt like May. May seemed like April, and June came with more rain and clouds than in the past seven years. We got the green light to glide into summer where heaven seems a little closer in a house beside the water.

2010 Big Birch Lake Association Members

Anderson, Derry
 Anderson, Marge
 Anderson, Todd & Debbie
 Anderson, Warren & Chadyienne
 Andrews, Mike & Jackie
 Anonymous
 Arvig, Tom & Emily
 Athmann, Judy
 Atkinson, Dan & Jan
 Atwood, Duane & Cindy
 Auger, John & Karen
 Bauer, Melvin & Lois
 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
 Blommel Family
 Blommel, Leroy & Marilyn
 Boecker, Elmer & Juliana
 Bohlig, Silverius (Ves)
 Bomstad, Gary & Sue
 Braegelmann, Patrick & Sandy
 Brandon, Dave & Jeanne
 Brattensborg, Ruth
 Broman, Ruth & Raleigh
 Brooking, Betty
 Brunner, Paul & Lauri
 Bruyere, James & Marks-
 Bruyere, Connie
 Buchanan, Kent & JoAnne
 Budde, Sheldon & Joan
 Burger, Robert & Nanette
 Bushman, Wayne & Ceil
 Butte, Rick & Colleen
 Campbell, Mel & Sherry
 Carlson, Allen
 Carpenter, Todd & Laura
 Cash, Brian
 Cebuhar, Chuck & Mary
 Chirhart, Jim & Penny
 Chmielewski, Daniel & Barbara
 Claussen, Kimberly
 Collins, Ken & Margaret
 Czap, Neil & Catherine
 Czarnowski, Lou
 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
 Elfering, Vic & Evie
 Elieff, Daniel
 Engelmeyer, Ron & Mary Kay
 Enneking, Gene & Cheryl
 Enright, Jack & Kay
 Erickson, Russ
 Erickson, Scott
 Ersland, Lynn & Mary Kay
 Enright, Jack & Kay
 Fehn, Kenneth & Barbara
 Felling, Merle & Kathy
 Finken, Ida
 First, Pete & Nicole
 Flaws, Michael & Marilyn
 Fox, Thomas & Laurie
 Freeman, Dave & Sue
 Freeman, Ralph & Laurie
 Frerichs, Clarence
 Froehling, Joe & Jeanie
 Funk, Rob & Carolyn
 Gagne, Robert & Christine
 Gallagher, Mike
 Gallagher, Pat & Caryn
 Garding, Ralph & Rachel
 Gerads, Dale & Mary Jo
 Gerding, Dewayne & Alvina
 Gerdts, Bud & Elaine
 Gerner, Robert & Coplan, Charlene
 Glaser, Ted
 Glaros, Tim & Neiger, Vivian
 Goffin, Gerry
 Gordon, Brian & Kirsten
 Grossman, Nadine H.
 Grossman, Steve & Kathy
 Groth, Cathy & Gervais, Greg
 Gruenke, Bernie
 Hammarsten Dick & Cathy
 Hammarsten, James
 Hammarsten, James Eric & Beth
 Hammerstrom, Lee
 Hammerstrom, Mary Jean
 Hanson, Earl & Carri
 Hartmann, Alex and Betsy
 Hatton, Rene & LuAnn
 Heinen, Doug & Nancy
 Helleman, Joe & Sheila
 Henderson, John & Mary
 Hennemann, Kitty
 Henry, Tom & Paula
 Herges, Alma
 Hess, Herb & Mary Kay
 Hinnenkamp, Bill
 Hinnenkamp, Eb & Helen
 Hinnenkamp, Holly & Mary Jo
 Hird, Louis & Clark
 Hird, Michael T.
 Holthaus, Ken & Joan
 Hughes, Bob & Sally
 Hughes, Dan & Liz
 Hughes, Frank & Bonnie
 Hughes, Parry & Kathy
 Humbert, Rick & Lois
 Huseby, Robert
 Hylden, Thomas & Shelley
 Ingold, Kirk & Mandi
 Ingold, Linnea
 Jacobsen, James & Marjorie
 Jaeger, Dwight & Audrey
 Jarsko, Judy
 Jepperson, Craig & Mary
 Jeske, Ron & Nancy
 Johnson, Craig & Debra
 Johnson, Dale & Janet
 Johnson, David & Betty
 Johnson, Evelyn B.
 Johnson, James II & Mary A.
 Johnson, Kay & Adrian
 Kappes, Mike & Jannie
 Kaschmitter, Jack & Teresa
 Kemper, Linda & Jeff
 Kennedy, Dennis
 Kerfeld, Art & Rosie
 Kerfeld, Don & Diane
 Kerfeld, Glenn
 Kerzman, Larry & Pat-Larry's Const
 Killian, Joe & Delores
 Kirchner, Jerry & Jonelle
 Kirscht, Dwight & Inez
 Klaphake, Florian & Doreen
 Klaphake, Pam & Steve
 Klaphake, Rick & Deb
 Klapperich, John & Suzy
 Klapperich-Straw, Julie
 Klases, Vern & Marlene
 Klocker, Barb
 Kluempke, Dave
 Kluempke, Jim & Cathy
 Kluempke, Sarah & Paul
 Klug, Jim & Darlene
 Koch, Robert & Connie
 Kohorst, Don & Bob
 Kollodge, Marv & Mary Jane
 Konsor, Stephen & Karen
 Kotsmith, Randy & Karen
 Kotsmith, Terry & Sharon
 Kraker, Bob
 Krebs, Regina
 Krekelberg, Dan
 Krig, Gary & Peggy
 Kuehne, Ron & Midge
 Kuhlmann, Mary
 Kutter, Lee and Gaye
 Kutter, Robert & Nancy
 Kylo, Carole & Jack
 Lafayette Inc. Johnson Family
 Lambrecht, Paul & Sandra
 LaMere, Mary & Art
 Langer, Denise
 Larson, Gayle & Lemons, Karen
 Larzelere, Deborah; Parker,
 Jacaueline & Masters, Melinda
 LeBrun, Tim & Judy
 Lenzen, Ruthie & John
 Lieder, Bill & Renee
 Lilligen, Kirk & Cathy
 Linz, Curt & Mary
 Loehr, Jim & Renee
 Lundeen, Darrell & Marlys
 Martin, Cris & Bonnie
 Martin, Julie
 Martland, Richard & Marge
 McConnell, David & Ann
 McQueen, Kathleen
 Mehr, Mike & Lori
 Mehr, Ralph & Mary Ann
 Messerich, Steve & Char
 Meyer, Aloys & Arlene
 Meyer, Barry & Stacy
 Meyer, Glenn & Dianne
 Meyer, Juel C.
 Meyer, Ken & Sherry
 Meyer, Roy & Susie
 Meyer, Virg & Joyce
 Miley, Brad & Denise
 Miley, Rod & Nancy
 Moening, Lee & Judy
 Mohr, Richard & Marilyn
 Mohs, Dean & Sandy
 Molitor, Jon & Pat
 Molitor, Karen & Chick
 Muellner, Harry & Joanie
 Muellner, Thom & Paula
 Mullen, Steve & Sockalingam, Suganya
 Nathe, Mike & Laura
 Nathe, Renee & Howie
 Neibling, Peggy
 Nelson, Gary & Pat
 Neville, Jim & Judie
 Neville, Steve
 Niehaus, Bob & Mies-Niehaus, Deb
 Niehaus, Tony & Carol
 Nohner, Bernice
 Nohner, John & Ardis
 Nohner, Kevin & Mary
 Nordman, Alan & Judy
 Olson, Cathy
 Orth, Dave & Linda
 Ostendorf, Mark & Lisa
 Ostendorf, Ozzie & Lenore
 Ostrem, Justin & Amy
 Palmquist, Mary Pluth
 Patch, Richard & Lois
 Pavlicek, John & Kathy
 Pearson, John & Diona
 Pelo, Rod & Phyllis
 Peterson, Tom & Ginger
 Pflipsen, Charles & Arlene
 Piersak, Tom & Jeff
 Pladson, Terry & Sue
 Plafcan, Paul & Deborah
 Plombon, Roger & Gloria
 Peopping, Lloyd & Millie
 Poganski, Rob & Lisa
 Poganski, Roger & Joyce
 Powers, Robert & Kathleen
 Pung, Kenneth & Mary
 Rahn, David & Lisa
 Rediske, Dick & Marilyn
 Reed, Beverly
 Renard, Jeanine & Tom
 Richardson, David & Anna
 Richie, Lovell & Betty
 Rieger, Pamela & Joel
 Rieland, Chuck & Lucy
 Rieland, Jack & Shirley
 Rieland, Mike & Mary
 Ritter, Greg & Barb
 Roe, John & Janet
 Roehrl, Mel & Ann
 Rogotzke, Barb & Arnold
 Rolfe, Robert & Charles
 Rolfes, Harvey & Sally
 Rose, Herm & Therese
 Rose, John & Sharon
 Rudolph, Jerry & Debbie
 Russel, Jim & Mindy
 Rutherford, Laurel & Peter
 Salwasser, James & Mary
 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
 Schmit, Nicholas, & Karen
 Schmitz, David & Joyce
 Schnettler, John & Jan
 Schnettler, Mary & Ed
 Schriver, John & Lezlie
 Schrom, Richard & Joyce
 Schwartz, Dick & Ellen
 Schwartz, Stephen & Joann
 Schwieters, Chuck & Bea
 Seep, Terry & Kimberly
 Seitzer, Jim & Belinda
 Sexton, Jim & Yvonne
 Shafer, Tom & Bonnie
 Sieben, Russell & Mary
 Silbernagel, John & Marie
 Sinclair, Jan & Ken
 Sinclair, Jim & Carolyn
 Susters of the Order of St. Benedict
 Smoley, Greg & Gretchen
 Sorenson, Larry & Loanne
 Sorenson, Ray & Lois
 Spence, Jim & Chris
 Spoo, Jerry & Sharon
 Stalboerger, Lorraine
 Steinbring, John & Sandy
 Strack, Laurie & Bob
 Strait, Peggy
 Stueve, Charlie & Doris
 Stueve, Elaine
 Tanner, Ed & Lucy
 Taylor, Norm & Mildred
 Tembrock, Henry & Marion
 The Bob Osendorf Family
 Thieschafer, Beth
 Thode, Ed & Barbara
 Thome, Scott & Maxine
 Thompson, Sally & Rod
 Tiemann, Bill
 Tiemann, George & Lorraine
 Tiemann, Lyle
 Timmerman, John & Molly
 Timp, Art & Jean
 Tomsche, David & Molly
 Tomsche, Ed & Theresa
 Trulson, Kent & Loretta
 Tschida, Wayne & JoAnn
 Tweedale, Craig & Mary Lou
 Vener, John & Corinne
 Vener, Mike & Kim
 Viere, Kevin & Ann
 Voelker, Fran & Mil
 Waldorf, Gene & Bernie
 Waldvogel, Dennis
 Walker, Tom
 Walters, George & Sue
Membership continues on page 2

The Big Birch Lake Newsletter is an official publication of the Big Birch Lake Association, Inc.
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 Grey Eagle, Minnesota 56336
 Ralph Mehr, President
 Robert Kutter, Editor
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**BIG BIRCH
 LAKE ASSOCIATION
 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

AUGUST 15, 2009

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH
 PARISH HALL GREY EAGLE, MN
 56336

President Ralph Mehr called the meeting to order at 9:03AM. Ralph then introduced the directors. The following directors were present: President Ralph Mehr, Bob Kutter, Jim Chirhart, Don Dinndorf, Jim Jacobsen, Renee Loehr, Chuck Rieland, John Roe, Jim Sinclair, Gene Waldorf, Dean Mohs

The following directors were absent: Jonelle Kirchner, Nancy Heinen, Roger Plombon, and Monte Westphal.

Minutes of 2008 Annual Meeting

Ralph Mehr directed attention to the Financial Report and the Annual Meeting Minutes for 2008. Ralph asked that we dispense with the reading of the minutes. A motion was made to dispense the reading of the minutes, and approve the minutes as printed.

Motion – Gene Waldorf 2nd – Marv Kolodge. Motion was adopted.

Treasurer's Report

Gene Waldorf presented the Treasurer's Report for Jonelle Kirchner, Treasurer. Gene reviewed the list of items in the report. The totals were summarized as follows:

Total assets as of June 30, 2009 are \$138,425.10
 Total Income \$24,225.92
 Total Expenses \$22,572.99

Gene commented that the Fish Creek buffer costs are tied to the CPI (Cost of Living Index) so that payments have and will continue to increase. This is to compensate for increase in property values. Gene also answered questions on the Sep-

Big Birch Lake Association, Inc
Balance Sheet

			May 31, '10
ASSESTS			
Current Assets			
Checking/Savings			
	Cert of Deposit-CMFCU		\$125,985.76
	Checking-Central MN CU		\$14,517.02
	Money Mkt.-Central MN CU		\$35.97
	Share A/C Central MN CU		<u>\$15.90</u>
Total Checking Savings			<u>\$140,554.65</u>
Total Current Assest			\$140,554.65
TOTAL ASSESTS			\$140,554.65
LIABILITIES & EQUITY			
Liabilities			
Long Term Liabilities			
	Buffer Obligations-Strip Agree.		\$9,996.50
Total Long Term Liabilities			\$9,996.50
Total Liabilities			\$9,996.50
Equity			
	Opening Bal Equity		\$25,233.98
	Retained earnings		\$103,194.62
	Net Income		\$2,129.55
Total Equity			\$130,558.15
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY			\$140,554.65

tic Project in Todd County and clarified the expenses on the Fish Creek Project and Water Projects items. The budget for 2009 -2010 was also reviewed and discussed. An error in the addition on the handout was noted to be corrected. In the discussion Ralph Mehr clarified that Stearns County septic systems are 100% in compliance, in Todd County not all the septic systems are in compliance. Ralph Mehr called for a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Motion – Roger Poganski 2nd- Kent Trulson. Motion was adopted

Visiting Guests: Ralph Mehr introduced the following Guests: Phil Miller - Todd County Water Patrol.

Phil installs the buoys on the upper lake and marker lights in the channel; Steve Soyka – Stearns County Water Patrol. Steve installed the buoy markers on the lower bay; Garry Johanson, Environment & Land Resource Director; Paul Anderson, State Rep. (13A); Mary Ellen Otremba, State Rep. (11B). Both State Representatives were very complimentary on BBLA activity. Mr. Anderson commented about the dedicated sales tax money. Right now clean water money is not available to Lake Associations. There are web sites and emails of DNR places where you can apply for grant money to help clean up the lake.

Minutes continued on page 5

Big Birch Lake Contributing Sponsors, 2010

ALBANY

Ecolab Pest Elimination Stanley Kortenbusch (800) 325-1671

FREEPORT

Arnzen Construction, Inc John Arnzen (320) 836-2284
 Atkinson Well & Pump Ltd. Rodney Atkinson (320) 836-2597
 Charlies Café Jesse & Julie Job (320) 836-2105
 Ellingson Plb,Htg-A/C Nick Shaw (320) 836-2117
 Freeport State Bank James Hemker (320) 836-2126
 Hennen Floor Covering Tim Hennen (800) 472-9876
 Hennen Lumber Co. Tim Hennen (888) 294-8686

GREY EAGLE

Benchmark Real Estate Judy Frieler (320) 491-0024
 Bitz Hardware Hank Steve & LaVonne Bitz (320) 285-2000
 Bitz Plumbing & Heating Services, Inc. Loren Bitz (320) 285-4875
 Central Lakes Landscape & Construction Ken Frieler (320) 491-8444
 Central MN Federal Credit Union, Grey Eagle (888) 330-8482
 Double "R" Bar & Grill Bob & Norie Pallansch (320) 285-2965
 Grey Eagle BP/Rahn's Oil & Propane Dave & Lisa Rahn (320) 285-2336
 Grey Eagle Electric, Inc. Kevin & Nancy Bitz (320) 285-2626
 Hinman Lawn Service John & Kathy Hinman (320) 285-3811
 Kerzman Construction Co. Jeremy & Larry Kerzman (320) 285-7595
 Marilynn's Vacations Marilynn & Leroy Blommel (320) 285-5595
 Nancy's Bait & Tackle Rex & Nancy Campbell (320) 285-2405
 Lake Country Storage John & Janet Roe (320) 285-4965
 Rock Tavern & Eatery Paul & Joan Ellering & Family (320) 285-3576
 Sound Force Disc Jockey John Young (320) 285-5263
 Update Building Supply Duane Becker (320) 285-8085
 Village Café Theresa Pansch (320) 285-2800

LITTLE FALLS

Cabin Fever Saloon & Eatery Ron, Midge, Eric, Melissa Kuehne (320) 632-3526

MELROSE

Central Minnesota Federal Credit Union (320) 256-4269
 diversiCOM Melrose Telephone Company (320) 256-7471
 Dymoke Law Office PA Scott E. Dymoke & Rachel J. Dymoke (320) 256-4205
 Ernie's Family Foods Ernie Kociemba (320) 256-4444
 Heartland Chapter of MN Darhouse & Angling Assoc. Dale Lyon (320) 293-0626
 Hellermann, Joe & Sheila (320) 256-7730
 Kraemer Lumber Barry Meyer (320) 256-4275
 Mayers Inc. Robert & Mark Mayers (320) 256-4479
 Melrose Bakery David & Sherry Ostendorf (320) 256-4623
 Meyer Electric, Inc. Ray & Darlene Ostendorf (320) 256-3274
 Rahn's Oil & Propane, Inc Dave & Lisa Rahn (320) 256-3680
 South Town Builders Tom Schwieters (320) 250-1981
 Stearns Electric Association George Jensen (320) 256-4241

MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL

The Outdoor News Inc. Glenn A Meyer (763) 546-4251

SAUK CENTRE

Captain's Table Ron & Midge Kuehne (320) 352-2591
 Centre Sports, LLC (320) 351-7669
 Felling Trailers, Inc. Merle J. & Kathy Felling (320) 352-5239
 First State Bank & Agency (320) 352-5771
 Minnesota National Bank Paul Skorhiem, CEO (320) 352-5211

ST. CLOUD

Godfather's Exterminating, Inc. Kim Lykken (800) 317-5974

ST. ROSA

All Stars Sports Bar & Grill Mike Arnzen (320) 836-2154
 Linda B's LTD Linda Bauer (320) 836-573
 St. Rosa Lumber, Inc. Alvin Leinen & John Arnzen (320) 836-2154

Swanville

American Septic Pumping, Inc Harland & Kris Kunz (320) 547-2469

Minutes continued from page 5

Annual Election of Directors

Members of the nominating committee are Jonelle Kirchner, Bob Kutter and John Roe.

The board members whose terms expire in 2009 are: Jim Jacobsen, Roger Plombon, Gene Waldorf, Don Dinndorf, & Jim Sinclair. Roger Plombon has declined to run for Area F again. Roger Plombon has served on the BBLA Board for many years. Roger was not present but we thank you Roger for all your years of service!

The nomination committee has recommended the following candidates:

Ken Berg has been nominated for Area F to replace Roger Plombon. Jim Jacobsen - Area A, Gene Waldorf - Area G, Don Dinndorf - At-Large, and Jim Sinclair-At Large have agreed to seek reelection. Gene Waldorf stated that Ken was a previous board member in the late 80's.

A motion was made to pass a unanimous ballot of all five candidates to be elected as board members.

Motion – Jeanine Renard 2nd – Mary Ann Mehr. Motion was adopted
Dues

The board has recommended that the dues remain at \$30.

Ralph Mehr asked for a motion to set the dues at \$30.

Motion – Don Dinndorf 2nd – Jean Weitzel Motion was adopted.

By Law Change: (Term Limits)

The following By Law change was presented by Gene Waldorf: (See the July 2009, Volume 95, BBLA Newsletter for details.)

No director shall be eligible to serve more than four full consecutive terms. A person not then serving as a Director shall not be eligible to be elected if he or she previously served as a Director within the previous three years. Beginning in the year 2011, a board member whose term is completed will not be eligible for nomination to the board if he or she has served four full consecutive terms.

Gene then presented the pros and cons to term limits. These were discussed in the last newsletter.

Gene then asked for a discussion: There were a number of responses. The need for term limits was strongly supported. There was a discussion on being able to replace a board member. Within the BBLA By Law's there is a way to do this. The major concern was with regard to the three year wait for a member to run again. The consensus was that the three year wait should be changed to one year for better continuity.

Gene asked for a motion to amend that part of the Term Limits which states "within the previous three years" to "within the previous one year".

Motion - Kent Trulson 2nd – Ken Collins
Motion was adopted

Gene then asked if there was any further discussion on the Amended Term Limits Proposal. There was further discussion on replacing the Area Director if no one agreed to run. It was generally stated that it would not be a big impact if no one served for that one year. Also the board does have the authority to appoint a new board member. Gene did say that the board would try the proposal as stated and would make changes as necessary later.

Gene then asked that we vote on the Amended Term Limit Proposal. Vote was unanimous to adopt the proposed Amended Term Limit proposal.

Presentation - Speaker Pam Perry, DNR Non-Game Wildlife Lake Specialist.

Gene Waldorf introduced Pam, her previous experience, present responsibilities and education.

In a Power Point presentation Pam included many slides giving facts regarding loons including:

That there are 5 species of loons-MN has the COMMON LOON
MN has 12,000 loons, more loons than any other state

Life span-over 20 years
Need clean water, fish, space, and quiet

It takes 30 days for eggs to hatch-usually the first week of June
MN loons winter in Gulf States of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida

Switch from fresh water to salt water
Chicks stay in southern states 3 to 4

years before returning north as adults

Red eye-no real reason for this; limited to adults only

Gave meanings to the 5 calls of the loon.

2008/2009 Highlights

This is a summary of what has been done in the last year.

Water Quality Monitoring

Waldorf presented graphs indicating the water clarity in the lake. He showed the water clarity of the Upper Bay over the last 3 years (2007 – 2009). Clarity is very hard to predict and there are drastic changes over the year. The latest clarity reading for the upper bay is 5 feet. Fish Creek is still a problem and is probably the reason for poor water clarity in the upper bay. The lower bay which is always good is at 12 feet. Gene then presented data on the upper and lower bay from 1984 to the present. Gene stated that Don Dinndorf heads up this project. Readings are taken by volunteers once a week.

Channel between the Two Bays

Ralph Mehr presented the status of the sign and lighting of the channel. The new sign has been improved to withstand the wind and wave action. The sign is put on a spring for better stability. Solar Markers are hanging in there. The Todd County Water Patrol installs the lights each year.

Fish Creek Gate

Ralph Mehr presented new information on the reason for the gate on fish creek. Initially the reason was to keep Northern from traveling upstream to spawn. New information from Mr. Erik Altena (Jim Lilienthal's replacement) shows that Northern spawn in the lake at the same rate as they do in the Creek and suggested we not shut the gate any more. The decision has been made to not shut the gate. Ralph thanked the volunteers who helped keep the gate clean. There was a question on carp entering Fish Creek. Ralph stated that we have not seen carp but we do have dog fish.

Loon Hatch

Ralph Mehr stated that there was a good loon hatch again this year. We had 10 loons hatched, one died. Glen Meyer is our liaison on this effort, keeping track of the loon population.

Minutes continued on page 8

Minutes continued from page 7

Spraying Birch Creek Channel

Ralph Mehr said that BBLA had the *Annual Minutes* continue on page 8 *Annual Minutes* continued from page 7 channel between Big and Little Birch sprayed last fall. He discussed the problem of weed growth in the channel which impacts the flow of water. The spraying was done to kill the weeds and allow better flow. Need to do this about every 3 year although this may be a problem with the DNR regarding permitting.

Membership and Sponsors Support

Ralph Mehr stated that the membership (360) and sponsorship was up this year. Ralph thanked all contributors and asked that we support the sponsors with our patronage.

Buffer Strips

Ralph stated that the Buffer Strip program will continue and will try to expand this effort.

Friends of the Lake Award

The nominating committee is Nancy Heinen, Jim Sinclair, and Monte Westphal.

The criteria used for judging the lakeshore are: Compliance with setback, use of natural vegetation, maintenance of aquatic vegetation, minimal impact solutions to problems encountered.

Gene Waldorf presented the Friend of the Lake award to Kent & Loretta Trulson for the natural planting that was done on their lakeshore. Kent did thank those who helped and highly recommended that lakeshore owners look into this program. Congratulations to them!

Comments by the Membership

Signs on weed cleaning at the Lake Access are too small. Ralph stated that the signs are the responsibility of the DNR and are very expensive. There is some monitoring of weeds on boats during weekends.

Jeanine Renard asked if the weed over growth in Fish Creek was a problem. Ralph said no that the weeds control pollutants that would normally continue into the lake.

Is the Eurasian Milfoil in the lake? The answer was no but the BBLA con-

tinues to monitor for such possibility. Ralph stated that disturbances in the lake shore will actually enhance the possibility of Milfoil growth.

Does BBLA do worm spraying?

Ralph answered no, that BBLA does not get involved primarily because of legal problems; not everyone is in favor of spraying for worms.

Jim Sinclair stated that some of the Alexandria Lakes have Zebra Mussels.

Adjournment at 11:28 A.M.

Ralph asked that the meeting be adjourned.

Motion: Ken Sinclair
2nd by Holly Hinnenkamp

Motion was adopted

Minutes Prepared by Mary Jane Kol-lodge, August 25, 2009.