



No 103

July, 2011

President's Letter

Calendar

BBLA Board Meeting

July 16, 2011

BBLA Annual Meeting

August 20, 2011

9 a.m.

St. Joseph's Catholic Church

Grey Eagle

BBLA Board Meeting

September 17, 2011

With a colder and wetter than normal spring, boating and fishing has been slow but we expect that to change as soon as warmer weather arrives.

With that in mind we would like all of our members to be mindful of invasive aquatic species such as milfoil and zebra mussels. We would like to remind everyone to inspect their watercraft to be sure the invasive plants and species are not attached and transferred into Big Birch. Also, if you have friends and relatives who launch boats on Big Birch Lake, please remind them to thoroughly inspect their watercraft as well before launching them. The DNR does spot checks as well at the public landings, but with the funding crunch being what it is, I'm not confident their efforts are all inclusive. It behooves all of us to be a bit more vigilant if we want to keep this stuff out of our Lake. We are very lucky not to have this problem yet.

I talked to Mr. Peter Linsner, the President of the Little Birch Lake Association, about

this problem, and he said they spend in excess of 15k per treatment to treat milfoil in their lake, and they can't keep up with the problem.

Also, I had a recent extensive conversation with Mr. Gary Johanson, the Environmental Services Director in Todd County regarding septic system conformance on the Todd County side of Big Birch. He advises that the 2011 Todd County Systematic Septic System Inventory will occur sometime in the month of July. They have hired a private contractor under a public grant to assist them in that effort. The BBLA Board and Todd County Environmental Services asks for involved property owners' cooperation with their contractors conducting the survey by welcoming them to your land, helping them find the septic tank and drains if need be and providing proper documentation proving conformance.

If you have documentation proving conformance nothing will need to be done. If not, you will more than likely be required to pump you tanks prior to testing the system for conformance. Mr. Johanson
President's Letter *continues on page 2*

Members will elect BBLA Board members at annual meeting August 20

Five board members will be elected at the annual meeting on August 20, 2011. The board members whose terms expire are Monte Westphal, Area C; Dean Mohs, Area D; Bob Kutter, Jim Chirhart and Chuck Rieland all members At Large. Westphal and Chirhart do not seek re-election.

The nominating committee recommends the following slate of candidates for board election: Chuck Schiemann, Area C; Dean Mohs, Area D; Bob Kutter, Kent Trulson and Chuck Rieland At Large.

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

Members of the nominating committee are Gene Waldorf, John Roe and Don Dinndorf.

Attend the annual meeting August 20

The annual meeting of the BBLA will be held Saturday, August 20 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Grey Eagle. The meeting begins at 9 a.m. with refreshments provided.

Invite a neighbor to join you at the meeting.

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

	May '11	May '10	Jul '10-May '11	% of Income
Income				
Book Proceeds	0.00	0.00	220.00	0.00
Donations-Members	50.00	20.00	2,825.00	3.40%
Golf Outing	275.00	440.00	870.00	18.70%
Grants	250.00	0.00	250.00	17.00%
Interest Income	137.45	182.41	1,725.21	9.40%
Legacy-Don Pitt	0.00	0.00	2,700.00	0.00%
Membership Dues	240.00	300.00	10,830.00	16.40%
Memorials-Other	20.00	0.00	960.00	1.40%
Misc. Income	0.00	0.00	35.00	0.00%
Product or Service Income	0.00	0.00	15.00	0.00%
Social Events Income	495.00	672.00	495.00	33.70%
Sponsors Contributions	0.00	35.00	2,465.00	0.00%
Total Income	1,467.45	1,649.41	23,390.21	100.00%
Expenses				
Annual Meeting	0.00	50.00	87.96	0.00%
Fish Creek Project	0.00	5,161.65	5,190.20	0.00%
Internet & Publicity	0.00	10.00	111.00	0.00%
Meetings/Conferences	33.50	0.00	153.50	2.30%
Membership Drive	0.00	0.00	656.86	0.00%
MN Lakes Assoc./MN Water	0.00	0.00	400.00	0.00%
Newsletter	476.77	708.96	2,440.68	32.50%
Printing & Postage	0.00	3.50	0.00	0.00%
Rent	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	0.00%
Secretary Compensation	0.00	300.00	1,050.00	0.00%
Social Events	653.58	650.00	2,573.49	44.50%
Supplies & Copies	0.00	22.00	0.00	0.00%
Uncategorized Expense	0.00	0.00	71.90	0.00%
Water Projects	49.50	71.55	665.50	3.40%
Total Expense	1,213.35	6,977.66	14,901.09	82.70%
Net Income	254.10	-5,328.25	8,498.12	17.30%

President's letter continued from page 1
said there are approximately 200 systems that will be inventoried and surveyed, and they expect that most of them will be in complete conformance.

Those that are not will be required to update their systems to bring them into compliance, and he is requesting cooperation on behalf of all of the involved property owners. Complete septic system conformance is critical to the long term health of our Lake.

We hope you have a safe and enjoyable summer on Big Birch!

Ralph H. Mehr
President, BBLA

Obituaries of Lake Residents

Laurie Brown (Hird) Freeman, age 71, died April 27 at her home on Big Birch Lake, Grey Eagle.

She was born April 20, 1940 in San Diego, CA. As the daughter of a naval officer, she traveled the country in her youth, but her favorite home was Hawaii, on the island of Oahu. She always remained a Hawaiian girl at heart. Laurie graduated from the University of Mississippi in 1962, worked as a medical technologist in Sand Diego, CA and was united marriage there to Ralph Freeman in 1965.

She is survived by her husband Ralph Freeman, mother Mary Clark Hird of Sauk Centre, daughter Candace Panner of Eugene, OR, sons Jason (Laure) of Sartell, Jody (Jill) of Elk River, Mitchell (Elizabeth) of St. Cloud. Also her two sisters Sally (Bob) Hughes of Murfreesboro, TN and Julia (Tom) Zaboriski of Osh Kosh, WI and stepson Jeff (Sue) Freeman of Decatur, IL. Laurie is also survived by 11 grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her father, Louis Rittenhouse Hird.

Obituaries continue on page 8

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

Nature came alive despite the dreary weather

“I pray that the life of this spring and summer may ever be fair in my memory.” –Henry David Thoreau

This was not a spring that will be fair in our memories. There is hope, however, that summer will make up for the crummy spring.

A pair of great blue herons drifted over the ice-covered lake the first week of April. Small flocks of redwing black-birds, robins and mourning doves gathered on the lawn to eat the seeds fallen from the bird feeders through the winter. Canada geese landed on the ice and just sat there for a time. Temperatures in the 40's and 50's slowly melted the remainder of snow shaded by buildings and trees. Spring came slowly to Big Birch Lake.

The lake ice turned dark gray during the second week of April yet is sparkled in the sunlight. A pair of wood ducks flew into trees in our yard. We hoped they would settle for our wood duck house, but after moving closer to it, they flew away. A muskrat fed along the shore. It diligently dug into the sand for watery roots to chew and devour.

A pair of loons arrived Thursday, April 14 at 7:37 p.m. Others reported seeing loons about the same time on other parts of the lake. People were relieved to know the loons had survived the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

A small flock of red-breasted mergansers swam near the north shore on April 16. More joined the flock the following week. Amongst the red-breasted were a few common mergansers. Later in the month a few hooded mergansers were on the water. The duck-like diving birds are fun to watch as they approach shore, gather in a close-knit group and then scatter rapidly.

A bald eagle perched in a tree on our property for half an hour. We watched

to see what it was watching. Squirrels and smaller birds vacated the yard until the eagle flew away.

A lake resident reported to a board member seeing a pair of otters in the lake.

The ice finally departed from the water on April 21. The lower bay cleared four days later than the upper bay.

Yellow-rumped warblers were on the yard the third week of April. The attractive little bird with yellow feathers on the head, wings and rump were passing through on their way to their summer breeding grounds in Canada. Twenty-four American white pelicans landed on the lake April 27.

Bird feeders were a blaze of color in May. Gold finches, indigo buntings, house finches, purple finches, orioles, yellow-headed blackbirds

and rose breasted grosbeaks brightened the spring landscape.

For years I have watched cormorants accompany pelicans to the lake in spring, but not until this year did I hear one as it flew over. It sounded like a quacking pig.

A scarlet tanager was at the suet feeder at the end of May. It's a beautiful bird that we haven't seen in a few years. Another more frequent visitor but still rare was the indigo bunting.

Hummingbirds and Baltimore orioles sipped from the hummingbird feeder, but the surprise visitor was a downy wood-



Kutter's Column

pecker. Apparently it too has a sweet tooth.

The weather in May was a mixture of cool temperatures, strong winds, rain and occasional warm sunshine. The Memorial Day weekend was all four of the above wrapped in a three-day package.

Abba Goold Woolson said, “And since all this loveliness cannot be Heaven, I know in my heart it is June.” The first weekend in June was perfect. Temperatures were in the 70's, the winds were light, the sunshine was bright and cruising on the water was a delight.

A pair of loons on the northwest area of the upper bay presented their two hatchlings on June 4. It's an ongoing joy to watch the adults feed and nurture the young.

For two days in early June it felt like a late summer heat wave. Temperatures went to 95 degrees and the strong south winds pushed water over docks. Just as quickly the temperatures went the other way and it felt like April.

With June came a few days populated with lake flies quickly followed by cedar waxwings that gobbled up the flies in a flash.

The days of mid to late June were cool, damp and cloudy, not exactly the ideal of heavenly

summer weather.

June will be remembered for its lack of sunshine and rain. It wasn't the best spring, but still heaven seems a little closer in a house beside the water.



A muskrat fed on vegetation along the shore of BBL in April. Photo by R. Kutter



A pair of loon with two chicks on June 4, 2011. Photo by R. Kutter

2011 Big Birch Lake Association Members

Anderson, Derry
 Anderson, Marge
 Anderson, Todd & Debbie
 Anderson, Warren & Chadyenne
 Andrews, Mike & Jackie
 Arvig, Tom & Emily
 Athmann, Judy
 Atkinson, Dan & Jan
 Atwood, Duane & Cindy
 Bauer, Lois
 Auger, John & Karen
 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
 Beuning, Judine & James
 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
 Caspers, John & Allyson
 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
 Engelmeyer, Ron & Mary Kay
 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
 Frichs, Al
 Froehling, Joe & Jeanie
 Funk, Rob & Carolyn
 Gagne, Robert & Christine
 Gallagher, Michael
 Gallagher, Pat & Caryn
 Gerads, Dale & Mary Lou
 Gerding, Dewayne & Alvina
 Gerdt, 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
 Hellerman, 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
 Holthaus, Ken & Joan
 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
 Jarsko, Judy
 Jepperson, Craig & Mary
 Jeske, Ron & Nancy
 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
 Kraker, Bob
 Krebs, Jean
 Krekelberg, Daniel
 Krig, Gary & Peggy
 Kuehne, Ron & Midge
 Kuhlmann, Mary
 Kutter, Gaye & Lee
 Kutter, Robert & Nancy
 Kylo, Carole
 Lafayette Inc. Johnson Family
 Lambrecht, Paul & Sandra
 Langer, Denise
 Larry's Construction Co. Pat & Larry
 Kerzman
 Larson, Gayle & Lemons, Karen
 Larzelere Cabin
 LeBrun, Tim & Judy
 Lemieux, BJ
 Lenzen, Ruthie & John
 Lieder, Bill & Renee
 Lilligren, Kirk & Cathy
 Linz, Curt & Mary
 Loehr, Jim & Renee
 Lundeen, Darrell & Marlys
 Maeder, Nik & Brandee
 Martin, Cris & Bonnie
 Martin, Julie

Matchinsky, Gary & Larson-Matchinsky, Susie
 Matchinsky, Jim & Rose
 Matchinsky, Karl & Sharon
 Matchinsky, Mike & Jill
 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, 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, Karen & Chick
 Molitor, Jon & Pat
 Moser, Harry
 Moser, Scott/Greg/Patrick
 Mueller, Harry & Joanie
 Mueller, Thom & Paula
 Mullen, Steve & Sockalingam, Suganya
 Nathe, Mike & Laura
 Neibling, Peggy
 Nelson, Gary & Pat
 Nelville, 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
 Rasmussen, Steve & Sandra
 Radske, Dick & Marilyn
 Reed, Beverly
 Renard, Jeanine & Tom
 Richardson, David & Anna
 Richie, Lovell & Betty
 Rieger, Pamela & Joel
 Rieland, Chuck & Lucy
 Rieland, Shirley
 Rieland, Mike & Mary
 Ritter, Grey & Barb
 Roe, John & Janet
 Rogotzke, Barb & Arnold
 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
 Schmit, Nicholas & Karen
 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
 Steinbring, John & Sandy
 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
 Waldorf, Gene & Bernie
 Waldvogel, Dennis
 Walker, Tom
 Walters, George & Sue
 Wander, Dave & Joan
 Warnert, Ron & Lee Meyer
 Weitzel, Bob & Jean
 Weitzel, Mary & John
 Welle, John & JoAnn
 Westpahl, Monte & Pat
 Wheelock, Brad & Kathy
 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

Ice-out Dates

April 7, 2004	April 9, 2005
April 10, 2006	April 16, 2007
April 30, 2008	April 20, 2009
April 2, 2010	April 21, 2011

The Big Birch Lake Newsletter is an official publication of the Big Birch Lake Association, Inc.
 PO Box 342
 Grey Eagle, Minnesota 56336
 Ralph Mehr, President
 Robert Kutter, Editor
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Big Birch Lake Association, Inc
Balance Sheet

**BIG BIRCH
 LAKE ASSOCIATION
 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
 AUGUST 21, 2010
 ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH
 PARISH HALL GREY EAGLE, MN
 56336**

President Ralph Mehr called the meeting to order at 9:00AM.

Ralph introduced the directors.

Board of Directors Present: President Ralph Mehr, Ken Berg, Jim Chirhart, Don Dinndorf, Nancy Heinen, Jim Jacobsen, Jonelle Kirchner, Renee Loehr, Dean Mohs, Chuck Rieland, John Roe, Jim Sinclair, Gene Waldorf, Monte Westphal

Board of Director Absent – Bob Kutter

Minutes of 2009 Annual Meeting
 Ralph Mehr directed attention to the Financial Report and the Annual Meeting Minutes for 2009. 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 – Monte Westphal
 2nd – Sherry Meyer. Motion was adopted.

Treasurer's Report
 Jonelle Kirchner presented the treasurer report. The totals were summarized as follows:

Total assets as of June 30, 2010
 \$149,756.10
 Total Income
 \$32,244.62
 Total Expenses
 \$20,913.62

Jonelle commented that the Fish Creek buffer costs are tied to the CPI (Cost of

			May 31, '11
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Checking/Savings			
	Cert of Deposit-CMCU		\$127,809.92
	Checking-Central MN CU		\$20,328.46
	Money Mkt.-Central MN CU		\$10,085.94
	Share A/C Central MN CU		\$20.90
Total Checking Savings			<u>\$158,245.22</u>
Total Current Assest			\$158,245.22
TOTAL ASSETS			\$158,245.22
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		\$114,525.62
	Net Income		\$8,489.12
Total Equity			\$148,248.72
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY			\$158,245.22

Living Index). This stayed the same this year. It is possible that the payments will continue to increase. This is to compensate for increase in property values. There is income from the sale of the 'History of Big Birch Lake' books. There are still books for sale The income had a major increase due to the bequest of \$10,000 from the Don Pitt estate.

Ralph Mehr called for a motion to approve the treasurer's report.

Motion – Marilyn Mohr 2nd-
 Mary Jane Kollidge
 Motion was adopted

Visiting Guests: Ralph Mehr introduced the following guests:

Garry Johanson – Environment & Land Resource Director -Todd County
 A survey regarding compliance of septic systems in Todd County is being conducted on the lake. 319 parcels have been researched. 220 need additional information. Chris Ahrens has been hired to look at the 220. He is looking for immanent health threats. He only found one and he is working with the parcel holder to correct it. The other 220 will be researched next spring. He is looking for pumping agreements on holding tanks. If you have a tank and drain field, is there an alarm
Annual meeting minutes continue on page 7

Big Birch Lake Contributing Sponsors, 2011

ALBANY

Ecolab Pest Elimination Division Stanley Kortenbusch (800) 325-1671

FREEPORT

Atkinson Well & Pump Ltd. (320) 836-2597

Charlies Café Jesse 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 (320) 836-2177

Hennen Lumber Co. Tim Hennen (320) 836-2185

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

Bruno's Hub Supper Club Bruce Rohde (320)-285-4318

Central Lakes Landscape & Construction Ken Frieler (320) 285-5715

Office (320) 285-2256

Double "R" Bar & Grill Bob & Norie Pallansch (320) 285-2965

Grey Eagle Gas & Grocery (formerly BP) 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

The Historical Rock Tavern Paul & Joan Ellering (320) 285-3576

Lake Country Storage John & Janet Roe (320) 285-4965

Kutter Insurance Agency (320) 285-2299

Marilynn's Vacations Marilynn & Leroy Blommel (320) 285-5595

Sound Force Disc Jockey John Young (320) 285-5263

Village Café Theresa Pansch (320) 285-2800

LITTLE FALLS

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

MELROSE

Boomerang Marine & Powersports Richard Peifer & Roger O'Hotto (320) 256-4642

Central Minnesota Federal Credit Union (320) 256-4269

diversiCOM (320) 256-7471

Dymoke Lay Office, PA Scott & Rachel Dymoke (320) 256-4205

Heartland Chapter of the MDAA PO Box 296, Melrose, MN 56352

Joe & Sheila Hellermann (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

Rahn's Oil & Propane, Inc. Dave & Lisa Rahn (320) 256-3680

Snyder/V&S Variety John Kociemba (320) 256-4415

South Town Builders Tom Schwieters (320) 250-1981

Stearns Electric Association Vicky Herkenhoff (320) 256-4241

MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL

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

SAUK CENTRE

Centre Sports, LLC Mark & Lisa Fiedler (320) 351-7669

Felling Trailers, Inc. Merle J. & Kathy Felling (320) 352-5239

First State Bank & Agency of Sauk Centre (320) 352-5771

Gerad's Dining & Banquet Bruce Rohde (320) 351-3463

Minnesota National Bank Paul Skorhiem, CEO (320) 352-5211

ST. CLOUD

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

ST. ROSA

All Stars Sport Bar & Grill Mike Arnzen (320) 836-2154

Arnzen Construction, Inc. John Arnzen (320) 836-2284

Linda B's LTD Linda Bauer (320) 836-2152

St. Rosa Lumber, Inc. Alvin Leinen & John Arnzen (320) 836-2284

Swanville

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

Annual meeting minutes *continued from page 6*

system? If you are within a 1000 feet of BB Lake you will be checked. Each septic system compliance check costs approximately \$150-\$400. They are looking for a grant to complete this project. Garry needs a letter from the BBLA to support the efforts to help get the grant.

The other projects he is working on are: Open Ordinance – Conservation Development Design – Sewer Rules Update List

The number one priority is to take care of lake. If the lake deteriorates, so does the property values.

Paul Anderson , State Rep. (13A)

Paul Anderson advised that there is new money available for projects. \$150 million is available for funding the Clean Water legacy.

Keith Burtrum – Game Warden

Bog Issues – The problem is 5” rain and a 35 mile an hour wind will create bogs. He asked BBLA to consider what Big Swan does – get a blanket permit, then pull the bog to a designated place on the lake and stake it down so it is not a problem for someone else tomorrow. Cat tail Spraying and Bull Rush cutting – The cat tails and bull rushes filter the lake.

It is also the spawning area for the fish. He promotes shoreline restoration. Boating Safety – Jet Skis can be on the lake from 9:30AM until 1 hour before sunset.

Keith says ‘somebody is always catching fish on the lake’

Keith Burtrum home phone number 320-256-2556

Annual Election of Directors

The members of the Nomination Committee are: Dean Mohs, John Roe, Jim Jacobsen.

The board members whose terms are up in 2010:

Ralph Mehr, Jonelle Kirchner, Renee Loehr, Nancy Heinen

Ralph Mehr and Jonelle Kirchner have agreed to running for the next term. Renee Loehr has declined – She has suggested Jannie Kappes as her replacement. Jannie was nominated. Nancy Heinen has declined - The nominating committee has nominated Lee

Moening.

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

Motion – Pat Westphal 2nd –
Jim Loehr Motion
was adopted

Thanks to Renee Loehr and Nancy Heinen for all of their hard work

Congratulations to Jannie and Lee Moening!

Dues

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

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

Motion – Marv Kollodge 2nd –
Glenn Meyer Motion
was adopted.

2009/2010 Highlights

Water Quality Monitoring

Don Dinndorf has monitored the readings of the secchi disk information since 1994. He has done a wonderful job and is very much appreciated.

Gene Waldorf presented graphs indicating the water clarity in the lake. He showed the water clarity of the Upper and Lower Bay. The Upper Bay has been exceptionally clear. Gene took one reading this year of 25 feet. The Lower Bay readings are approximately the same as the Upper Bay. Aquatic Vegetation from 12 feet to shore is the fish habitat area. In water that is deeper than 12 feet, there is no vegetation. Lake is clean and getting cleaner.

Signage at Public Landings

Dean Mohrs, Chuck Rieland and Ralph Mehr visited the public accesses and reviewed the location of the signs. They noticed that some of our signs needed upkeep. Ralph contacted Audrey at the DNR. She referred him to the Trails and Waterways department. He spoke to Scott Schroeder who advised that he has a mandate to clean up all the accesses. He will allow us to leave the BBLA signs at the accesses as long as they are in good repair. The Trails and Waterways will attach all signs to a billboard. The signs on the billboard must be 12 inches X 18 inches. The board can update signs at St. Rose Resort/ Villas and Stuntebeck Bay.

Fisheries Report

Ralph received a letter from Eric Alteena regarding the Spring netting of fish from the lake. The following are some of the statistics:

391 female Northern – Average length 23.5 inches – Largest was 36.4 inches
579 male Northern
975 total Northern

219 Walleyes – Average netted length 22.5 inches – females

Netting was also done Aug 2-6. They netted 510 Northern Pike, 193 Walleyes and 27 perch.

Loon Hatch

Ralph Mehr stated that there were five loons hatched from 4 nesting pairs. Glen Meyer is our liaison on this effort, keeping track of the loon population.

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. Ralph reminded everyone to attend the Annual Ladies Luncheon and Golf Tournament. They are great places to meet your neighbors.

Don Pitt Memorial

John Roe presented information regarding the memorial of Don Pitt. He was a Commander in the Navy. Don has very little family. He left a bequest of approximately \$13,000 to the BBLA. What could be a more worthy beneficiary of your estate than the BBLA if the situation permits?

BBLA Website

The *Newsletter* is online. Some of you have signed up to read it online. The website will post upcoming events, show current projects, and document news updates.

If you have any photos to share, send them to Bob Kutter to post on the website.

Thanks to Bob Kutter and Diversicom for setting up and maintaining the website.

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