

Little Birch Lake Association Newsletter



Dates To Remember

President's Letter

What a fall! The weather was almost perfect. I know that the person who ordered the weather took a look at my wood pile. Next year I will have to bid higher on Don's trailer of wood at the dinner dance.

The best that I can tell, the year was pretty good on Little Birch. There were enough warm days that the lake was used by all that wanted to. Plenty of skiers, boarders, and fishermen using the lake. The word that I heard is that many people commented on the water clarity and was very happy with it. I also heard comments on the good job that the lake association did in the control of the milfoil. Every time that I heard a positive comment on the milfoil I had to give credit to you the members as it was with your help looking for the milfoil, reporting it to the board of directors, and just becoming a member and paying your dues that made our job as easy as possible. Once again from the board, thank you for your support.

We will be fighting a new exotic this coming year, as we are going to take on the curly leaf pond weed. This has been found mostly on the north end of the lake and we will again be spraying the affected areas. The spraying will take place long before anyone goes swimming in the lake, in fact I believe that we will be spraying in April or early May. We will have more on this in future newsletters as well as the annual meeting.

The board has been continually working on the Little Birch Lake Management Plan. We have gone to many meetings, as well as discussed it at all of our board meetings. We are always looking for new blood to help with this project so if you have some ideas or comments please contact a board member for more information. This plan will be never ending as projects are completed, and new ones along with new problems, arise all the time. We also have four board member positions expiring in June and are looking for new ideas and the bodies to go with them to join the board of directors. Please give this a thought.

Along with the board of directors, I would like to wish you all a Happy Holiday Season and hope you enjoy the winter on our lake or where ever you are. Have a safe and fun filled winter and we will see you in the spring!

Dan Goihl
President Little Birch Lake Association

April 22
Road Clean Up

June 3
Annual Meeting

July 4
Boat Parade

July 22
Golf Tournament

Sept. 2
Road Clean Up

Sept. 9
Fishing Tournament

Sept. 9
Dinner Dance

Walleye Stocking

Here is the run down on Little Birch Lake stocking activities for 2005. May 11 we stocked 800,000 walleye fry. In September we evaluated the success of the fry stocking by night electro-fishing. We captured 20 walleye fingerlings per hour of electro-fishing. This is the highest return we have gotten on Little Birch Lake, however, it was short of our goal that would have made fingerling stocking unnecessary. It was significant enough for us to consider cutting the fingerling stocking from 2 pounds to 1 pound per littoral (274 pounds) acre. The fingerlings we stocked were so large, (5 per pound), we ended up stocking 381 pounds or about 1.4 pounds per littoral acre. The 1905 fingerlings stocked in late October were all OTC marked walleye fingerlings, which may aid in future stocking evaluations. Minnesota DNR

Secchi Disc Readings

This past year we took 47 secchi disc readings for water clarity on Little Birch Lake between May and October. These readings are taken at 4 different sites on Little Birch. The water was clear to a depth of 16 feet on May 30th and only clear to a depth of 5 feet on July 14th. The median clarity of the disc readings for 2005 was 9.2 feet.

In comparison, in 2000 we took 28 readings (same sites). The best reading in early spring was 16 feet and the worst reading was 5 feet in early July. The median reading was 10 feet that year.

As you can see we are maintaining about the same level of water clarity on Little Birch over the years.

On another note, the last loon chick was seen on our lake on November 17th. How loon chicks find their way to the Atlantic Ocean when the adult loons left in mid September remains one of nature's little miracles.

Little Birch Loonatics
Bud and Pat Moening

Great Job

With all the meetings that the board members go to through in the course of the year we get to know members from many different lake associations and one of things that we are asked a lot is how we get such a high membership percentage. This year we have about 95% of our land owners as members. Many lake associations are lucky to get 50%. I try to tell them about the dedication we have in keeping the lake as healthy as possible and how we take pride in what we are doing.

The other thing that we are asked about is our fundraising, AKA our dinner/dance. This year we had a little smaller crowd, but I believe that every one had a pretty good time. And as far as the lake is concerned, the people were very generous with their bidding on the auction items and the committee has informed us that we made about \$3200.00. Thanks to all who participated and I hope to see more of you next year, as it is a good time.

Membership Dues

With all the projects that are in place for the upcoming year and the projects in the future, the Board of Directors has decided to raise the annual dues from \$20 to \$30, starting in 2006. Though we are financially sound at this time, there are no guarantees that we will continue to receive the donations we are receiving now, in the future. The increase will keep us operating at a normal pace for a few years.

Thank you for your support. The Board of Directors.

2005 Annual Meeting

The meeting was called to order by president Dan Goihl at 9:05 AM on Saturday, June 4th 2005. Approximately 71 people attended the meeting.

President Goihl welcomed everyone and introduced the Board Members. He thanked the Board Members for their hard work this past year and thanked the out going Board Members Bud Moening, Jerry Kluempke, Dan Praska and Annella Peterson for their years of service.

President Goihl thanked LBLIA members for their donations and apologized for the error in Pat Moenings phone number in the newsletter want adds. The correct phone number is 285-7372.

Steve Gudgell moved and seconded by Anthony Wessel to approve the 2004 annual meeting minutes as printed in the 2004 Summer Newsletter.

Loon report was that we had three pairs of loons nesting and 5 chicks were hatched.

President Goihl reported that Bud Moening resigned from the Board of Directors and the Board appointed Gene Sullivan to fulfill Bud's term.

President Goihl thanked everyone that helped with the road clean up. Twenty-eight people helped and 54 bags of trash was collected.

Pete Wilson moved and seconded by Pete Linsner to approve the 2004 treasurers report as printed in the 2004 Summer Newsletter.

Dennis Wessel read the current treasurers report. Don Boucher moved and seconded by Tom Altendahl to accept the report as read.

Buffer strip payments were acknowledged and paid. Ron Bussman's filter strip contract expired this year.

The upcoming 2005 calendar of events was read by President Goihl.

Jody Wessel reported on this years Dinner Dance, which will be held on September 10th at the Hub Supper Club. The theme for this years event is Gilligans Island and Jody encouraged everyone to dress as characters from the show. Items are needed for the silent auction. Ticket information will be in the Summer Newsletter.

Lynn Nelson from the Sauk River Watershed gave a report on the current status of our lake. The Sauk River Watershed has received a grant that includes the cost of the water testing on Little Birch Lake for 2005.

Don Haller reported that LBLIA received a donation in the amount of \$2000 from the David Marshall Foundation to be used for the control of Exotic Weeds in our lake.

Patrick Selter from Professional Lake Management reported that one spot of Milfoil was discovered on the lake. Spraying will be done between now and the 17th of June. Patrick also reported that we have Curly Leaf Pondweed in our lake and he will be monitoring it throughout the summer. He then answered questions from the floor.

Dennis Wessel reported that we still need to get eleven permission slips to spray for Milfoil.

Election of Board Members was held for the four open position on the Board of Directors. Only four candidates volunteered for the open positions. They are Mike Shclicht, John Brophy, Dan Goihl and Dennis Wessel. Don Salzman moved and seconded by Gene Sullivan to accept the four candidates as Board Members.

Marilyn Bayerl, representing Bayerl Water Resources of Alexandria explained the Vision Quest that will be taking place immediately following the meeting.

President Goihl asked for volunteers to help Jerry Kluempke with the Lake Management Plan. Anyone willing to help should talk to Jerry.

No new business or old business was discussed.

Gene Sullivan moved and seconded by Jake Knutson to adjourn the meeting at 10:17 AM.

Lunch was catered by Ernie's Family Foods following the Vision Quest Session, which fifty-five people attended.

Respectfully Submitted Annella, Secretary

Septic Upgrade

The Todd and Stearns county Soil and Water District is still offering loan money to anyone wanting to upgrade their septic system. This money is on a 5 year loan at 3 1/2 %. This would be a good time to check into this and then plan the upgrade for this spring before all the excavators are booked with new construction. The upgrade will not only give you piece of mind, but it will help the lake as well.

Christmas Lights

This year the Lake Association will be awarding a prize of \$25.00 for the house on the lake with the best Christmas decoration. The judging will take place at about 6pm on the 30th of December. The prize will be awarded at the annual meeting in June. Good luck!

4th of July Parade

We had a pretty good turn out for the parade on the 4th. The wind was up a bit but that didn't see to bother many people. There were a lot of spectators watching and I hope they saw a good show. This year we had three prizes to give away. 1st place went to Mike and Carol Kramer, 2nd went to Harry and Lois Weidner, and our 3rd prize went to Bud and Pat Moening.

This is really a good time to invite some friends to the lake for the day and show them our hospitality. See you next year at the parade.

Letterhead Contest

The lake association is looking to update the letterhead on our stationary. With this in mind, we are asking for your help. With the long winter upon us, many of you may have time to create one for us. We will put this in a contest format with the winner announced at the annual meeting in June and awarded a prize of \$25.00.

The rules for the contest are that you have the following information on the letterhead.

Little Birch Lake Improvement Association

Box 64

Melrose, Mn. 56352

Good luck and please send your entries to the above address before
June 1, 2006.