

President's Corner - Gordy Westerlind

Greetings Fellow BELIA Members,

It's that time of year again! As I write this newsletter article in late March, we have already experienced a couple of spring-like days. It sure has started me thinking about getting the water toys out of storage and ready to hit the water. I would guess many of you feel the same way.



I do have several items I would like to bring to your attention. The first item I will touch on is the significant increase in Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) growth we have seen on Eagle Lake over the past couple of years. Our focus over the past five or six years has been on Curly-leaf Pondweed (CLP) control, and we have not treated EWM during that time. We may have to rethink our Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) control strategy for 2022. At this time, it does not appear that we will have the financial resources to treat both CLP and EWM in 2022. One way lakeshore property owners can assist with overall CLP and EWM control is by self-treating your own shoreline.

A DNR permit costing \$35.00 is required before beginning treatment. Here is a link to the DNR portal to apply for a permit. I encourage you to consider the self-treatment option:

- <https://webapps11.dnr.state.mn.us/mpars/public/authentication/login>.

Now a word about BELIA membership. There are about 155 properties that are located on Eagle Lake or have deeded access to Eagle Lake. In 2021, only ninety (90) out of these 155 properties were BELIA members. We had thirteen (13) fewer members in 2021 than we did in 2020. COVID and COVID related concerns may have had some impact on membership numbers, however, we sure would like to see these numbers improve going forward. We encourage you to renew your 2022 membership at your earliest convenience. Also, please strongly consider an “extra” contribution along with your renewal to help fund lake improvement projects. If you know of friends or neighbors on the lake that are not BELIA members, please encourage them to become a member. To make a donation and to renew your membership online, go to

- <https://www.bigeaglelakeimprovementassociation.com/get-involved>

You will see that we have packed a lot of information into this newsletter. It contains a number of informative articles written by the project leaders of various lake improvement initiatives and social and fundraising activities planned for 2022. Please take the time to read the entire newsletter.

Finally, the **2022 BELIA Annual Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, May 7th at 10:00 am at Lions Park.** We do not quite have the agenda nailed down yet but we will get that to you prior to the meeting. The Annual Meeting is always a good time to visit with friends and neighbors and to bring your thoughts, concerns, and questions to the Board. We hope to see you there.



Take care. Be safe. Gordy

Stay connected!

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Treasurer’s Report – Jeff Johnson

BELIA Treasurer’s Report (Annual) Year Ending, December 31st, 2021

Checking Account Balance as of January 1 st , 2021	\$26,505.83
- Deposits –	\$36,982.84
Includes Grants by Sherburne County Soil/Water Conservation	
Includes Proceeds from Pulled Pork Cook-Off Fundraiser	
Includes Proceeds from Wine & Beer Fundraiser	
Includes members 2021 dues payments and “extra” contributions	
- Withdrawals -	\$26,639.39
Includes \$615.00 AIS Consulting 2021 Weed Survey	
Includes \$15,505.08 Aquatic Solutions 2021 Weed Treatment	
Includes \$733.00 Errors and Omissions Liability Insurance	
Includes \$284.00 General Liability Insurance	
Includes expenses associated with fundraisers	
Includes misc. expense for general operations	
Checking Account Balance as of December 31 st , 2021	\$36,849.28

There were 90 *paid-up* members at the end of year 2021.
 There were 103 *paid-up* members at the end of year, 2020.
 There was \$3150.00 in member dues and \$6,393.77 in “extra” contributions collected in 2021
 There was \$3605.00 in member dues and \$6,155.77 in “extra” contributions collected in 2020

Major Project Summary

Aquatic Solutions (herbicide treatments) 5/6/21 \$15,505.82

The 2021 Annual Renewal with the Secretary of State is due in July. Submitted 2/7/22
 The 2021 990 Federal Tax return is due in May. Submitted 2/27/22
 The 2021 MN Sales Tax Filing was submitted 1/11/22
 The 2021 filing with the Attorney General is due in July.

Respectfully submitted by,
 Jeff Johnson
 Treasurer

2022 ‘Ice Out’ Contest Winners

Thank you to all who participated in this year’s ‘Ice Out’ Contest. Ice went off of Big Eagle Lake on Thursday, April 14th. The Winners of our annual Ice Out Contest are Brad Phillips and Lori Andreen. Congratulations!



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Water Quality Committee Report – Bryan Adams

Big Eagle Lake Water Quality Committee Report for 2022

Your Lake Water Quality Committee, in cooperation with SWCD (Sherburne Soil and Water Conservation District), remains active in pursuing a solution for excessive nutrients that cause the blue green algae blooms that contribute to our water quality issues. Our 2019 nutrient study reflected three (3) top issues that need to be addressed: 1) carp management, 2) northeast watershed, and 3) sediment release. This year the DNR classified our lake as ‘impaired.’ This classification will improve our chances of obtaining grants to help solve our water quality issue, but is not good news from a water quality perspective. Due to federal and state land use regulations, any proposed projects to solve the nutrient contribution from the northeast watershed area probably not be allowed and we are now concentrating our efforts on carp management.

Carp scavenge the bottom of lakes for plant and animal material, stirring up nutrients and reducing water clarity. And due to their large size their excrement introduces nutrients into the water. This year, with two \$10,000 grants from SWCD (with BELIA contributing \$1,000 for each grant), ten (10) carp were netted and tagged with radio receivers to determine where they congregate in the winter for potential future netting. This effort revealed they all congregate in the south basin, not far from the lake outlet. This study also revealed that the carp population is not as large as previously thought but still an issue. This spring, cameras will be installed at the two (2) inlets and one (1) outlet to determine where the carp go to spawn. Our goal is to reduce the number of carp and their ability to spawn. With future grants, we hope to net carp next year.



The sediment on the lake bottom has accumulated a large amount of nutrients over the years. This is the largest contributor to the excess of nutrients in our lake. The strategy to solve the sediment release issue calls for the use of an alum treatment at an estimated cost of \$800,000. Being classified as an impaired lake and solving the carp nutrient contribution will go a long way in helping us secure the large grant necessary to resolve the sediment contribution.

The growth of Eurasian water milfoil (EWM) and curly-leaf pondweed (CLP), both non-native aquatic invasives (AIS), continues to limit our ability to fully enjoy our lake. This year we did not receive a grant from the DNR to treat these invasive plants. BELIA did receive two grants from the SWCD to survey the population growth for both EWM and CLP. We also received a \$2,000 grant to treat CLP and have a carryover grant of \$2,000 from last year to treat EWM. The Lake Quality Committee is currently waiting for the results of the population growth survey to determine where treatment is needed and the herbicide to control for CLP, EWM, or both. We are limited by the DNR to treat a maximum of 46.5 acres at an approximate cost of \$16,000 per treatment. Due to financial constraints, we have only treated for CLP in the past and we may have to rethink this strategy. We are also researching using a different chemical to obtain better results.

The lake level is still somewhat controlled by those darn beavers plugging up the culvert downstream of the outlet. Last fall the culvert was cleared of the beaver debris resulting in the lower lake level. We will wait to see what transpires this year.

On a final note, our lake quality improvement journey would not be as far along without the technical and financial support of SWCD. We all thank you!!

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How to treat the Aquatic Vegetation on your shoreline.

BELIA is allowed to treat aquatic *invasive* species, but not native species, and are limited by DNR regulations to waters 150 feet or more from shore. Eurasian Water Milfoil grows in the shallow waters and has had a profound impact on Big Eagle Lake. You, as a homeowner, can treat vegetation growing along your shoreline. For more information, please check out these links:

- <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/apm/index.html>
- <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/shorelandmgmt/apg/problemplants.html>

For a DNR Permit to treat your lakeshore:

- <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/shorelandmgmt/apg/permits.html>

Licensed aquatic herbicide distributors in our area:

Aquatic Solutions: <https://aquaticsolutionsmn.com>

Lake Restoration: <http://www.lakerestoration.com>

BELIA is working to potentially facilitate the landowner permit and application process for shorelines in 2023. Please come to the Annual Meeting to learn more.



What you can do to support your lake and the BELIA:

- **Maintain your annual Membership:** This is the largest source of our income. Send in your membership payment on the enclosed application form. Or renew or sign up (use form to sign up) on our website: belia.org/get-involved.
- **Make an extra donation with your membership:** We so appreciate donations above and beyond your annual dues.
- **Amazon.smile.com:** Designate BELIA as your charity and a donation to the lake association by our members will be received quarterly.
- **Join us** for Community and support our Fundraising Events.
- **Volunteer!** We need more folks to help with our events and fundraisers. Join our fun and resourceful Events Team as we come up with ideas for events and fundraisers, or simply volunteer an hour or so of your time. Questions? Please contact Lori Andreen at bigeaglelakeboard@gmail.com.
- **And remember to CLEAN, DRAIN, AND DRY:**



- **CLEAN** watercraft, trailer, motor, and equipment. REMOVE visible plants, mussels, other animals, and mud before leaving any water access.
- **DRAIN** water from boat, bilge, motor, and live well be removing drain plug and opening all water draining devices away from the boat ramp. Regulations require this when leaving accesses in many states and provinces.
- **DRY** everything AT LEAST five days before going to other waters and landings or recreation equipment with high pressure and/or hot water (120 degrees or higher).

For more information go to:

www.wildlifeforever.org/invasive-species

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/index.html>

<http://www.sherburneswcd.org>

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Thank you to...

- All of our AIS Inspector volunteers who have inspected boats coming into the lake! Ken & Lori Andreen, J. Craig Johnson, Ed Peitso, Jeff Johnson, John Smullen
- The Lake Quality Committee who continue to take samples of the lake for our Nutrient Study: Bryan Adams, Mark Kurtz, Dan Boyle, Ed Peitso, Paul Ellinger, Mike Donnelly, Ken Andreen, Jim Swanson, and Gordy Westerlind.
- The BELIA Events Team for their tireless energy and enthusiasm planning and putting on our Events, both for fun and as well as our fundraisers. Lori Neissess, Kim DeVries, Sandy McClurg, Kristin Vigoren, Dwight and Sam Buehler, Marcie Swanson, Marie Johnson, Adria Pettit, Sue Jones, Raquel Wallin, Kathie Lewis, Lori Andreen, and all of our Event Volunteers!
- To those of you who support BELIA faithfully each year with your Membership and extra contributions. We could not keep a healthy lake without your support.
- To Lupulin Brewing for their support of our Pulled Pork Cook-Off!
- To 'The Buff' and Sand Dunes Liquors (Orrock) for their support of our Wine and Beer and Silent Auction Event.
- And all of our sponsors! Thank you so much!



AIS Inspectors to return to Big Eagle Lake

Both volunteer and paid inspectors will be at the Public Access watching for AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) and educating folks on the prevention of AIS spread from lake to lake. We are especially on the lookout for starry stonewort, a filamentous alga that grows so thick boats cannot drive through, and the spiny water flea which have shown up in Minnesota lakes. Thank you for cleaning, draining, and drying all of your equipment including life jackets, tackle, trailers, etc. If you have an interest in volunteering to protect our lake, please contact John Smullen at jpsmullen@gmail.com.



Saturdays, May 21st and October 15th

BELIA partners with Connexus Energy to sponsor the clean-up of County Road 75 for the Sherburne County 'Adopt-a-Highway' program. Twice a year we cover County Road 75 from the Boat Access to County Road 5. We need your help! Bring work-gloves if you need them, sometimes tall boots are helpful. Connexus Energy supplies us with plastic garbage bags and vests. It is always a nice time, and the road looks so nice when we are done. It takes about an hour or so depending on how many come... Thanks a bunch!



Fun is Brewing at the 2022 Music in the Park!

Thursdays 7-8:30 PM
June 2nd – August 11th
Lakeside Park, Big Lake



Lupulin Brewing donated \$1500 to BELIA last year as a part of their non-profit sharing. Please come out, grab a brew, and enjoy 'Music in the Park' at Big Lake's Lakeside Park. Please see the Events page for a list of performers and the Food Truck offerings.

Spud Fest Time! June 23-26th

BELIA Volunteers will be serving at the
**Spud Fest Ball Fields on
Saturday, June 25th from 1:30 – 4:30.**



We will be wearing our Pulled Pork Cook-Off t-shirts and hope to raise awareness of our upcoming Event. Come' and say 'Hi!'



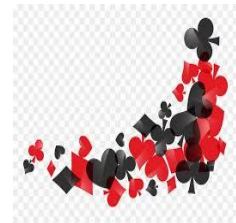
4th of July Boat Parade 1 PM

More details to follow. Meet at the Public Access at 1 PM and cruise around the lake, celebrating our Nation. Watch for more info to follow!

Poker Run Saturday, July 23rd 3-?

What could be more fun than meeting up with new and old friends as we travel by water, progressive style, to the homes of five of your lake neighbors where you will be treated to fine dining. At each home you will receive one poker card, and at the end of the evening the person with the top poker hand wins the 'pot.' *Cost is \$10 per person (\$5 to defer the cost of food and \$5 for the 'poker pot'.)

If you have joined us in the past, think of hosting! We always love to have new people host. Questions? Lori at bigeaglelakeboard@gmail.com.



Wine and Beer Tasting and Silent Auction Friday, October 7th 6 –9 PM At The Buff

This is our seventh annual, and biggest, fundraising event of the year. Vendors from multiple avenues bring samples of beer and wine for your enjoyment and offer discounts on purchases. Our Silent Auction is amazing, and we thank George Wallin and our Events Team for all their work soliciting donations, organizing, packaging.

If you have a basket or an item or service you would like to donate, we would love to hear from you. No donation is too big or too small!

Challenge: Each Big Eagle Lake development could donate a basket. Love to see your ideas!



***BELIA is creating Big Eagle Lake Spirit Wear!
We'll talk more about this at the Annual Meeting May 7th.
See you there!***