FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Members,

Spring has arrived and isn’t it marvelous! We had an interesting morning seeing the arrival of the first pair of orioles, a male indigo bunting, a pair of grosbeaks, and the continual appearance of goldfinches, both male and female. Along with the visits of purple finches, nuthatches, chickadees and various woodpecker species, our day has been brightened.

First, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for renewal memberships both individual and businesses. Without your financial support, this organization would not exist. We are below our membership compared to a year ago and perhaps the recession has something to do with the decrease. On the other hand, I am sure there are folks owning lake shore property who continually believe that their $25 would be wasted because the Lake Association “doesn’t do anything”. I strongly disagree. You do have a voice through this organization. For example, I received 2 phone calls recently concerning possible water quality violations. One dealt with a pipe allegedly carrying polluted water into the lake. A call to Todd County Planning and Zoning gave me the encouragement that they were on top of this alleged violation and were taking steps to correct it. A second call related to clumps of earth flowing under Highway 71 into the lake.

I contacted the SRWD and the administrator and I visited the site. An inquiry was made to MnDOT and hopefully the problem is solved. I hope that if any of you see violations affecting lake water quality that you will not hesitate to call the agencies authorized to correct the problem. Remember, the BSLA is not a law-enforcing body. We have no power to do this. There is, however, no limit in our efforts to educate the public concerning water quality issues and to invest our limited funds in that direction. I would also like to remind our readers that ours is a volunteer organization. If we believe that we move too slowly in completing projects, you may want to consider volunteering to help move them along.

Now, I would like to comment on the issues your Board has been considering.

• ANNOUNCEMENT: Our Annual meeting will be held in the basement of the First Lutheran Church (Eil St. and Sinclair Lewis Avenue) on Saturday, May 23rd commencing at 8:00 with a breakfast served by the Youth of the church. A business meeting will start shortly after 8:30 and will be followed by our program speaker, a Q and A session and a drawing for prizes. This year, the new SRWD administrator Holly Kovarik will be our speaker. Registration is $20 per member, $10 for guests and all door prizes. At registration, you will receive the agenda, last year's minutes, and copies of our 09 budget, a statement of '08 expenses and receipts, and a copy of the carp removal fund income and expenditures to date. Don’t forget to bring questions for Holly concerning the SRWD and to the Board concerning BSLA activities.

• In conjunction with the meeting we hope to have another water testing clinic for nitrates. To participate, you must bring in a sample of well water which has not gone through your water softener. It must be in a clean jar, have been refrigerated overnight and be properly labeled with some kind of identifiable code. The latter is in the event you do not wish to use your name. Your sample will be analyzed during the early part of the meeting and results given to you. Should your well water contain nitrates in excess of state standards, it may be contaminated. In that event, a similar sample should be taken to a certified lab for confirmation. Please watch the Herald for any change in this plan. Remember, only well water samples!

• One action item on the agenda will be election of new Board members. Presently, we are five members short of our By-Laws stipulation of 13. I have heard of at least one Association member interested in joining our Board. We could use some Gender Equity as well! How about volunteering this year?

• At registration there will also be a signup sheet to help staff our Fair Booth. Dates are Wednesday through Sunday, July 29, 30, 31 and August 1 and 2. This booth represents a significant outreach of our lake association to the public. This is not just a duty of Board members. You are urged to help out for a couple of hours.

• Carp control has been high on our agenda this year. A special article has been written to bring you up to date. Don’t expect miracles based on removal of 18-19 thousand pounds of carp. It may take 2 or 3 years to bring the numbers down and improve water clarity. We are still looking at the possibility of having a carp bow hunting tournament in early June. We need to know more details of how a State bow hunting organization would set this up.

continued on page 2
Forest Tent Caterpillars - Could This Be The Year?

The Biblical book of Exodus, Chapters 7-11 describes a series of plagues which fell upon the Egyptians eventually forcing the ruling pharaoh to free the enslaved Israelites. Many of our readers will recall another historical "plague" which began in '88 and peaked in the late spring and early summer of '89. While not of biblical proportions, it was both amazing and disgusting to watch. Perhaps tens of thousands of forest tent caterpillars hatched out in those years and proceeded to munch their way through the trees around Sauk Lake. They were everywhere, emerging from large woven webs and dropping down on lawns and eventually crawling over every available surface. Homeowners washed them off porches and steps with near boiling water. It was difficult to walk on the side of a road without crushing them underfoot. Homeowners were contacted to hire a professional pilot to conduct aerial spraying for several years and the population finally crashed. The insecticide Btk (Bacillus thuringiensis kurstake) proved to be quite effective.

In 2008, MnDNR reported pockets of infestation in some western and central counties in Minnesota including western Stearns County and southern Todd. Homeowners and cabin "week-enders" are encouraged to keep watch for signs of emerging caterpillars starting this month. While vigorously growing trees can withstand severe defoliation for several consecutive years, watch out for young trees. In '88 and '89, basswood trees seemed to be the principal food source. However, the caterpillars have been known to feed on other deciduous trees, including aspen, birch, maple, crabapple, apple, ash, oak and elm.

In addition to the insecticide Btk, there are other environmentally products available such as insecticidal soap, spinosad, and azadirachtin. Professional guidance is recommended if large scale application is needed. One caution: at least one local beekeeper felt that the aerial spraying caused a severe decline in bee population. Was there a cause and effect connection here? This is left to the reader.

Source: 2009 May-June Issue of From Shore to Shore - UM extension service; www.shorelandmanagement.org

Other Bits Of News and Views

A Friday May 15, 2009 article in the Minneapolis Star Tribune titled "IT'S HERE" revealed that the dreaded emerald ash borer as made its way into Minnesota. The ash borer has already killed millions of ash trees in 10 Eastern states and some 20 million trees in Michigan. It's recent discovery in an area northeast of the junction of I-94 and Minnesota 280, poses a "critical threat to the state's 900 million ash trees". Lakeside residents should be on the lookout for telltale symptoms such as trees with upper branches which are dying, sprouting "suckers" along the trunks, or are showing woodpecker damage and D-shaped holes in the bark. The latter is the evidence that the larvae have emerged as adult insects chowing their way out of the tree. Tree experts "will remove patches of bark from suspect trees to look for tell-tale squiggly insect paths."

Currently, the counties of Houston, Ramsey and Hennepin are under a quarantine for transfer of ash wood particularly firewood. Contact your County Agent if you suspect dying ash trees on your property. There is a relatively costly treatment if the tree is young, otherwise it will have to be cut down and destroyed to kill the larvae. You can go to http://tinyurl.com/p47wgsf and http://tinyurl.com/d6njj9

Note: This article was authored by Bill McAuliffe and Bob Von Stemberg and quoted with permission.

NOTE OUR ADVERTISERS: Should you visit any one of them, please mention their advertisement in our newsletter!

ANNUAL MEETING SALE ON BIG SAUK LAKE MAPS!!! Should you attend the Annual Meeting, you may purchase one of our beautiful lake maps at 50% off the regular price. Please consider as something to beautify your den or cabin or as a gift.

Some Irish humor.

An Irish priest is driving down to New York and gets stopped for speeding in Connecticut. The state trooper smells alcohol on the priest's breath and then sees an empty wine bottle on the floor of the car. He says, "Sir, have you been drinking?" "Just water," says the priest. The trooper says, "Then why do I smell wine?" The priest looks at the bottle and says, "Good Lord! He's done it again!"

Walking into the bar, Mike said to Charlie the bartender, "Pour me a stiff one - just had another fight with the little woman." "Oh yeah?" said Charlie, "And how did this one end?" "When it was over," Mike replied, "She came to me on her hands and knees. ''Really?" said Charlie, "Now that's a switch! What did she say?" She said, "Come out from under the bed, you little chicken!"

And now a few for the punsters among us!

1. Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.
2. A backward poet writes inverse.
3. Don't join dangerous cults. Practice safe sects.
4. A dog gave birth to puppies near a road and was cited for littering.
5. A rubber-band pistol was confiscated from an algebra class because it was a weapon of math disruption.
6. I wondered why the baseball appeared to be getting bigger. Then it hit me!
7. Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.
8. The roundest knight at King Arthur's table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.
MEMBERSHIP

The following is a listing of BSLA Residential and Business members who have paid dues for calendar year 2009 as of April 30th. THANK YOU for your support of Big Sauk Lake and the Sauk Centre community!

RESIDENTIAL
James & Alice Abraham
Frank & Nancy Ademite
Ed & Beth Ampe
Dennis Anderson
Eugene & June Anderson
Phil & Vicki Bahl
John Banovetz
Kevin & Mari Banz
Tim Barker
Brian & Maria Bartsch
Eleanor Bastien
Timothy Becker
Vern & Sue Beckermann
Betty Lou Berg
Linda Besse
Randy & Josie Bettenger
Jerry & Kay Beuning
Roger & Susan Beuning
Marian Bielek
John & Gail Bieniek
5920 Sheridan Ave
Robert & Jan Bjork
Mike & Betty Blenkush
Gene H. Blomgren
Michael Burns
Tom Busch
Richard & Susan Cardinal
Barbara Carlson
Wendell & Clara Christensen
Roger Cook/Jannette Grazzini-Cook
Jim & Barb Cooper
Richard & Linda Cross
Erv & Roxanne Danielowski
Robert & Colleen Diercks
John & Lorna Dierks
John Dietsch
Joseph & Hazel Dirnberger
James Dolan
Phil & Marian Ehresman
Wayne & Arlene Fabrello
Patrick & Elizabeth Faust
Tony & Irene Felling
Marle & Kathy Felling
Mike & Judy Felling
Jean & Pat Fiedler
Tom & Eddie Fischer
Roger Fisher
Marty & Deb Fitzgerald
Katherine Fobes
Eugene & Marion Fourniea
Tom Frazee
Nathan French
George S. Gaugheer
Greg Gilb
Roger Grapper
David & Kathy Grussing
Larry & Mary Gustafson
Ed & Sara Hackenmueller
Benedict & Claire Haeg
Gloria & Mike Hage
Francis & Darleen Hagen
Jack & Karen Haley
Eugene & Kristine Hansen
Harry & Alta Hanson
Gary & Mary Hargreaves
Rick & Cindy Haroldson
Maggie Heinen
Jay & Beth Heinze

Dick & Grace Henning
Bill & Deb Hildebrand
Dean B. Hilgers
Mark J. and Barbara A. Hilgers
Mark & Patti Hillstrom
Jim & Liz Himanga
Harold & Jana Hines
Lawrence & Barbara Hittle
Bob & Sue Hoffman
Randy & Denise Hommerding
Stan & Dorothy Hordness
Lance & Sharon Isenberg
Isaac & Marlene Israelson
Tim & Mary Janish
Dan Jaros
Rick & Laurie Jennissen
James & Bernadette Jennissen
Romaine Joarnot
Edward H. Johnson
David & Kay Kallenbach
Kenneth Korte
Chuck & Bev Kantorem
Ron & Carol Keffel
Christine E. Lamusga
Curtis Langeberg
Bill & Mary Jo Lanik
Mary Ellis Larson
Cory & Megan Larson
Larry & JoAnn Lawinger
Bruce Leasure
Peter & Karen Leko
MeRoy & Carol Lillehaugen
Duffy Lind
Maxine Lobbejko
Jim & Mary Maddox
Skip & Lyn Manoski
Darlene Mareck
Jeff & Carol Mayer
Peg and Linnae Mead
Steve & Fran Messerli
J&J Miller Family Trust
Lanny & Darlene Meyer
James & Lorraine Mueller
Patricia Musenberg
Sherry & Roland Musolf
Ken & Mary Nelson
Ken & Judy Nelson
Dave & Gerry Newgaard
Dave & Cheree Norstrud
Fred Olson
Treonna Panitzke
Herb & Alice Peters
Rod & Jeanne Pettit
Ed & Susan Pfeifer
Roger & Betsy Pielka
David & Anne Pipenhagen
Dupper Poplinick
Dale & Nancy Primus
Danuta Rajtar
Roger Reinardy
Ronald & Judy Reller
Shirley Rice
John & Sue Rick
Albert E. Rindfleisch
Marjorie D. Ripperton
Bruce & Lynn Robeck
Gregg & Sharon Rosenow
Denny & Kathy Schiebold
Doug Schmid
Jerome & Mary Schmitz
Mark & Shelli Schreier
Eleanor Scott
Frank & Doris Scott
Paul Sieben
Don & Jan Spohn
Arnold & Joan Sticha
Dale and Kathryn Struffert
Darlene Swank
Bob & Linda Swanson
Lawrence & Dolores Terwey
Vic & Lorraine Traut
Dwayne & Judy Trisko
Joe & Katie Uphus
Dave Vandesteeg
Ed Voehnka
Dennis & Dorothy VonBank

Tim & Myrna Walker
Glenna Lee Walker
Roy Walz
Bruce & Barb Wanquist
Steve Warcheza
Dwayne Weiner
Brian & Sue Weinzierl
Tim & Jo Weir
Dan and Ariele Welle
Bruce & Vanessa Whitehead
Ronald & Rose Mary Williams
Bill Wroge
Wayne & Mary Jo Yokiel
Dale & Jan Zaczkowski
Jim & Mary Zilka
Jim Zuccaro

BUSINESSES
Boomerang Marine & Powersports
Central MN Federal Credit Union
Centre Hair Design
Centre Lumber
Country Cat, Inc
Felling Trailers, Inc
First State Bank
Fletcher's Bait
Godfather's Exterminating, Inc
H & R Block
Heartland Chaper of MN Darkhouse Assn
Mainstreet Communications
Midwest Machinery Co
Minnesota National Bank
Patton Schad Funeral Service
Sauk Centre Chiropractor/John B. Welle
Sauk Centre Public Utilities Comm
Stearns DHIA Central Lab
Stearns Electric Association
Tree Top Nursery & Landscaping
Vait Welding & Repair

Big Sauk Lake Association
2009 Membership
($25 per Year: Jan. 1—Dec. 31)

Name: ____________________________
Mailing Address: ____________________________

Phone No: ____________________________

☐ I/We would be interested in receiving the “Informer” via e-mail.

E-mail Address: ____________________________

Please cut out and include with your payment to:  
BSLA, Box 282, Sauk Centre, MN 56378

THANK YOU for your support of Big Sauk Lake!
1. Minnesota has how many lakes?
   a. less than 10,000  b. exactly 10,000  c. more than 10,000  d. more than 20,000

2. Which is official state fish?
   a. walleye  b. bass  c. northern pike  d. black crappie

3. Minnesota became a state in what year?
   a. 1838  b. 1848  c. 1858  d. 1868

4. It has snowed in Minnesota:
   a. every month of the year  b. every month except August  c. every month except July and August  d. every month except June, July and August

5. The deadliest tornado in the state occurred in what city?

6. The largest Minnesota lake is:
   a. Red Lake, including "Upper" and "Lower"  b. Mille Lacs Lake  c. Lake Winnibigoshish  d. Lake Vermillion

7. What is the official state bird?

8. What river connects Mille Lacs Lake with the Mississippi?

9. Which of these lakes is not classified as a reservoir?
   a. Upper and Lower Red  b. Leech  c. Mille Lacs  d. Winnibigoshish

10. Which of these rivers forms the southern end of the Red River?

11. The Minnesota State Fair was not held in 1946 because of
    a. A tornado  b. World War II  c. The polio epidemic  d. A flu epidemic

12. Minnesota was named after the Dakota Indian name "Minisota". It means
    a. Sky-tinted water  b. Lake-filled land  c. Fish-filled lakes  d. Land of rivers

13. Which of these was not invented in Minnesota?
    a. Snowmobiles  b. Shopping malls  c. Skyways  d. Typewriters

14. The most invasive fish species in Minnesota lakes according to experts is the
    a. bullhead  b. eel pout  c. carp  d. pumpkinseed sunfish

15. Upper and Lower Red Lake are remnants of a vast glacial lake known as
    a. Lake Dakota  b. Cass Lake  c. Lake Agassiz  d. Lake Schoolcraft

UPDATE ON ANNUAL MEETING:
We will hold a clinic for nitrate testing of well water for members and other lake shore residents. Bring your chilled water sample(s) in a sealed plastic bag or clean glass jar with some ID on the bottle or bag. Results will be obtained after the breakfast and/or annual meeting is completed.