

Our Bayfield County Lakes and Streams

Bayfield County has a wealth of surface water resources. We enjoy over 940 inland lakes. 259 of our lakes have privately owned shoreline. Our county also has hundreds of miles of streams plus extensive shoreline on Lake Superior, the crown jewel of the Great Lakes.

Until recently, development was fairly limited on all of these waters except the largest and most accessible lakes. In the past few decades, however, the pace of development has accelerated and nearly every lake or stream with privately owned shoreline has experienced a rapid increase in pressure from development. Additionally, invasive species now pose very substantial threats to our waters.

The BCLF

The idea of forming a countywide association began in 1999 as we recognized the gap that existed between our local lake groups and statewide organizations concerned about lake issues. We also saw the value in a countywide perspective, communication and coordination on problems or opportunities that affect all lakes. Many representatives from lakes throughout Bayfield County participated.

The Bayfield County Lakes Forum, Inc. is a citizen group not connected with any government body. We are an affiliate member of the Wisconsin Association of Lakes (WAL).

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Accomplishments and Activities

BCLF provides assistance to lake groups wishing to form lake associations.

BCLF offers guest speakers and free workshops on Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia in fish and other issues.

BCLF sought and won an aquatic plant transportation prohibition in our county.

BCLF offers substantial Northwest Lakes Conference ticket discounts.

BCLF keeps lake associations and individuals aware of the activities of the Wisconsin Association of Lakes and encourages WAL membership.

BCLF communicates with county lake groups regarding issues affecting lakes and maintains the BCLF website, *BayfieldCountyLakes.org*.

BCLF sponsors regional lake events that educate lake owners, users, government officials and the public.

BCLF successfully lobbied for a County AIS Coordinator and a major AIS grant.

BCLF coordinates activities relating to lakes with county government, town boards, UWEX, and other groups who are involved with lake programs. We provide volunteer resources to assist these agencies and organizations in accomplishing their work. BCLF frequently appears at public hearings and provides input on lake issues.

BCLF educates members about state grant programs for lake management and monitoring activities and assists members seeking these grants.

Mission: The Bayfield County Lakes Forum works to preserve and enhance the scenic, natural, recreational and economic values of Bayfield County lakes, streams and shorelands.

What you already know . . .

Shoreland zoning changes, invasive species, increased pressure, water use conflicts, and rapidly increasing development all impact our lakes in northern Wisconsin. BCLF gives each of us the means to understand the issues affecting our lakes and streams. **The Forum offers a channel of communication with other lakes and individuals, plus access to resources that can help lake organizations and shoreland owners protect our lakes.**

What you can do . . .

Consider forming a lake association. Contact BCLF for help. **Organized or not, designate one 'delegate' to be the primary contact person for your lake.** This contact person does not have to be a resident of Bayfield County, but must have access to email. **Submit the name of your lake's delegate to the BCLF today by contacting any BCLF Director!**

How we can help . . .

We have speakers ready to help you form your association. If already organized, we can place you on our communications list. Let us know of issues important to *your* lake. The BCLF network includes lake organizations plus many key officials and volunteers. **Through your lake delegate we can address each others' lake issues, seek solutions and share in the protection of our lakes and streams. Check out our website for much more Bayfield County lake information!**

Give Your Lake a Voice!

All Bayfield County lakes, large or small, private or with public access, with or without a lake association are invited to be members of BCLF.

- **No membership fees for lake groups** (Voluntary donations appreciated)
- **Few meeting obligations** (We communicate by email.)
- **Individual Memberships now available**

Participating Organizations:

Lake Ahmeek	Cable Lake
Deep Lake	Delta Area Lakes
Diamond Lake	Eau Claire Lakes
Half Moon Lake	Lake Owen
Iron River Lakes	Marengo Lake
Kelly Lake	Long Lake
Lake Namakagon	Pigeon Lake
Lake Potawatomi	Price Lake
Bony Lake	Lake Superior
Lake Tahkodah	Tri Lakes

Who Will Speak for Your Lake?

"Consider what the BCLF has done. Now imagine what more we could do with the support of everyone who enjoys and values our lakes, streams and shorelands!

Share in our strength. Turn your concern about our waters into the power to preserve them."

Jim Brakken, BCLF President

BayfieldCountyLakes.org

The BAYFIELD COUNTY LAKES FORUM



***Working to help
protect your Lake.***

BayfieldCountyLakes.org