



A Note From the BSLA President

The October newsletter is the time to reflect on Big Sand events and activities that helped make the summer of 2011 memorable and to begin to plan for the next summer season. Take a moment to browse the interesting and informative articles included in this issue and check out the 2012 calendar of Big Sand events planned for next year.

The encroaching threat of Zebra Mussels came to the forefront this summer with news of the growing infestation in many MN lakes such as Pelican Lake in nearby Otter Tail County. We received notice at the beginning of October that zebra mussels have just been detected in Rose Lake, another Otter Tail County lake. See Richard Sederstrom's article "The Monster's Among Us". Information about zebra mussels and invasive species prevention is posted on the kiosk at the access. Thanks to Carol Zimmerman for designing and installing the display.

Big Sand social events added to the fabric of a memorable summer –luncheon at Summerhill Farm in June; 4th of July boat parade with 34 boats participating, the ice cream social on the beach at Pine Cone Lodge and the Annual Meeting in July; the August social at Terri and Todd Zimmerman's; the women's luncheon at Linda Lee's, and the end of summer cookout at Evergreen Lodge in September. These events are a great time to greet neighbors and meet others who live on Big Sand and share a passion for our beautiful lake.

The launch of the Big Sand website, www.bigsandlake.org, in April was a major accomplishment this year. We hope that you will visit often during the coming months to keep in touch with the lake. If you are not lucky enough to be at Big Sand year round, the webcam will provide first hand views of the changing seasons and weather conditions.

An updated Big Sand Directory was published in July. Our goal was to distribute a copy to every residence on the lake and to every paid membership. If you have not received yours, or note incorrect information, please contact us at BSLA, Box 181, Park Rapids, MN 56470 or at info@bigsandlake.org. Remember that a password protected copy of the directory is also on the website. Contact us if you have difficulty accessing the on-line version.

None of these activities and projects could have been accomplished without volunteers. Thank you especially to Heather Wittman, for her work on the website; Candy Malm for arranging all of the social events; Jo Judson for extra assistance with the Annual Meeting; Karen Nelson for work on the newsletter; Tricia Frederickson for taking on the Calling Tree; Irene Weis for her work with grant projects; Cindy Rehkamp for her work on membership; Bonnie Brand, Linda Lee, Zimmermans and Dyres for hosting social events; Carolyn Corwin, Marcia Berglund, and Ivy Douglas for assisting at the Annual Meeting; Dan Dyre, Don Douglas and Ellis Jones for monitoring water quality; Catharine Williamson and the Foundation Board Members; and finally BSLA Board Members. My apologies to anyone I may have missed.

The biggest thanks goes to You, the BSLA Members for supporting the organization with your dues. We couldn't do it without you.

Have a great winter. See you next summer!
Barb Kimer - t-bkimer@msn.com / 218-732-0237

EXTRA COPIES OF THE 2011 BIG SAND DIRECTORY ARE AVAILABLE

Would you like an extra copy of the new updated Big Sand Directory to keep at your away-from-the-lake home? Or to keep in your car? They are especially handy with the centerfold map of Big Sand roads.

Additional copies are available for \$5 – includes \$3 for production costs and \$2 for a tax-free donation to BSLA.

Send your request to BSLA, Box 181, Park Rapids, MN 56470 or to info@bigsandlake.org

CONTENTS

President's Letter	page 1
Extra Directories	page 1
Invasive Species	page 2
Volunteers Needed	page 3
Donations Large & Small	page 3
Fisheries	page 4
Tick Borne Disease	page 5-6
Living Legacy Trees	page 6
In Memory	page 7
Charitable Fund	page 7
2011-2012 BSLA Board	page 7
2012 Calendar	page 8



Invasive Species:

Richard Sederstrom
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THE MONSTERS AMONG US

It's a horror movie! It is War of the Worlds. It is Contagion. It is Outbreak. Them. Hosts of horrible beasts surround us, ready to leap at our throats and devour us, slowly, slowly, and in deepest, direst agony.

Of course, it isn't a movie, although we are surrounded, pretty much. Eurasian Watermilfoil chokes many lakes. The Zebra Mussel, the worst of the monsters, threatens us from as close by as Mille Lacs and inexorably approaches. Add Purple Loosestrife, Curly-Leaved Pondweed, Spiny Waterflea, Rusty Crayfish, Faucet Snail, and all their friends and allies to the "cast of thousands," and some of us are trembling maybe, but ready for combat.

The strained relations between lake dwellers and the authorities are not without elements of combat as well. Residents of lakes and watersheds are banding together to experiment with and implement new methods of prevention and control. Some are getting loud, "enraged and engaged," as Joe Shneider of the Christmas Lake Homeowners' Association has put it. Frustrated homeowners are demanding that the old policy of "free and unlimited access" be drastically altered, even recommending regulated accesses with fees, draconian measures that have been adopted in other states. It sounds extreme, but the more noise that is made, if it is loud enough and reasonable enough, the more likely victims of both invasive species and poor policies will be paid attention to.

The Big Sand Lake Association has been quiet so far. So far, we have no evidence of invasive species in the lake. So far. But we have investigated possible preventative measures. We have looked into the possibility of installing a hot water pressure washer at the Big Sand access. BUT: opening a single station on one lake in a chain with at least eight public accesses, plus all the private accesses, would be futile. The station would be expensive, and the DNR will insist upon trained, hired, inspectors for all the hours the station is open. On Gull Lake the current station cost \$25,000 to erect, and employee costs came to \$40,000 for the season just ending.

However, we may have found a solution to the problem of protecting Big Sand Lake. Not surprisingly, the solution is people, as many of you as we can get. Not long ago I found myself certified as an official AIS boat inspector. I know how to inspect watercraft. I know the (diplomatic) procedures for dealing with people at the access, and I am aware that enforcement agencies are trained in the procedures and the new laws. I have also been made aware that those laws will be enforced if an inspector reports a boat on the lake whose owner has refused to have it inspected. In other words, the system is easy. It is acknowledged by the Official Authorities. It is inexpensive. Most importantly, the system can be made as effective as a washing station.

All we need is people. Ideally, we need to inspect in (friendly) pairs, well identified as inspectors, and we need inspectors at the access for as much time as possible. That's a lot of people. But we are not without a potential cadre of volunteers. After the Big Sand meeting/picnic in July, at least thirteen of you expressed your eager interest. Several of these people have expressed particular interest in the program, and we plan to arrange a training session as early as we can next spring. With some wishful thinking I foresee a coming summer replete with the good efforts of dependable volunteers not only protecting Big Sand Lake, but by their presence, helping to signal to the state legislature the immediate and dramatic interest of lake-homeowners in Minnesota. We don't need to be "enraged" to be "engaged," when the engagement is so visible that it cannot be ignored. I also foresee the possibility of fairly regular ad-hoc picnics at the landing; don't forget to keep the fruit salad on ice. Bring brats.

So, now that we have you all fired up and ready to go, what shall you do? My humble recommendation is that you get hold of me. I will strive toward clarity. Find me at richard_sederstrom1221@q.com. We especially need orderly minded volunteers to administer the project, and put me, the pride of the disorderly, in the background where I belong.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR NEXT SUMMER

Concerned residents and friends of Big Sand are needed to volunteer a few hours of time next summer to help monitor boat traffic at the Big Sand access. Please consider joining the corps and become a certified boat inspector. Training will be provided at selected times. Volunteer time at the access will be scheduled at your convenience.

We will need some volunteers by the beginning of the fishing season in mid-May. Let's make a stand to show that we are serious about protecting Big Sand from invasive species. Contact Richard Sederstrom, richard_sederstrom1221@q.com or 218-237-9762 (until Nov. 1) for more information and to indicate your interest in this endeavor.



DONATIONS LARGE AND SMALL BENEFIT BSLA

Marlene Fairchild and Tom/Patti Igel's grandchildren and friends planned, produced and performed a play for friends and family on Hubbard Lane this summer. The children decided that all proceeds -- \$6.64 -- from admission to the play would be donated to the Big Sand Lake Association. BSLA appreciates this donation and the support expressed by even the youngest of those who love Big Sand. Thanks also to everyone who made an additional donation to the BSLA treasury when paying dues this year, now totaling \$686.64. These extra funds support BSLA's operational funds for mailings, publication of the newsletters, the member directory and maintenance of the website and webcam.

Thank You



Fisheries Management Plan:

Tom Igel
tomigel@msn.com

EXPERIMENTAL WALLEYE PROTECTIVE SLOT LIMIT

A public informational meeting on the experimental protective slot limit on walleyes in Big Sand Lake was held by the DNR Park Rapids Area Fisheries on September 28th.

The current regulation requires that all walleyes caught between 20" and 28" be released immediately. Fishermen are allowed one walleye over 28". This regulation will end with the onset of the May 2012 fishing season unless it is extended by the DNR.

Information from Doug Kingsley, supervisor of the Park Rapids area Fishery, indicated that the experimental regulation has appeared positive toward the goal of achieving more and larger walleye in the lake over the past years. It is also evident from what was said at the meeting that further study is necessary to better understand what is happening with the walleye population.

A few interesting comments at the meeting:

- Big drop in fishing pressure on the lake in 2011 from previous years. Cause:early season weather; economy; fewer licenses sold in the State? Who knows? Even though the pressure was down; the walleye harvest rate per hours fished was higher than in past years.
- There were higher than normal counts made of the young walleyes of the year 2011. Good spawning habitat is present in Big Sand.
- There has not been any restocking of walleye in Big Sand since 2000. Good natural reproduction continues.

The overall consensus at the meeting seemed to be that the protective slot remain in effect in some form with the onset of the 2012 walleye fishing season. Evaluation of DNR studies and the input of interested fisherman will be taken into consideration when the decision is made by the DNR over the next few months.

If you were not able to attend the meeting, you can still direct your comments about the protective slot to Doug Kingsley at the DNR Fisheries office in Park Rapids. At this time he would encourage comments via phone to either himself or Edie Evarts in his office at (218)732-4153.

Time is running short before DNR meetings are held and final decisions are made, so I encourage you to contact Doug or Edie Immediately! Thanks!

Tom Igel

TICK BORNE DISEASE EPIDEMIC ON BIG SAND?

By Nancy Ryan

Dear Friends and Neighbors on Big Sand Lake,

My family has been coming to our cabin on the lake for 25 years. As a retired RN I noted with concern the first reports of Lyme's Disease coming to our region about 6 years ago. It seemed that the reports of people becoming ill became more and more frequent. It became personal for us when we learned that our son had been infected with Lyme's long enough to cause arthritic changes in his body. It had gone untreated as he lives in Minneapolis and the doctors there did not test for it until he asked for the test. If you have been at the lake and experienced any of the following symptoms -- fever, a bulls eye rash, or severe headache and fatigue -- please get tested for tick transmitted diseases.

The rate of reported tick borne diseases from 2009 to 2010 in Hubbard County has doubled for lymes, tripled for anaplasmosis and babesiosis. The same statistics are appearing in Cass and Beltrami counties. It appears we are the Mecca for tick borne disease. These diseases are reaching epidemic proportions in our area. I am curious as to what the case numbers will show for 2011. If you or someone who has been at your cabin has been infected, I would like to hear about it as I want to compile information on the rate of tick disease contracted by Big Sand residents and guests. You can email me at npryan1@msn.com.

Most of us have noticed the large deer population in our area. One factor for the rising incidence of Lyme related disease has been attributed to overabundant deer population. In addition, the large number of deer has become a nuisance on the road, causing many accidents, raiding our gardens, and, it seems they are the innocent vectors of disease.

I spoke with a DNR representative from Park Rapids in reference to the large numbers of deer in our area. When asked about increasing the number of deer that can be harvested, I was told that accomplishing that would be difficult for this year. If you would like to see the number of deer that can be harvested in our area increased, please email or call Rob Naplin -- rob.naplin@state.mn.us / 218-732-8452. He works at the Park Rapids DNR Wildlife office and is involved in determining the number of deer that can be taken in our area. Interestingly, I have been the only person to contact him to express concern about the overpopulation of deer and the connection with the large number of tick transmitted diseases in our area. I would appreciate it so much if someone else would call or email so they can't dismiss me as a lone nut case.

It was pointed out that many people in our area feed deer especially over the winter which is a contributing factor for overpopulation. The DNR discourages feeding of the deer but have no way to stop it as there are no laws against it. We, as a concerned group of residents, can speak with people who are feeding them and point out that they likely are unknowingly increasing the risk of disease to people living in our area. Feeding deer, in addition to contributing to deer and tick overpopulation, is also unhealthy for the deer herds as diseases among the herds can spread more quickly when they gather together in large groups.

If you feel that deer feeding should be made illegal in MN, as it is in some of our neighboring states, please contact Bob Meir at 651-259-5024. Mr. Meir is a legislative liaison for the DNR. It is my opinion that the DNR would like to see such legislation enacted. It would be a long, tough battle for change, but it would be an effective solution.

Continued on page 6

TICK BORNE DISEASE EPIDEMIC ON BIG SAND?, continued from pg. 5

In the meantime, we can educate people on the negative aspects of deer feeding by spreading information and increasing awareness. Perhaps if enough of us talk with neighbors, friends or others we know who feed deer to encourage them to discontinue the practice, we can affect change. Our thanks to Dan Dyre, who is aware of the problem, for deciding to stop feeding the deer. If this is important to you and you want to become involved, please contact me.

While we work to affect change, we still have the problem of tick borne disease and need to educate and protect ourselves from this health risk. There is an excellent article on tick borne disease in the July/August issue of Lake Country Journal. Also, a government website, www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/lyme/resources/handbook.pdf, provides advice on treatment and prevention.

I look forward to hearing from any of you who may have ideas and would like to help with these issues. I am also interested in compiling some information about the rate of tick borne disease around Big Sand. If you or someone who has been at your cabin has been infected, please contact me at npryan@msn.com or 218-230-3840

Nancy Ryan
Big Sand Resident and BSLA Member

ARE YOUR LIVING LEGACY TREES STILL LIVING?

Last spring 400 seedlings were planted along the Big Sand shoreline as part of a collaborative grant the Big Sand Lake Association (BSLA) and Hubbard County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) received from the Lake Emma Township Healthy Lakes program. The project was intended to supplement the aging trees and replace those that have died or been taken out.

Shane Foley from SWCD was the mastermind for this project and almost single-handedly planted the trees. Shane spoke at the Big Sand Annual Meeting on Saturday, July 9, and predicted a 70% survival rate. He also encouraged homeowners participating in the project to water the seedlings on a regular basis to ensure that survival rate.

The plastic tubes that were placed around the deciduous trees will encourage quick growth and protect the seedlings from the deer. The netting over the top keeps birds from getting into the tubes. The seedlings will grow out the top of the tube in approximately 5 years. At that time the tubes can be removed. If you are unsure if your seedlings survived, wait until next spring to see if new leaf growth appears.

If your seedling(s) did not survive, the plastic tubes can be reused. We will not know until next spring if we will be able to apply for this grant next year. You may wish to plant replacement seedlings and use the tubes on your property. If you do not wish to reuse the tubes yourself, they can be recycled by returning them to the SWCD office in Park Rapids, 218-732-0121.

In Memory RICHARD KVAMME

Richard Kvamme, March 12, 1919 – May 27th, 2011. Forty years ago Evelyn and Richard flew his plane over Big Sand Lake and were captivated by the blue water and beautiful pines. The very next day they purchased their log cabin on Big Sand. Richard took great joy in helping his three grandchildren, six great grandchildren and his many nieces and nephews learn to water ski. Evelyn and Richard loved to canoe through the channels and lakes to Nevis for ice cream! They also enjoyed canoeing to Lower Bottle Lake to look for swans. One of Richard's favorite activities was to golf at Headwaters with his family and friends. He also enjoyed driving his 1928 Ford Model A around the back roads. Debra and Yvonne remember their dad as always being the one in charge.

In Memory BETTY RIORDAN

Betty Riordan, longtime Big Sand resident, passed away September 25, 2011. Prior to becoming year around residents, Betty and her husband, John, enjoyed summers together on Big Sand. After John passed away Betty continued to enjoy all seasons on the lake. For the last three years she resided at Diamond Willow in Park Rapids. She will be dearly missed by her friends and neighbors on Gunner Drive and remembered for her spirited conversations and warm hospitality. She was often seen walking the road with her faithful dog, Belle. Betty is survived by her daughter Rena Mears, granddaughters, Rachel and Sarah and great grandson, Dylan.

BIG SAND LAKE CHARITABLE FUND

You Have Heard It All -- The Reasons Why -- The Goals.

Please Consider Your Share for Big Sand Lake. SUGGESTED CONTRIBUTION \$100 x 3 Years

Your Investment Return: \$\$\$ At Work To Keep Big Sand Lake Beautiful.

Write your TAX DEDUCTIBLE check to: NWMF – Big Sand Lake CF
Mail to: NWMF-Big Sand Lake CF • 4225 Technology Drive NW • Bemidji MN 56601

Please Call the Advisory Committee with any questions:
Bob Klepinski, Committee Co-Chair • 612.670.1291 bobklepinski@gmail.com
Catharine Williamson, Committee Co-Chair • 952.936.0204 spiritw@me.com
Bill Ellis-Al Judson-Linda Lee-Tom VanBruggen-Ken Wilcox

Article by Catharine Williamson on behalf of the Advisory Committee

2012 BSLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Calling Tree Coordinator:
Tricia Frederickson
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P.O. Box 181, Park Rapids, MN 56470

Clip out this calendar and put it on your refrigerator as a reminder

Calendar of Events 2012

January

14 Cross-country Skiing • 1:00 pm at Soaring Eagle

February

11 Cross-country Skiing • 1:00 pm at Soaring Eagle

June

19 Women's Luncheon • 11:30 am at Summerhill Farm
23 Social Gathering • 5-7pm at Robyn & Randy Wimmer's,
20005 Glenn Drive

July

4 Boat Parade • 11:00 am meet at the inlet
14 BSLA Annual Meeting • 10:00 am at Evergreen Lodge
28 Ice Cream Social • at Pine Cone Lodge

August

21 Women's Luncheon • 11:30 am at Linda Lee's, 20200 Gladwin Drive
25 Social Gathering • 5:00 - 7:00 pm at Gary & Tricia Frederickson's,
19384 Grouse Road

September

15 Fall Social Gathering • 5:30 at Evergreen Lodge



If you are interested in
being notified by email
of additional winter socials,
contact Candy Malm at
candy.malm@gmail.com.

Thanks!