



## *A Note From the BSLA President*

Hello Big Sanders,

Spring is upon us and after a really mild winter and very warm temperatures in mid-March, an early ice-out occurred on March 27. Check the webcam at [www.bigsandlake.org](http://www.bigsandlake.org).

We are pleased to report that the Big Sand website has been a successful project. In May of 2011, the first month after the site was launched, we had 1,339 unique visitors, an impressive number for such a small organization. The number of visits to the site continues to be impressive. For example, just last month (February) we had 789 unique visitors with a total of 2,479 visits (an average of 3.14 visits/visitor).

Thank you to Heather Wittman who posts the text for the Current Events and News homepage and oversees the site in general. Contact us at [info@bigsandlake.org](mailto:info@bigsandlake.org) to let us know of information or events that should show up there. We are looking for other volunteers to work with updating the site. For more information on how you can be involved, contact us at the above address or call me at 612-267-7355.

Your BSLA Board has been working this winter to secure some grants for various projects that are available to lake associations like ours. Thank you to Irene Weis, Al Judson, Ellis and Cynthia Jones for their hard work on the various grant proposals. Details of these grant proposals are described in other articles.

Thank you to everyone who has already sent in a contribution to the recent letter requesting funds to hire certified watercraft inspectors. I am so impressed with the wonderful and quick response we received for the important challenge of protecting the lake from zebra mussels. Details about the Watercraft Inspectors Project are in another article in this newsletter. Even though we will have part-time paid inspectors we still need volunteer inspectors during the many hours that are not covered. Contact Richard Sederstrom, [richard\\_sederstrom1221@q.com](mailto:richard_sederstrom1221@q.com) (use underscore between names) for more information.

We would like to acknowledge in future newsletters and on the website those who donate to BSLA -- for the Charitable Lake Fund, for a special project like the Watercraft Inspectors, memorials or extra contributions along with annual dues. We will be adding a check off to forms if anyone prefers to remain anonymous. If this is a concern for you, please let me know.

BSLA is most open and we welcome people who want to get involved in the Lake at any level. Please give me a call to visit generally about the Association and what activities or participation might feel right for you.

Thank you in advance for sending in your 2012 BSLA membership form. See you soon at the Lake.

**Barb Kimer, BSLA President**

[t-bkimer@msn.com](mailto:t-bkimer@msn.com)  
612-267-7355

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# BSLA 2012 Grant Applications

Grant descriptions and applications that are available to area lake associations are typically announced in January – not a great time for “summer” organizations like Big Sand Lake Association (BSLA). In lieu of regular board meetings during the winter months and the capacity to conduct email “votes” as needed, the BSLA Board of Directors appointed an AD Hoc Grants Committee (Irene Weis, Al Judson and Barb Kimer) to review and apply for appropriate grants. Below is a summary of the grants for which applications were made.

DNR Grants applied for:

- **DNR LGU (Local Government Unit) Watercraft Inspector Grant** – Big Sand was a part of this collaborative grant submitted by the Hubbard County Soil and Water Conservation District. See details elsewhere in this newsletter.
  - **Successful** -- \$7,750 granted
- **DNR Customized Public Awareness Grant** – Big Sand applied for a \$1,960 matching grant to install road signs similar to the “Burma Shave” advertising campaign of yesteryear along County 4, County 7, Co. 40 and Grouse Road as a unique way to engage the public in preventing the spread of zebra mussels and other invasive species.
  - Big Sand’s match would be paid with volunteer time to complete the project.
  - Limericks for the signs will be solicited on the Big Sand website. An example of a possible limerick is: “Fighting Zebra Mussels/ Is quite a tussel/ Know the rules/ Use all the tools/ Stop invasive species.”
  - **Successful** -- \$1,900 granted

Lake Emma Healthy Lakes Partnership Grants applied for:

- **Living Legacy Tree Planting Project** - Requesting a \$2000 grant from the Lake Emma Township Healthy Lakes and Rivers Partnership to be used along with M-State cost-share funds from SWCD to repeat the re-forestation project of 2011. In 2012 a team from the Minnesota Conservation Corp will provide planting assistance. The Corp will be in the area at the time assisting the DNR with firefighting. The team and the volunteers will do the planting and also collect information on the efficacy of the 2011 plantings.
- **Watercraft Inspectors** - Requesting matching funds to help pay for the DNR inspector hours BSLA is purchasing through the DNR- LGU fund.
- **Status:**
  - Living Legacy Tree Planting Project –
    - **Successful** -- \$2,688 granted
  - Watercraft Inspectors –
    - **Successful** -- \$6000 to be shared with Little Sand for monitoring at the most effective places – mostly Big Sand and for some monitoring at Lake Emma, Upper & Lower Bottle lakes





## Invasive Species:

Richard Sederstrom  
richard\_sederstrom1221@q.com

### BIG SAND PUBLIC ACCESS WILL HAVE PAID, CERTIFIED WATERCRAFT INSPECTORS FOR THE 2012 SEASON

On March 16 we received the good news that the Hubbard County Soil and Water Conservation District (HSWCD) was awarded a \$7,750 grant from the DNR to hire and manage certified watercraft inspectors to monitor public accesses for a coalition of area lakes -- Belle Taine, Big Mantrap, Big Sand, Fishhook, Little Sand, Long and Potato lakes. Plans are underway to provide some inspector time at the Lake Emma access also.

The grant funds will be used to purchase equipment and for HSWCD overhead. Each lake association is responsible for funding the number of inspector hours at their access. At this time watercraft inspections combined with education on ways to prevent the spread of invasive species is the only defense we have to protect our lakes from becoming infested with zebra mussels and other invasive species.

Big Sand Lake Association's goal is to have a minimum of 500 hours of certified inspector time at the Big Sand access in two 4 hour shifts (approximately 6 – 10 a.m. and 4- 8 p.m.) on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from May 11 (fishing opener) through September 30. Volunteers will be recruited to monitor the access at various other times. A letter was mailed to Big Sand residents and BSLA members requesting donations to raise \$7, 500 to pay salaries for the 500 hours. Additional funds beyond the \$7,500 will mean that we can request more hours of certified inspector time at the access.

Thank you to the approximately 45 Big Sanders who have responded with contributions as of this mid-March writing to assure that we will have at least 500 hours of monitoring. It is not too late to donate to add additional inspector time. If you have misplaced or did not receive the request letter and donation form, just make out a check to 'BSLA –AIS Watercraft Inspector Fund' and mail to BSLA, P.O. Box 181, Park Rapids, MN 56470.

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### BIG SAND VOLUNTEER WATERCRAFT INSPECTORS STILL NEEDED!

*Training on June 15, Northwoods Bank, 4:15-6:15 pm*

Yes, the Watercraft Inspector Grant came through for us and there will be hired, salaried, and certified inspectors at the Big Sand access for a few hours each weekend. But please understand that, although matters look a bit less bleak than they were beginning to look last fall, we still need the people of Big Sand Lake to participate. The Volunteer Inspector Training will be held on Friday, June 15, 2012, at the Northwoods Bank in Park Rapids, 4:15-6:15 pm. For more information and to sign-up for the training, please email Richard Sederstrom at: richard\_sederstrom1221@q.com (underscore between the names). The more people, the more effective we will be, and, who knows, maybe even the merrier!



## Fisheries Management Plan:

Tom Igel  
tomigel@msn.com

### 2012 SLOT LIMIT FOR WALLEYES

New angling regulations for 2012 from the DNR include a permanent 20 to 28 inch protected slot limit for walleyes on Big Sand Lake. This regulation became effective March 1st, 2012, and, will be implemented on the May 12th fishing opener.

The DNR stated that the previously experimental slot regulations did improve the abundance and size of walleye in the lake. It was noted that the public input on this largely favored making the regulation permanent.

Fishing season for Walleye and Northern Pike opens on Saturday, May 12th. The season for Large and Small Mouth Bass opens on Saturday, May 26th.

The early "Ice Out" for Big Sand and other area lakes could make the opener both interesting and challenging this year. Warming water along with many other factors could move the fish into deeper and different waters than normally encountered around the time of the opener. Good Luck! Most important...Enjoy your time on the water.

Much has been written and talked about concerning the invasion of Zebra Mussels along with other Aquatic Invasive Species in Minnesota lakes. What can each of us do about it? A resolve by each of us to better understand the problem and its possible effects would be a good starter. Information is readily available to us on this important topic.

Knowledge, understanding, and, personal involvement are the keys to success in meeting the Aquatic Invasive Species threat to our lakes. The State of Minnesota, the DNR, the individual counties and towns, the many lake associations, and, others cannot meet this problem alone. Let's jump on board as individuals and support their efforts. We cannot put this off until tomorrow.



2012 Ice Out





## Wildlife:

Terry Klepinski  
t.klepinski@gmail.com

### LIVING LEGACY GRANT

Good News! The “Living Legacy” grant has been approved! Hubbard County Soil and Water (HCSW) awarded BSLA \$2688, 75% of the cost of the project. We will again be able to order seedling trees for our shorelines, that is, 50 feet from the shoreline. This will involve the ordering, planting and tree shelters (four foot orange tubes that protect the trees from deer) for the deciduous trees. Check the BSLA website, [bigsandlake.org](http://bigsandlake.org) for instructions on how to order.

As you may recall from our annual meeting last year, the then Hubbard County Soil and Water director, Shane Foley, spoke about the project. He reminded us of the importance of planting a variety of trees. If only one species is represented on a property and a disease comes along specific to that species, then all the trees die. If you have a variety of trees, that will not happen and a wider variety of wildlife will thrive.

Shane also talked about how trees need to be planted near the shoreline as the roots are instrumental in filtering pollutants before they reach the lake. Keep in mind that trees are planted for the next generation and that someone may have planted the mature trees in our immediate landscape.

The trees that will be provided by the “Living Legacy” funds are seedlings (approximately 2 feet tall) and with water and protection they will thrive. Of the native trees that do thrive in our area (ex. White and Red Pine, Balsam Fir, Tamarack, Paper Birch, Basswood, Maple, Burr and Red Oak and White Spruce) the Spruce is the only tree, in my experience, that the deer don’t eat. The rest of these species need protection in the form of the orange tubes for deciduous (trees with leaves) and welded wire for conifers (trees with needles that stay on year-round).

Information for those of you who placed a tree order last fall directly with the HCSW (not through the Living Legacy grant): those trees will be available for pick-up in May. The trees come in bundles of 25 and are around \$1.00 each, \$25.00 per bundle. If you are interested in ordering for next year, please contact the HCSW at 218-732-0121 and they will send an order form next fall. Their office is located in the alley behind River Bend in Park Rapids.

Thank you to all of you who have turned off your outdoor lights when you are not in residence.

For more information on Light Pollution please go to [http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2007/08/20/070820fa\\_fact\\_owen...](http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2007/08/20/070820fa_fact_owen...)



## Organizational Development & Communication:

Cindy Rehkamp  
rehkamp4879@msn.com

### ANNOUNCING -- A NEW CATEGORY OF MEMBERSHIP:

*'Friends of Big Sand Lake' -- An Associate Membership in the Big Sand Lake Association (BSLA)*

The Big Sand Lake Association is offering a new category of 'membership' support for Big Sand Lake. The 'Friends' of Big Sand Lake Membership is available for website viewers, occasional visitors, former residents, and other 'fans' of Big Sand Lake!

Would YOU like to provide support to the Big Sand Lake Association, a 501c3 organization committed to the preservation of Big Sand Lake, and receive the Big Sand Newsletter? Your tax-deductible financial support helps the work of the Big Sand Lake Association. Receive the Big Sand Newsletter (published approximately three times per year) and stay current with Big Sand Lake happenings. One goal of the association is to add a second web cam to the Big Sand Lake Web Site. Help us reach this goal! Our current camera captures beautiful views of the sunrise. A second camera could provide stunning sunset scenes of Big Sand Lake!

Property owners do not qualify for the Associate Membership and are encouraged to become Big Sand Lake Association members with voting privileges.

For more information about becoming a 'Friends of Big Sand' - Associate Member, go to [www.bigsandlake.org](http://www.bigsandlake.org), then click on the BSLA tab for the "Friends of Big Sand" section. Or email Cindy Rehkamp <mailto:rehkamp4879@msn.com>.

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### GET INVOLVED.....YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED:

It is never too early or too late to become a BSLA member and/or to contribute to the BSLA Fund. The BSLA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, the only organization dedicated to the preservation of Big Sand Lake for future generations. For additional details on BSLA activities please visit our website at: <http://www.bigsandlake.org>. To become a member please fill out the enclosed membership form and return in the enclosed stamped and addressed envelope to BSLA, P.O. Box 181, Park Rapids, MN 56470.

Please join, contribute and volunteer!

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**[www.BigSandLake.org](http://www.BigSandLake.org)**

*Important:* When requesting information through the web site 'Member Area' or 'Contact Us' you must include your email in order to receive a response.

*Member Area:* User Name -- *Your Email*

Password -- *loons*

(Your email must be registered with BSLA to access the member area)

*'Contact Us':* Please note the email window has a red star indicating required information.

## *In Memory*

ANN LOUISE  
CANDOR

Ann Louise Candor, a long time Big Sand home owner, died March 8, 2012 in Fargo ND at the age of 87. Wayne (Doc) and Ann Candor discovered the unique beauty of Big Sand Lake in 1956. A year later

they built their dream cottage where they admired the peace and tranquility of the lake. With their three children, Catherine (Tom) Naerebout, Cheryl (Rick) Narum and Steve (Judy) Candor, they spent hours enjoying all that life at the lakes had to offer. After Doc's death in 1979, Ann continued to summer at the lake, her favorite place to be. Her children will continue her legacy. Preserving the quality of the lake was very important to Ann and the family requests that memorials go to the Big Sand Lake Association.

## *Charitable Lake Fund*      *Thank You to All Donors!*

The Big Sand Lake Charitable Fund has raised approximately \$22,000. The fund is one quarter of the way toward the goal of \$100,000 by year-end 2013!

Would you like to donate? Please send your contribution to:

NWMF-Big Sand Lake Charitable Fund

4225 Technology Drive NW

Bemidji, MN 56601

It is planned to publish the names of those who have donated to the Charitable Fund. Please contact Catharine Williamson via email if you prefer not to have your name listed.

Questions, please contact an advisory committee member:

Bill Ellis Al Judson Bob Klepinski Linda Lee Tom VanBruggen Ken Wilcox

Catharine Williamson, Chair SpiritW@me.com

## 2012 BSLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### President:

Barb Kimer (2010-2012)  
t-bkimer@msn.com

### Past President:

Karen Nelson (2010-2012)  
bslanews@yahoo.com

### Vice-President:

Al Judson (2010-2012)  
joal1969@gmail.com

### Secretary:

Marlene Fairchild (2010-2012)  
marfair65@gmail.com

### Treasurer:

Cynthia Jones (2010-2012)  
riverbend@unitelc.com

### Social Director:

Candy Malm (2010-2013)  
candy.malm@gmail.com

### Cola Representative:

Irene Weis (2009-2012)  
ilweis@arvig.net

### Website Coordinator:

Heather Wittman (2010-2013)  
hhayden2@gmail.com

### Membership Coordinator:

Cindy Rehkamp (2011-2014)  
rehkamp4879@msn.com

### Directors:

Dan Dyre (2009-2012)  
dandyre57@msn.com

Jo Judson (2010-2013)  
joal1969@gmail.com

Bob Klepinski (2008-2014)  
bobklepinski@gmail.com

Terry Klepinski (2008-2014)  
t.klepinski@gmail.com

Todd Zimmerman (2008-2014)  
tzimmerman@fredlaw.com

Tom Van Bruggen (2008-2014)  
tvbmd50@gmail.com

Richard Sederstrom (2010-2013)  
richard\_sederstrom1221@q.com

### OFF BOARD POSITIONS

BSLA LMP Administrator:  
Susan Fairchild Winn  
winns01@yahoo.com

Directory:  
Tara Schell  
t.schell@comcast.net

Newsletter:  
Karen Nelson  
bslanews@yahoo.com

Calling Tree Coordinator:  
Tricia Frederickson  
gfred1947@gmail.com





P.O. Box 181, Park Rapids, MN 56470

## Calendar of Events 2012

### June

- 15 Volunteer Inspector Training  
4:15-6:15 pm  
at Northwoods Bank, Park Rapids
- 19 Women's Luncheon  
11:30 am at Summerhill Farm
- 23 Social Gathering  
5:00 - 7:00 pm  
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 pm at Evergreen Lodge



If you are interested in hosting a BSLA event or social, contact Candy Malm at [candy.malm@gmail.com](mailto:candy.malm@gmail.com). Thanks!

# What Can YOU do to Halt the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)?



**Zebra Mussels  
impact recreational  
use of lakes**



**Zebra Mussels  
attach to plants**



**Juvenile  
Zebra Mussels  
are small**



**Zebra Mussels on  
a native clam -  
ALSO: Zebra  
Mussels deplete  
food supply for  
native fish**

- **Hire dock and boat lift installers that are DNR trained Lake Service Providers (LSP).** It's the law for anyone working for hire in Minnesota public waters. The business needs a permit - the worker needs DNR certification. (DNR website - search **LSP**)

Ask to see the DNR issued certificate of the LSP dock and lift worker. Businesses and workers that are properly trained will be happy to show you their credentials.

- **Know that watercraft and all water-related equipment can spread AIS.** This includes fishing boats, jet skis, wakeboard boats, sailboats, scuba gear, float planes, canoes, kayaks, all fishing gear, waders, docks, boat lifts, moorings, and waterfowl hunting gear.

- **Learn to identify each aquatic invasive** (zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil, spiny water fleas, etc). Establish a lake monitoring team for early detection of new AIS infestations which translates to quicker and more effective treatment options. Be aware of AIS not currently in MN but considered a threat such as hydrilla. (DNR website - search **aquatic invasive identification**)

- **Know where designated infested waters are** in Minnesota and other states. (DNR website - search **infested waters**)

- **Educate guests!** Make sure transported watercraft or water-related equipment of guests arriving from other lakes/rivers (including out-of-state) are free of zebra mussels and other Aquatic Invasive Species. (Eurasian watermilfoil, spiny water fleas, Flowering Rush and others)

Watercraft coming from infested waters should adhere to recommended dry times or professional decontamination. (100thmeridian.org - search **dry time estimator**)

- **Encourage resorts/campsites/hotels to train marina employees** on AIS and to use precautionary measures when working with water-related equipment arriving from other lakes and rivers. All arriving watercraft and water-related equipment needs to be free of AIS and **Clean/Drain/Dry** before entering the water.

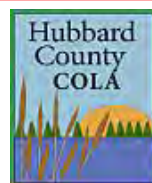
- **Organize a volunteer inspection program** for public accesses and contact the DNR for training. Be "**Eyes and Ears of the Lake**". (DNR website - search **watercraft inspection**)

- **Promote good AIS relationships** among your lake neighbors, the DNR AIS Specialist and law enforcement by including DNR and law enforcement as speakers during your lake association meeting. (DNR website - search **aquatic invasive species contacts**)

- **Report suspected new AIS sightings to the DNR.** It's the law!

- **Know current laws and follow them.** Before leaving public accesses, water must be drained from all water-related equipment. All bait containers with lake water must be drained and watercraft must be transported with the plug out. (DNR website - search **invasive species laws**)

**QUESTIONS:** Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations      [MinnesotaCOLA@gmail.com](mailto:MinnesotaCOLA@gmail.com)  
DNR - Ecological and Water Resources - 651-259-5100      [www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us)  
Local Sheriff or Conservation Officer



Produced and distributed by  
Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations (MN COLA)  
[MinnesotaCOLA@gmail.com](mailto:MinnesotaCOLA@gmail.com)

## BIG SAND LAKE ASSOCIATION 2012 MEMBERSHIP FORM

<http://www.bigsandlake.org>

*We encourage each family sharing one cabin to have a BSLA membership.*

\_\_\_\_ New Member (Please complete all of the Member Information below)

\_\_\_\_ Renewal    \_\_\_\_ No update required    \_\_\_\_ Information below is updated

### Membership Information:

Member(s) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Big Sand Lake Address:

#### Primary Address (if different):

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Email address (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Family Members: \_\_\_\_\_

BSLA mailings should be sent: June – September \_\_\_\_ to Big Sand address \_\_\_\_ to primary address

October – May \_\_\_\_ to Big Sand address \_\_\_\_ to primary address

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#### Enclosed:

Make Checks Payable to: BSLA

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Membership Dues (\$40.00)

Mail completed form and dues to:

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Additional Contribution\* (optional)

Big Sand Lake Association

P.O. Box 181

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed

Park Rapids, MN 56470

\* \_\_\_\_\_ You may list my name as a donor in BSLA publications \_\_\_\_ Keep my name anonymous

\_\_\_\_\_ I am interested in possible volunteer opportunities, please contact me.  
For a listing of current activities see [www.bigsandlake.org](http://www.bigsandlake.org) and click on the  
BSLA tab/volunteer.

***Thank you for supporting Big Sand Lake Association!***

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