



A Note From the BSLA President

The fall colors are quickly disappearing from the shores of Big Sand. It seems like the timing of the peak colors and the strong winds too often happen at the same time. It was a great “weather” summer with several beautiful days. Thankfully, we have not seen the nasty effects of any of the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) that we read and hear so much about.

The Big Sand Lake Board of Directors continues to place the prevention of AIS on our beautiful lake as a top priority. It has been encouraging to see the additional financial response from many people who love the lake to keep it in the pristine quality that we find it today. As a result we were able to hire an “AIS Inspector” for the public access. Many hours were spent checking boats and talking to lake users about AIS. We have done a lot but have more to do. We do not have 24 hour surveillance but have attempted to monitor what are considered peak hours. There have been AIS inspectors at several lakes in Hubbard County. We are fortunate at Big Sand but there have been instances of boats that were prevented from launching in Hubbard County that did have Faucet Snails, Eurasian Milfoil or Curly Leaf Pond Weed. Again, the key phrase was “before they launched”.

Melissa Koebernick of the Hubbard County Soil and Water office commented that in going through the data collected this summer she was amazed at the number of boaters, mostly fishermen that go lake hopping. She thought that people would have their favorite lake and continue to go there. Also, the data indicates that lake users bring their boats to Big Sand from infested lakes such as Pelican Lake by Brainerd, Gull Lake, Lake Geneva, MilleLacs, other infested lakes in Minnesota and four other states that have infested waters. In addition to our inspector it would be helpful if we, Big Sand Lake owners, would talk to friends that are bringing their boat, boat lift or dock to our lake to be aware of the potential damage. The data from the Hubbard County AIS inspectors is in the process of being analyzed. A full report should be ready by the end of October.

It's fall. Boats have been taken out of the water and boat lifts and docks removed to the shore. Have you checked to see if there are any of the little critters that aren't supposed to be there? There have been times when AIS

was detected in other lakes early enough that it was eradicated before it had time to start multiplying. It is scary to read about lakes that had just a “little” problem one year and one or two years later they had an out of control situation.

On the positive side, there was an excellent turnout at the annual meeting held at Evergreen Resort. There are many positives that were discussed. We welcome Tim Conley to the board of directors. Barb Kimer deserves our heartfelt thanks for the dedicated time that she served as the president of the association and years of dedicated work while on the board. She continues to serve on the board for which we are very thankful. She continues to work on behalf of BSLA. She continues to be the first to say, “I can do that.” During October I plan on attending meetings regarding AIS issues including meeting with candidates seeking political office. We need to keep the candidates and incumbents informed as well as seeking their support as we continue to find solutions.

My wife, Jo, and I have lived year- round on Big Sand since 2001. We are very fortunate to see and enjoy the change of seasons. Please feel free to call (218-732-5981), email (joal1969@gmail.com), mail (18883 County 40, PR) or just stop by if you have any questions, concerns or just want to chat about Big Sand Lake.

Al Judson, BSLA President

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Organizational Development & Communication:

Betsy Crabtree
bcrabt541@aol.com

HISTORY PROJECT: ENQUIRING MINDS WANT TO KNOW

Do you know when your cabin on Big Sand was built? Is it new, old, or in between? The Big Sand History Committee is in the process of making a map overlay by decades to illustrate the development of Big Sand. If you know the year it was originally built, please let us know via the Big Sand website or mail in to Betsy at the address listed below.

We all have memories of the lake whether we just bought our cabins this year or grew up spending summers here. Think back to when your cabin was first built. If you knew the owner, you might know some history of your cabin and the people who lived there. If you built or bought your cabin, what brought you to Big Sand Lake?

Please join us in building a history of Big Sand Lake by sharing your memories with us on the BSLA website. When you write your memories, you enrich the memories of all of us and pass on a deeper understanding of your love of the lake to future generations.

Let us hear from YOU! It doesn't have to be a literary masterpiece, and it doesn't have to be finished all at once. (You can end what you have started with "to be continued".) The hardest part is getting started. Just begin dreaming of the lake and start writing – or start by sending in the year your cabin was originally built.

Log on to the BSLA web site, www.bigsandlake.org and click on History Project on the left side of the page. There are guidelines available if you choose to use them. Most importantly, have fun with this!

Don't have a computer? We can add your memories to the web site for you. Write your memories and mail them to:

Betsy Crabtree
BSLA History Committee
541 7th Ave S
Hopkins MN 55343

Please remember to at least send us the date your cabin was built so that we can have the map ready for next summer! (Then later on a cold winter's night wrap yourself in a blanket, settle into your favorite chair, dream of BSL, and start writing!)

BIG SAND LAKE CHARITABLE LAKE FUND

The Charitable Lake Fund Advisory Committee is looking for individuals who would like to work on research and upcoming projects. The committee is undertaking steps to better communicate our goals and potential projects to our membership and interested Big Sand Lake supporters.

Fund: Total Fund Assets as of 9-20-12 \$27,504.99

The Fund is Over 25% of the way to the Goal of \$100,000 by December 31, 2013!

Please Consider a Tax-Deductible Donation for 2012.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED AND PLEDGED!

HELP KEEP BIG SAND LAKE THE BEAUTIFUL LAKE WE LOVE!

Ways to contribute to the fund.

1. Checks may be written to:

NMF-Big Sand Lake Charitable Fund
4225 Technology Drive NW
Bemidji, MN 56601

2. On Line Credit Card Donations

- www.nwmf.org
- Home Page Left Side 'Support The Foundation'
- Fill In Information
- Under: *Please direct my donation.* Select *Environmental Funds*
- A new window will appear. Select: *Big Sand Lake Charitable Fund*
- Select *Active* or *Endowment*
- Assistance: phone 800.659.7859

3. Securities and Appreciated Properties; Estate Planning

Contact:

Lisa Peterson *The Northwest MN Foundation*
800.659.7859

**You are encouraged to contact any member
of the advisory board with
your questions, thoughts, and suggestions!**

Big Sand Lake Charitable Fund Advisory Board

Catharine Williamson, *Committee Chair*
952.936.0204, spiritw@me.com

Bill Ellis
Al Judson
Bob Klepinski
Linda Lee
Dr. Tom Van Bruggen
Ken Wilcox



Invasive Species:

Richard Sederstrom
richard_sederstrom1221@q.com

BIG SAND LAKE STILL CLEAR

Owing to the constant efforts of Big Sand citizens, the generosity of all of those who have so kindly donated to the Charitable Lake Fund, as well as our professional Watercraft Inspector, with the assistance of volunteers Irene Weiss and Julie Kinsley, we have done well in our efforts to stave off the invasion of zebra mussels for another season. This summer also, we have begun regular netting for zebra mussel veligers (the nearly microscopic larvae of the beasts), in order to assess the problem if we do find evidence of the worst of the invasive species. We have not found any evidence, and we continue to work to keep Big Sand Lake free from invasive species.



Thank You

2012 BSLA Members!

Our greatest strength is our membership. Thank you to all who have paid their 2012 membership. We rely on your support to effectively make a difference through membership in the only organization dedicated to the preservation of Big Sand Lake! The BSLA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and completely funded by membership dues.

If you have not renewed your membership for 2012 or are new to Big Sand Lake and wish to become a member please visit our website at <http://www.bigsandlake.org>, click on "BSLA Information" then click on "Become a BSLA Member" where you will find our membership form to download, print, fill out and send along with a check for your dues to BSLA, P.O. Box 181, Park Rapids, MN 56470. The membership year runs April to April.

We value your input and the long-term vitality of BSLA hinges on all our members, current and new, bringing fresh ideas and making contributions. Please don't hesitate to contact Cindy Rehkamp with any question or concerns you may have at rehkamp4879@msn.com. Thank you for your support, together we can keep Big Sand Lake the beautiful lake we all enjoy.

2013 BSLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:

Al Judson (2012-2014)
joal1969@gmail.com

Past President:

Barb Kimer (2012-2014)
t-bkimer@msn.com

Vice-President and Social Director:

Candy Malm (2012-2014)
candy.malm@gmail.com

Secretary:

Marlene Fairchild (2012-2014)
marfair65@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Cynthia Jones (2012-2014)
riverbend@unitelc.com

Cola Representative:

Irene Weis (2012-2015)
ilweis@arvig.net

Website Coordinator:

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

Membership Coordinator:

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

Newsletter Editor:

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bslanews@yahoo.com

Directors:

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joal1969@gmail.com

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bobklepinski@gmail.com

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t.klepinski@gmail.com

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tzimmerman@fredlaw.com

Tom Van Bruggen (2011-2014)
tvbmd50@gmail.com

Richard Sederstrom (2010-2013)
richard_sederstrom1221@q.com

Tim Conley (2012-2015)
lintim@frontiernet.net

OFF BOARD POSITIONS

BSLA LMP Administrator:
Susan Fairchild Winn
winn01@yahoo.com

Calling Tree Coordinator:
Open



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

Calendar of Events 2013

January

12 Cross Country Skiing
1 pm at Soaring Eagle

February

9 Cross Country Skiing
1 pm at Soaring Eagle

June

18 Women's Luncheon
11:30 am at Summerhill Farm
22 Social Gathering
5:00-7:00 pm
at Nancy & Pat Ryan's
20087 Glen Drive
29 Annual Meeting
10 am at Evergreen Lodge

July

4 Boat Parade
11 am meet at the inlet

August

20 Women's Luncheon
11:30 am at Linda Lee's
20200 Gladwin Drive

September

14 Fall Social Gathering
5:30 pm at Evergreen Lodge



If you are interested
in hosting an August social
or any other social, please
contact Candy Malm at
candy.malm@gmail.com