



## *A Note From the President*

Happy Spring! The ice is out! We should now be able to see the results of the huge ice ridges from the winter freeze. The north side of the lake seems to have the most interesting sites and developments.

We have again received a grant to help in paying for the AIS inspections at the public access and the plan is to increase the hours through additional fund raising. We will continue to do water monitoring and veliger testing. Lake monitoring in Hubbard County is encouraged and supported by the Hubbard COLA. If you would like to assist with monitoring for Zebra Mussels, training and cinder blocks will be provided.

Included in this newsletter is a description of the annual Freshwater Festival, a project that the BSLA has supported for several years. Students, volunteers and staff from the Hubbard County SWCD all look forward to this annual event.

Also included in the newsletter is information about the 2nd Annual Hubbard COLA Sports Sale, another opportunity to raise funds to support projects to protect our lakes.

Hubbard COLA continues to support efforts by Friends of the Headwaters to keep Enbridge's proposed crude oil pipelines out of Hubbard County. To find more information on this project, please visit Friends of the Headwaters website at:  
<http://www.friendsoftheheadwaters.org/index.html>

The BSLA Annual meeting will begin at 10 am on Saturday, June 27, 2015 at Evergreen Lodge. Additional information and the agenda will be posted on the BSLA website.

Hope to see you at the annual meeting and the scheduled social events!

**Candy Malm**  
**Big Sand Lake Association President**  
Candy.malm@gmail.com

### ABBREVIATIONS CONFUSING?

- AIS Aquatic Invasive Species
- BSLA Big Sand Lake Association
- COLA Coalition of Lake Associations
- DNR Dept of Natural Resources
- SWCD Soil & Water Conservation Dept

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## **Invasive Species:**

by Al Judson  
joal1969@gmail.com

### **GOOD NEWS FOR 2015 AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES FUNDING**

In December I attended a Hubbard County meeting regarding 2015 AIS funding. GOOD NEWS!

Hubbard County will be receiving \$250,000 from the state to combat AIS. Big Sand Lake will receive funding for 396 hours of inspection at the rate of \$17 per hour through this stream of funding or \$6732. BSLA is asked to provide a minimum of an additional 212 hours or \$3604. The 2015 Healthy Lakes Grant from Lake Emma Township for Big Sand Lake, \$3500, may be applied towards our commitment. Last year we received \$4500. When the 396 and 212 hours are added together we are still 42 hours short of what we did last year.

I recommend a goal of 750 hours of inspection in 2015 for Big Sand Lake. BSLA would need to raise approximately \$2,500 from its members. In the past years we have been blessed with special designated contributions toward combating AIS which includes zebra mussels and non-native plants that would be harmful to our lake. We will again need this support in addition to our membership fees.

Other points which came out of the meeting:

- Hubbard County is free from major AIS so focus should be on incoming watercraft.
- Most important prevention initiative is watercraft inspection and decontamination education. In 2014 BSLA purchased a car counter for the Public Access.
- Hubbard County needs a comprehensive and documented rapid response plan.
- Resort support is vital in checking guests' watercraft. Big Sand is fortunate in this regard.
- Hubbard County is a leader in combating AIS threats. Ken Groeb and Dan Kittleson deserve our personal thanks.
- The number of lakes that are involved in AIS protection and detection will help isolate infestations.

Al Judson  
BSLA Treasurer

### **WATERCRAFT INSPECTION AND DECONTAMINATION LOOKING GOOD**

Nate Sitz is making good progress with preparations for the 2015 inspection program. The hiring process is progressing and the Lake Association response to funding targeted supplemental hours has been outstanding. All but one Association have met or exceeded their target. Total supplemental hour commitments exceeded the target by 1000 hours.

Overall, Hubbard County will have watercraft inspectors at about 31 lakes and 37 accesses during 2015, with almost 15,000 hours scheduled. This is an increase of almost 6000 hours from 2014, thanks to the state aid funding and the strong commitment of lake associations and townships and cites. Itasca State Park is working on an inspection plan for 2015.



## Wildlife/Environment Management:

Terry Klepinski

### ONE MORE THING TO WORRY ABOUT: PINE BARK BEETLES

The issue of Pine Bark Beetles was discussed at the last BSLA Annual Meeting. A concerned BSLA member did further research on the topic and shared the following information ~

Pine trees can die for many reasons, but a tree killed by Pine Bark Beetles can be identified by its rust-orange needles appearing at the crown and working their way down the tree as the tree dies. Typically, an infested tree will die in a single season.

The DNR has several articles on its website describing the beetle and its life cycle and providing advice to property owners. Everyone with pine trees on their property should read these articles. Start with [http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/treecare/forest\\_health/barkbeetles/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/treecare/forest_health/barkbeetles/index.html) and [http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/assistance/backyard/treecare/forest\\_health/barkbeetles/barkbeetlebroch.pdf](http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/assistance/backyard/treecare/forest_health/barkbeetles/barkbeetlebroch.pdf).

Here are a few highlights:

1. Pine Bark Beetles infest live pine trees that are stressed, perhaps by drought, overcrowding or storm damage. Healthy trees can ward off the beetles.
2. A pine tree that appears to be dying should be felled and removed from your property as soon as possible. Do not retain for firewood. Trees that you know to have died in previous years, even if killed by beetles, are no longer a threat because the beetles will have moved on to living trees.
3. Pine Bark Beetles also infest the branches and trunks of live trees falling to the ground during summer months. Therefore, elective trimming, thinning and felling of live trees that are not diseased should be avoided between March 1 and October 31. If you must cut during those months, you should remove from your property all live branches and trunks immediately after they are cut. Also, you should remove from your property any live pine trees and branches downed by storms.

Pine trees benefit from our stewardship. So long as the Pine Bark Beetles are with us, letting nature take its course can put your and all of the pine trees around Big Sand at risk. In addition to the above recommendations, watering trees where possible during dry spells may help lessen the risk of Pine Bark Beetle damage. Please be watchful and hopefully we can prevent a widespread infestation and loss of one of our precious resources.

*submitted by Terry Klepinski*

### TIMBERWOLVES SEEN FROLICKING!

According to Dave and Mary Bergman, they witnessed a pair of timberwolves on the bay several times this past winter. They appeared in the morning, crossing from the south end to the larger body of the lake. On one morning they were seen playing with what appeared to be a big tree limb, tossing it in the air and catching it. Turned out it was a different kind of limb — it was a deer leg!



## Organizational Development:

Bonnie Brand  
bjbrand@info-link.net

### **JOIN THE BSLA'S RANKS TODAY!**

*By Bonnie Brand, Membership Coordinator*

Membership means to join the ranks for a common cause...our cause is Big Sand Lake! In 2014, our membership around the lake numbered 150 out of a possible 225. Thanks to all who have joined our ranks in the past; we are now asking you to please renew your membership for 2015.

You may renew on-line with PayPal or your credit card by visiting <http://www.bigsandlake.org/> Click on "Membership" to become a BSLA Member and follow the prompts. You may also use the enclosed form and send it with your payment. And remember, it's okay to have multiple memberships per cabin and family, so please encourage younger generations to join. We are a stronger community with more members!

A few of the benefits of supporting BSLA include ~

- the purchase, installation and maintenance of watercraft markings and safety buoys
- monitoring water quality
- extensive efforts to protect Big Sand Lake from the threat of invasive species, primarily zebra mussels and Eurasian Milfoil

Being a member by simply paying your yearly dues is great but membership can be much more. We have a sheet which lists many opportunities for becoming involved in our lake association so please consider volunteering! Thank you for helping us preserve Big Sand Lake for generations to come with your membership. We're looking forward to seeing everyone at Evergreen Lodge for the Annual Meeting on June 27! Please call or email with any questions about membership.

Bonnie Brand — (320) 491-6952 — [bjbrand@info-link.net](mailto:bjbrand@info-link.net)  
Barb Kimer — [barbkimer@gmail.com](mailto:barbkimer@gmail.com)  
*Membership Coordinators*

### **BSLA Charitable Fund Needs You**

*By Catharine Williamson, Charitable Fund Co-chairperson*

The Charitable Fund is approaching \$50,000. As of March 31, 2015 our official amount was \$48,820.97 — thank you to all who have supported and contributed to the fund. The fund is well on its way to reaching our initial goal of \$100,000. Let's make this happen in 2015!

We would like to add more people to this committee. If you have experience in fundraising, foundation work, or simply a desire to move our fund forward for the benefit of Big Sand Lake, please contact Linda or Catharine or add your name to the volunteer sheet, designating the Charitable Fund.

Linda Lee — (636) 532-8421 — [pjlee6005@aol.com](mailto:pjlee6005@aol.com)  
Catharine Williamson — (952) 936-0204 — [spiritw@me.com](mailto:spiritw@me.com)  
*Co-Chairpersons*

## **UPDATE ON THE PUBLIC ACCESS FROM THE DNR**

The DNR would like to see if any individual or company would be interested in purchasing the structures to move them off the site. If this is not possible, the next recourse would be to have the structures/foundations demolished/removed and site work performed to level the ground. There could be some attempt to see if a contractor would work with a local group, such as Habitat for Humanity or ReStore, to remove some of the salvageable fixtures. Hopefully, the structure disposal and site work could be conducted within the next year. Once the site is cleared, the design process can begin. Meetings will be held with the lake association, other interested organizations and individuals to get input on what the site could look like and how it could function within the context of the site, which includes the existing water access facility and the local neighborhood. This project is on schedule for summer/fall 2017.

## **20TH ANNUAL FRESHWATER FESTIVAL**

Every year for the past 20 years, the Hubbard County Soil & Water Conservation holds a Freshwater Festival for all sixth grade students in Hubbard County. For several years the Big Sand Lake Association has supported this project with a monetary donation.

At this event, each class rotates through five stations where individual presenters share their expertise. Presenters are volunteers from organizations such as Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Department of Health, Natural Resources Conservation Service and others. In addition, paid professional educators include the Headwaters Science Center and Tom Gibson, environmental educator.

The Freshwater Festival is held at Camp Wilderness Boy Scout Camp near Emmaville. The goal of the Freshwater Festival is to educate sixth grade students about protection, preservation and conservation of water resources in Hubbard County in an atmosphere of fun and learning. This program is to educate students about different aspect of waters in Hubbard County and their relationships to other resources: wetlands, forestry and wildlife. Each student goes home with a tree seedling to plant as well as environmental awareness and information about protecting our lakes.

## BOATING COURTESY ON BIG SAND

Some points to remember when boating to keep you and others safe and happy on the lake:

- Please be cautious when boating after dark. All watercraft must have navigating lights. Also, pontoon boats should use the headlights/landing lights **only** when docking the pontoon. These bright lights can be blinding to smaller vessels on the water.
- **Slow-no-wake** means operating your boat at the slowest possible speed necessary to maintain steerage, but in no case greater than five miles-per-hour— especially the entire length of the channel between Big Sand and Lake Ida. Jet skis, fishing boats and speed boats using the same, narrow, curvy waterway with canoes, kayaks, and families wading in the waters can be a dangerous mix. In addition, **slow-no-wake** speeds may limit the erosion from propellers in the channel.
- Motorized watercraft, including jet skis must travel at **slow-no-wake** speed (5 mph or less) within 150 feet (think of a 15-story tall building) of all non-motorized watercraft — canoes, kayaks, paddle boards.
- **Slow-no-wake** speeds must be maintained within 150 feet from shore (unless launching/landing skiers directly to or from open water), docks, swim rafts, swimmers, or any moored or anchored boat, etc.
- It is against the law for a jet ski/personal watercraft to jump the wake of another watercraft, including other jet skis, within 150 feet of the other watercraft or to weave through congested watercraft traffic.

For more information, copies of the “Minnesota Boating Guide” published by the DNR, can be obtained at the License Bureau or the Hubbard County courthouse in Park Rapids or on-line at [www.files.dnr.state.mn.us/rip/regulations/boatingguide.pdf](http://www.files.dnr.state.mn.us/rip/regulations/boatingguide.pdf).

## HUBBARD COUNTY COLA SPORTS SALE COMING UP!

It’s time for a good spring cleaning! Time to donate your unused, lightly used or no longer used sports, fishing, hunting, skiing, outdoor equipment, water toys, decoys, life jackets, etc. Hubbard County COLA Sports Sale will be held at the Environmental Building on the Hubbard County Fair Grounds on June 18th and 19th. To donate items, please bring them to the Fair Grounds on Wednesday, June 17th. To shop for treasures, come to the Fair Grounds on June 18th and 19th. All proceeds will support projects that protect the lakes and waters of Hubbard County. Although times for each day were not included, last year they were 9 am - 4 pm. Check with the county office to be sure.

*In Memory* RICH JACOBSON

Rich Jacobson, long time resident and current member and President-Elect of Big Sand Lake Association, passed away at The Mayo Clinic, Phoenix, on April 9, 2015. Rich was a great supporter of Big Sand Lake from volunteering to serve on the Board, hosting wonderful social gatherings for BSLA, replete with live music, to donating the Big Sand Lake corner inlay for the downtown sidewalk a few years ago. Originally, it was Rich's idea for BSLA to host evening social events throughout the summer. He also loved fast cars that often sported Big Sand personalized plates!

Rich was an accomplished pilot, having flown in Vietnam as well as commercially after the war; he retired as a Northwest Airlines 747 captain. He was an amateur photographer, gourmet cook and gentleman farmer in his home state of North Dakota. He adored his grandchildren and was often found making preparations for them to come to Big Sand. A private family burial will be held at Arlington National Cemetery. He will be missed by many.

*In Memory* DR. NEILL GOLTZ

Following a short illness, Dr. Neill Goltz passed away at the age of 94 on September 26, 2014. Dr. Goltz was a long-time Big Sand summer resident at Interlachen, located on the eastern corner of the bay. The Goltz's purchased their cabin in the early 1970's and have returned from Bozeman, Montana every summer since then. Dr. Goltz enjoyed all that Big Sand has to offer but he especially enjoyed fishing with his children and grandchildren, as recently as last summer, from the long pontoon known as "The Barge". He is survived by his wife Debbie, eight children, twelve grandchildren and one great-grandchild who no doubt will carry on his love of being at Big Sand.

—2015 BSLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS—

President:  
Candy Malm (2014-2016)  
candy.malm@gmail.com

President Elect:  
OPEN

Secretary:  
Jo Judson (2014-2016)  
joal1969@gmail.com

Treasurer:  
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joal1969@gmail.com

Cola Representative:  
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Website coordinator:  
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OFF BOARD POSITIONS:

BSLA LMP Administrator:  
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Social Director:  
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Freddie54mn@yahoo.com

Facebook Coordinator:  
Heather Wittman  
hhayden@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor:  
Robyn Wimmer  
rrwim@cableone.net



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

## Calendar of Events 2015

### June

27 BSLA Annual Meeting  
10:00 am at Evergreen Lodge

### July

4 Boat Parade  
11:00 am meet at the inlet

Generations Social  
*(see special article in this newsletter)*  
3:00-6:00 pm  
at Williamson Cabin  
24033 Hubbard Drive

### August

22 Summer Social  
TBA

**GENERATIONS SOCIAL**  
*Celebrate Summer and the 4th of July!*



BSLA would especially like to encourage families and friends, their children and young adults visiting their family cabins, to gather together for the afternoon. It's an opportunity for all to renew old friendships and make new ones!



**Williamson Cabin**  
**24033 Hubbard Drive**  
**3 pm - 6 pm**

**COME To EAT – DRINK – & PLAY !**  
**Light Food and Drink will be provided with Treats for the Young Ones**

**Bouncy House – Yard Games & Swimming for all ages!**

Please share news of this gathering with your family and friends so they may plan to attend! Rain will force us to cancel so please do your Sunshine Dances!

**Thank You –**  
for encouraging our younger generations to get to know one another and continue the legacy of Big Sand Lake!



*If you are interested in helping plan this special event with its emphasis on all our lake-loving generations, please contact*  
*Linda VanBruggen, Social Chair*  
*(612) 850-7085 or [freddie54mn@yahoo.com](mailto:freddie54mn@yahoo.com)*



**BIG SAND LAKE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MAIL-IN FORM**

Please fill out both sides of this form.

If you opt to renew online at [www.bigsandlake.org](http://www.bigsandlake.org) please disregard this form.

TODAY'S DATE \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_, 2015

(Annual Membership Dues — \$40, anytime Jan 1 - Dec 31)

MEMBER NAME \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Renewing Member for 2015\*\* please update contact information below as needed

\_\_\_\_ New Member \*\* please complete all contact information below

**Primary Contact Email Address** — This is required for the data base and access to the Members Only area on our website (please print clearly)

Additional Family Names/email addresses for BSLA directory (optional)

**Make Checks Payable to BSLA — we are a 501c3 tax-deductible organization**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Annual Membership Dues (**\$40 annually**)

Mail completed form and check to:

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

Big Sand Lake Association

PO Box 181

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed with form

Park Rapids, MN 56470

\_\_\_\_ \* My name may be listed as a donor. \_\_\_\_\_ Please keep my donations anonymous.

\_\_\_\_ I am interested in BSLA volunteer opportunities listed on the back side — please contact me.

**Thank you for supporting BSLA!**

**CONTACT INFORMATION FOR BSLA USE ONLY - please check one**

\_\_\_\_ Include information in Big Sand Directory (Members Only) [www.bigsandlake.org](http://www.bigsandlake.org) (**password protected**)

\_\_\_\_ Do not include contact information in Big Sand Directory

(please print clearly)

**Big Sand Lake Address:**

**Home Address:** (if different than lake address)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Family Members (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

**BSLA MAILINGS** ~ \_\_\_\_ I prefer receiving Big Sand communications **via email only**.

**I prefer regular mail delivered as indicated:** (check one address per each)

May — September mailings, please send \_\_\_\_ to Big Sand Lake **OR** \_\_\_\_ home address

October – May mailings, please send \_\_\_\_ to Big Sand Lake **OR** \_\_\_\_ home address



## Big Sand Lake Association Volunteer Opportunities

Return this form or contact us at [info@big sandlake.org](mailto:info@big sandlake.org)

- Serve on BSLA Board of Directors – 3-year terms, 4-6 meetings, May — October
- Serve on BSLA Charitable Lake Fund Advisory Board – oversees management of Charitable Fund
- Serve on BSLA Charitable Lake Fund committee – assist with fundraising activities
- Provide website technical assistance – keep website up to date/post information
- Contribute to/edit Newsletter and/or website – newsletter published 2-3 times a year; website on-going
- Serve on the Social Committee — plan BSLA events and activities
- Host a Social — pot-luck events at your lake home with supplies supplied by BSLA
- Plan and Coordinate Annual Meeting Amenities – 1-time event held first Saturday after July 4
- Coordinate Membership — assist with membership recruiting and communication
- Serve on the Calling Tree — contact neighbors to inform them of BSLA activities and events
- Coordinate Calling Tree — recruit calling tree volunteers; alert calling tree when events are scheduled
- Serve on the History Project Committee — assist with collecting, writing and publishing Big Sand Lake history
- Serve as a Lake Management Plan Focus Area Facilitator — coordinate activities of focus area committee
- Serve on a Lake Management Plan Focus Area Committee — study/share information relating to focus area topics

### Please mark all area(s) of interest below:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organizational Development/Communication | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Quality                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fisheries                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife/Natural Environment      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shoreland Education                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Invasive Species                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use & Zoning                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Surface Use / Public Access |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance/Charitable Fund                  |  |

**Other Ideas / Comments:**