



## *A Note From the President*

Our vision for the future of Big Sand Lake is beautiful, clear, turquoise blue water with healthy, non-invasive vegetation which nurtures an abundance of fish, loons and other non-invasive wildlife. The trees and other natural vegetation on the shoreline and banks prevent soil erosion and pollutants from entering the lake. The treed home sites free of sound and light pollution provide a peaceful, quiet setting which can be enjoyed by birds, wildlife and human inhabitants. The members of the Big Sand Lake Association have effective communication and friendly relationships with a commitment to observation, education and action in carrying out the mission.

A lake resident recently make the comment: "there is really a good positive feeling around Big Sand Lake." Advice from the Lake and the Big Sand Lake Association Mission and Vision blend very well together either toward one personally or toward us as a lake association.

Thank you all for your continued support of the various activities and projects happening on and around the lake. Whether it be lake monitoring; donating to the Charitable Lake Fund; supporting the inspection hours; attending the socials; or serving as a board member; it is appreciated. So "shore up friendships, and make positive ripples." See you at the annual meeting on Saturday, June 25, 2016 at Evergreen Lodge.

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

Be Clear  
Make positive ripples  
Look beneath the surface  
Stay Calm  
Shore up friendships  
Take time to reflect  
Be full of life.

*Advice from a Lake*  
By Ilan Samir  
(YourTrueNature.Com)

"Shantih shantih shantih"

*The Wasteland*  
By T. S. Eliot

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## **MEMBERSHIP LAYERS - WHY BSLA MEMBERSHIP IS IMPORTANT**

Big Sand Lake Association Membership can be compared to having layers of protection for Big Sand Lake. The more the layers, the stronger we are in our efforts to protect and preserve our lake. There is strength in numbers, and our collective voices have an impact on the health of Big Sand Lake. Your layer is only \$40 for BSLA Annual Membership Dues.

Thanks to the many layers that have joined in the past. Please renew on-line at <http://www.bigsandlake.org> OR print the membership form from website and send in mail.

For the those of you who have not yet added your layer, please consider joining!

A few of the benefits of supporting BSLA are:

- 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.

Please visit <http://www.bigsandlake.org/> - click on membership to Become a BSLA Member.

### **We are promoting another layer of membership:**

\$20 BSLA Annual Adult Family and Friends of Big Sand Lake Dues.

We encourage Adult Family members, frequent visitors and anyone who is not a resident/property owner but loves Big Sand to join and engage in supporting Big Sand Lake. Become a part of the BSLA mailing list & 'Be in the Know'!

Thank you for helping preserve Big Sand Lake for generations to come with your membership layer!

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Annual Meeting on June 25!

Please call/email with any questions about membership.

Bonnie Brand [bjbrand@info-link.net](mailto:bjbrand@info-link.net) - 320-491-6952

Barb Kimer [barbkimer@gmail.com](mailto:barbkimer@gmail.com)

Membership Coordinator

## ARE YOU UP TO DATE?

A goal for this season is to update the woefully out of date BSLA resident directory. We are asking every Big Sand resident to please confirm or update current contact information that is in the Big Sand database.

Perhaps you have dropped your land line in favor of a cell phone, changed your cabin phone number, or have a new email address and have forgotten to let BSLA know of any change. Or perhaps you are a new BSL member.

The easiest way for you to be up to date is when you renew your BSLA membership or join for the first time. Just be sure to take a few extra minutes to complete the 'Contact Information' section on the membership form. Renewing members, please confirm the accuracy of your contact information in the secure, 'Member's Only' section on [www.bigsandlake.org](http://www.bigsandlake.org). If you can't remember how to access this section, please send a message to [info@bigsandlake.org](mailto:info@bigsandlake.org) for directions.

A decision will be made in the near future whether the directory will be produced in a booklet as it has been in the past. If you have questions or concerns, contact Tara Schell, [t.schell@comcast.net](mailto:t.schell@comcast.net), Big Sand volunteer coordinator for the resident directory.



## NEW PROCESS FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Did you notice that the membership form which usually accompanies the spring newsletter is missing. We're trying something new this year. The hope is that everyone will jump on line to "Membership" at [www.bigsandlake.org](http://www.bigsandlake.org) to renew (or join) as soon as reading this. It's secure, quick and easy and in addition will help save the trees (paperless). For those who prefer to mail a check, a paper form can be downloaded from the website.

In early June, an email will be sent to those who have not yet renewed. Shortly after the BSLA Annual Meeting on June 25, a follow-up letter will be sent to individuals as a reminder to those who have yet to renew.

So, be quick. Take care of this small but important detail and not be bothered with further notices. Thank you in advance and to those who have already renewed!

## BSLA CHARITABLE FUND

It has been said that one can never say “thank you” often enough, and we believe that to be true. The match gift of \$25,000 was motivating and inspiring! Thank You to our donor for this very generous contribution! The response on the part of Big Sand Lake residents to meet that match was fantastic! **Thank you to everyone!**

When the Charitable Fund was established in the fall of 2009, the short term goal for the spendable (project) fund was set at \$100,000. We are proud to report we are within \$1000 of that number! Fund Raising will be ongoing for the Charitable Fund, since no one can predict what the future holds for Big Sand Lake.

It is our intention to develop guidelines as to how the funds will be used and to present these at the annual meeting. We are asking for volunteers to serve on the committee and help with this process. The following is a description of the position:

- Serving on the committee necessitates active participation both at meetings and for projects and tasks that are needed.
- This may include door to door solicitation and phone call solicitation, reaching out to the greater community for financial support, prompt response to communications, letter writing, phone calling, stamping, mailing, thank you writing, etc.
- We anticipate a minimum of 3-4 in person meetings from spring to fall. We feel it is imperative for members to be present at the majority of in person meetings.
- Members should be very enthusiastic supporters and promoters of the Charitable Lake Fund; excited to share information regarding our fund with the BSLA membership, lake users, community business, and those who love Big Sand Lake.

The Charitable Fund, on behalf of The Big Sand Lake Association, would like to acknowledge Robert ‘Bob’ Klepinski whose work was instrumental in bringing the Charitable Fund to realization. Bob co-chaired the Charitable Fund advisory committee at the time BSLA directed the establishment of the Charitable Fund. We want to publicly thank him for his dedicated efforts. His counsel and advice will be forever missed.

Again, we thank you for your support and look forward to another wonderful summer at Big Sand Lake!  
Linda Lee and Catharine Williamson, Co-Chairs.

## THE NEW ACCESS PROGRESSES SLOWLY

According to David Schotzko of the DNR, they do not have a specific date for the rebuilding of the Big Sand Lake Access. However, Mr. Schotzko has sent the following message on the subject of removal of the existing buildings. Meanwhile, the property will continue to be cared for as it has been.

According to Mr. Schotzko: "The house and garage removal should show up now in the paper as being advertised to be removed from the site (accepting bids) as I believe an open house is scheduled in early April for potential bidders. Hazardous material removal had to be reviewed and completed prior to our advertising. May be a while until we have a design for the site; or money to develop as we are low of money at this time. Call me if you need more details. Dave: 218-766-7529. If anyone cares to bid on the house they may contact Barry Lyons with our facilities department at 218-308-2657."

## AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES UPDATE

### AQUATIC INVADERS SUMMIT II

October 5-6, 2016

River's Edge Convention Center, St. Cloud, MN

**Who Should Attend:** Minnesota local units of government and their partners, lake associations, service providers, sporting groups, tourism interests, resorts, and business organizations—anyone interested in preventing the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species in Minnesota.

**Why Attend:** Many aquatic invasive species (AIS) are now present in Minnesota, most notably Eurasian watermilfoil, zebra mussels, and spiny water flea. A new nasty invader—starry stonewort—has recently appeared and others are on Minnesota's doorstep. These invaders threaten the current and future recreational enjoyment of our state's waters and the economic sustainability of many communities dependent on Minnesota's \$13 billion tourism industry that is largely dependent on water and its adjacent natural resources. Not only can AIS impede recreation, but they can change the ecosystem balance, potentially forever.

The two-day event will build on the success of the first Aquatic Invaders Summit held in January 2015. Learn how local units of government are utilizing their County AIS Aid; hear about unique approaches to prevention and new research on control and management of AIS; experience new and unique communication technologies to reach boaters with AIS prevention messages; explore ways the business, resort, and sporting communities can help stop the spread of AIS....and more.

### **More information coming soon.**

Watch the Initiative Foundation website at [www.ifound.org/community/aquatic-invasive-species](http://www.ifound.org/community/aquatic-invasive-species)

or

Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates at <http://www.mnlakesandrivers.org/>

## WINTER DREAMS, SUMMER LONGING

As I write, on April 12, from the sybaritic comfort of my home in the Sonoran Desert, where the temperature will reach into the low 80s today, and spring has encouraged the love-songs of mockingbirds in the tree-tops, the love-nest of the gentle verdins in the cactus outside the open door, the splendor of desert blossoms, I have no news of the continuing rigors of the Big Sand Lake Ice-Out Competition.

I can see by the web camera that the lake still maintains some of its ice sheet, but I can only imagine the contestants' rigid endurance, as their days of winter continue and continue, running on and on through the ice-bound milieu of bleak cold in their noble watch. Day after day, endless night after endless night, they continue their dark fireless vigil (because lighting a fire on a frozen lake ain't a good idea).

We know that spring has risen in the comfortable camps around the lake, and that children are already beginning to frolic in the warm shallows, that fish are making merry in the depths, and adults are retiring their snowshoes and thawing the sun-screen. But the hardy souls still captivated by their dreams of warmth, of gentle lapping wavelets, of the triumphant joy of having won the competition?\*

If we think about it, we'll let you know the results during the Annual Big Sand Lake Meeting and Picnic, to be held this summer in the wafting breezes of the tropical and sunny day of **June 25**.

As always, it will be **An Experience Not to Be Missed!**



**\*The results are in! The winner of the 2016 Ice-Out Challenge is...to be announced at the Annual Meeting and Picnic. And if that isn't incentive enough, you need counseling. Also available at the meeting.**



## *In Memory*

### DR. ROBERT SCHELL

Dr. Robert “Bob” Schell purchased the split rock house on Big Sand Lake in 1963.

Bob enjoyed the many gatherings of family and friends and activities including fishing, sailing, tennis, croquet, and bocce. In the later years he spent more time with the trees, walking the road and tending his flower gardens. Bob never forgot cocktail hour and enjoyed the buffet at the Dorset House, La Pasta and family dinners on the porch.

Survived by his wife, Jean, 3 sons and daughters-in-law and 7 grandchildren, Bob will be missed.

## *In Memory* BOB KLEPINSKI

Robert J. Klepinski, age 68, died of a heart attack on March 21, 2016, while vacationing in the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador. Bob, his wife Terry and their three daughters have spent portions of each summer at Big Sand Lake since 1987. After several summers of renting on Iowa Beach, they purchased their cabin on the north shore where they enjoyed all seasons at Big Sand. Bob was an active member of the Big Sand Lake Association and served on the BSLA Board of Directors. He also was instrumental in helping establish the Big Sand Lake Charitable Fund and served on its Advisory Board. In addition to his love for Big Sand, Bob was devoted to YMCA Camp Menogyn. Both Bob and Terry attended the camp in their youth, and their three daughters each spent parts of many summers there. Bob served on its board for many years. As an attorney, Bob was an expert in the FDA's regulation of medical devices, and he worked for many years at Medtronic before joining the Minneapolis law firm of Fredrikson and Byron. Bob's greatest joy was spending time with his wife Terry of 44 years, his daughters and his two grandchildren. Bob's quick smile, his curiosity about a wide variety of subjects and his sense of humor will be greatly missed by all who had the opportunity to know him.

More information is available at [www.bobklepinski.org](http://www.bobklepinski.org).

### A TOUCHY SUBJECT

A timely topic related to any number of conversations—interrupted by scratching, squirming, and complaining, all for good reason, is that of Swimmer's Itch. Understanding that some people start to suffer upon hearing the term, let's get this out of the way quick-like.

The Minnesota DNR is kind enough to issue commentary and recommendations upon the subject, as follows: *Swimmer's itch is a temporary skin rash that is caused by an allergic reaction to microscopic parasites that are carried by waterfowl, semi-aquatic mammals, and snails. As a part of their life cycle, these parasites are released by infected snails into the water, where they may come in contact with people and burrow into their skin.*

#### REDUCING THE ODDS OF GETTING SWIMMER'S ITCH

The cercariae only live for a day or so and typically swim around in the upper few inches of lake water. This increases their chances of coming into contact with a duck. Once the cercariae is in the duck, it easily moves around the lake as a parasite, and ultimately along the shoreline.

There are actions you can take to help reduce your odds of getting swimmer's itch.

- Keep waterfowl away from your dock and shoreline. If you are feeding waterfowl (ducks and geese) from your dock, stop. If ducks like to rest on your dock, do what you can to discourage them. You can try putting an owl wind sock or statue on your dock and move it around occasionally so the ducks don't become accustomed to it.

- Stay out of the water by the shore. The swimmer's itch organism may originate somewhere else in the lake and is being brought to your shoreline by wave action or currents. You may want to try swimming from a raft or boat farther out from shore where you are less likely to come into contact with the cercaria. Of course, this strategy may not be practical if you don't swim or have young children who want to play in the water near shore.

- Apply a water repellent substance such as petroleum jelly, waterproof sunscreen or other skin oils to reduce the ability of the Cercariae from penetrating the skin.

- Dry off with a towel as soon as you get out of the water. When you get out of the lake, don't let the water evaporate off your skin. The organism in the droplets of water on your skin will look for somewhere to go as the droplet of water evaporates.

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

## 2016 BSLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President:**

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

*and*

**Co-Vice-Presidents:**

Barb Kimer (2014-2017)  
barbkimer@gmail.com

Catharine Williamson (2015-2017)  
spiritw@me.com

**Secretary:**

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

**Treasurer:**

Al Judson (2014-2016)  
joal1969@gmail.com

**DIRECTORS:**

Dan Dyre (2013-2016)  
Dandyre57@msn.com

Tom Van Bruggen (2014-2017)  
tvbmd50@gmail.com

Richard Sederstrom (2013-2016)  
richard\_sederstrom1221@q.com

Irene Weiss (2014-17)  
ilweiss@arvig.net

Aaron Roseth (2014-2017)  
aaron.roseth@esgarch.com

Beth Krueger (2014-2017)  
wkruger@paulbunyan.net

Bonnie Brand (2014-2017)  
bjbrand@info-link.net

Ellis Jones (2014-2017)  
erjones3@gmail.com

Scott Preusse (2014-2017)  
rscottp@scottpreusse.com

William Eichten (2014-2017)  
weichten@aol.com

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS:**

Lake Management Plan Administrator:

Susan Fairchild Winn  
winn01@yahoo.com

Website coordinator:

Barb Kimer (2014-2017)  
barbkimer@gmail.com

Cola Representative:

Irene Weis (2014-2017)  
ilweis@arvig.net

Facebook Coordinator:

Heather Wittman  
hhayden@gmail.com

Lake Management Fund Co-Chairs:

Linda Lee 636-222-7462  
pjlee6005@aol.com

*and*

Catherine Williamson  
952-936-0204  
spirit@me.com

Newsletter Editor;

Richard Fenton Sederstrom  
richard\_sederstrom1221@q.com