



Big Sand Lake
Association



SPRING 2018 · BIGSANDLAKE.ORG

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Spring Greetings Big Sanders,

At the time of this writing, the ice on Big Sand is starting to show signs of melting. Winner of the ice out contest will be announced on the website. Stay tuned!

This summer marks the 30th Anniversary of the Big Sand Lake Association (BSLA). Come to the Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 23rd to help celebrate! The 2018 meeting will be held at Fenton's Folly, 23811 Greenleaf Drive. Watch for further details.

A major step has been taken to preserve the 30 year history of the Big Sand Lake Association. All paper records are going digital. A copy of the digital files plus a detailed guide and timeline of duties and activities essential to the continuity of the organization will be passed to succeeding BSLA administrations. BSLA is fortunate to have retained many paper records providing a good history going back to the beginning days of the organization. We thank past BSLA board members and volunteers for keeping such good records.

We strongly encourage you to attend the Annual Meeting on June 23rd, especially if you are a new lake resident. The event is a great opportunity to meet fellow Big Sanders from all parts of the lake, get the scoop on BSLA activities, participate in electing a new BSLA administration, and enjoy a family picnic. Bob Bray is currently President Elect and we are confident that BSLA will be in good hands when the new administration takes over. Details for the Annual Meeting will be announced via the website, the "pink postcards" and blast email.

We truly appreciate and applaud the many Big Sand volunteers who support efforts of the lake association. Their time and dedication advance BSLA's commitment to the preservation and enhancement of Big Sand Lake. It is a pleasure working with and getting to know so many wonderful Big Sanders.

We look forward to seeing you on the lake and at the Annual Meeting! Barb and Catharine

INVEST IN BIG SAND LAKE BECOME A BSLA MEMBER IN 2018

Rather than including a membership form with the newsletter, individual renewal letters are being sent in May to the 164 lake residents who were members in 2017. The remaining 225 Big Sand property owners who are not current members will receive a membership invitation letter. Our goal for 2018 is to increase BSLA membership by at least 10%. For an investment in one the most beautiful lakes in Minnesota, the \$40 annual BSLA dues is a fantastic deal. Thank you in advance for your 2018 membership.

NEW TIMELINE FOR DUES PAYMENT IN 2019

In the past, membership dues have been solicited with the Spring newsletter. Many pay their dues promptly. However, it has been a pattern over the last several years that annual dues payments have trickled in nearly every month of the year, with a handful being paid in Nov. and Dec. A new process for timely dues collection is planned for 2019.

In an attempt to better match BSLA's accounting year (January 1 to December 31), letters will be sent the first week of January for the upcoming calendar year with a due date of Jan 31. Reminder notices will be sent in early February and hopefully a large percentage of membership dues will be in by the end of February. BSLA accounting will be greatly benefited with monies coming in at the beginning of the accounting year, allowing for better yearly planning.



View from West View Webcam, April 30 and May 2, 2018

HOW IOWA BEACH ON BIG SAND GOT ITS NAME

Iowa Beach may not be a familiar term to most Big Sand residents. However, the 'neighborhood' that is located on the south end of the bay of Big Sand — from the public access to where the ridge on the east side of the bay rises — has been known as "Iowa Beach" by past and present residents since the early 1900's.

This area of the lake was first developed when men from Iowa in the early the 1900's came either by train to Dorset or in Model T's to Pine Cone Lodge for fishing. They were so impressed by the beauty of Big Sand — in spite of the fact that the area had been heavily logged — they wanted to bring their families. The area along the sandy shore of the south end of the bay on Big Sand was subdivided into lots and cabins were beginning to built. Word of mouth and reputation drew several families from Iowa.

One of these fishermen was William Lysaght, from Cherokee, Iowa. He purchased property in 1916 and built the cabin that still stands, primarily in its original form, at 20248 Gladwin Drive. The cabin is still owned by descendants of Grace Lysaght Barnett, Mr. Lysaght's daughter. The attached photos are of the cabin circa 1919 and one taken in 2017.

When Hubbard County changed to the 911 system for addresses, Iowa Beach Road was required to have a name that started with a "G". Ginny Drive was the name randomly assigned to Iowa Beach Road. This name did not sit well with the Iowa Beach residents. They petitioned the county to change the name to Gladwin Drive in honor of Mary Lysaght Gladwin and her husband Doug, long time Iowa Beach residents.



2018 WATERCRAFT INSPECTION FUNDING UPDATE

A Paul Bunyan-sized thank you to these Big Sand Lakers who made donations to the online winter fundraising campaign for watercraft inspection for the upcoming summer season!

Our goal was to raise \$9,724 for the Special Projects Fund specifically for watercraft inspection, and we came close! With about 25% of our lake homeowners contributing, our balance stands at \$9,647.20, which is only \$76.80 short of what we need. Watercraft inspection is still the most effective way to prevent aquatic invasive species infestation.

We also continue to receive donations to our main Charitable Fund, the purpose of which is "to protect, preserve, restore and enhance the quality of Big Sand Lake and its environs," and has a balance of \$112,044.29. Raising money for watercraft inspection each year allows us to reserve this main fund to deal with any potential lake infestation or other emergencies.

Thank you for your contributions to both funds. Your ongoing generosity allows us to be good stewards of our beautiful lake!

Ann & Chris Hilger
Big Sand Lake Charitable Fund Co-Chairs

Jon and Mary Monson
Bob and Adrienne Bray
Jacquelyn Lewis
Timothy Gavin
John P. Nelson Family
John and Susan Steffen
Brian F. and Jane Ellen Peterson
Chris and Ann Hilger
Linda and Paul Lee
Eric Billing
David and Christine Billion
David and Joan Hilger
Jon Nestoss
Charles and Barbara Perkins
William and Carmelita Ellis
Evelyn L. Kvamme
Thomas M. and Susan Mayerle
Don and Jeanne Hoodecheck
David and Mary Bergman
Bill and Kelly Hanley
Scott and Sherry Preusse
Tom and Barbara Kimer
Randau and Robyn Wimmer
William and Carmelita Ellis
Hollis Corwin

Ellis Jones
Steven J. Fuglestad
Thomas N. and Debra R. Tharaldson
Andrea U. Brainard
Stan and Catharine Williamson
Rolf and Karen Nelson
Bonnie Brand
Diana Brainard
Debra Bowers
Harold Thibault
Bryce and Carrie Craig
Tom Scott
Marcia Landgraf
James Pierson
Deane and Jill Johnson
Steven Winn and Susan Fairchild
Dr. Peter and Linda Hilger
Tim and Linda Conely
Tim and Linda Daugherty
Klepinski Charitable Fund
Paul and Marilou Birkeland
Butch and Ann McConn
John P. and Nancy Ryan
Richard and Mimi Long
Larry Durand

RECENT BSLA ACTIVITIES

- In February, the BSLA board voted to present the idea of initiating a statewide petition for mandatory decontamination of watercraft exiting infested waters. The concept was presented to Hubbard COLA at their February meeting. We are also in contact with Jeff Forester, executive director of MN Lakes and Rivers. The issue is complex and logistics difficult. At the time of this writing, it is unknown the direction of this effort. If you are interested in working with this project, please contact us at info@bigsandlake.org.
- BSLA is closely following Wright County's 2018 pilot regional inspection and decontamination program as a model for efficient, cost saving, centralized watercraft inspections. As of this writing, Wright CO is still waiting for DNR approval to continue the program started in 2017. Check the Big Sand website for updates.
- There will be 1000 hours of watercraft inspections at the public landing between fishing opener and the end of October in 2018. Please see Ann Hilger's article regarding the successful funding for 2018 inspections. BSLA thanks everyone who donated.
- Our water quality monitoring team for 2018 consists of Gene Fladeboe, Bob Conyers, and Richard Sederstrom. The three will share duties of monitoring water chemistry, DO/Temp study, Sechhi Disk readings, lake water level recording, and Zebra Mussel Veliger sampling. Refer to the article elsewhere in the newsletter describing these monitoring activities. Please thank these volunteers for the many hours they contribute.
- Two new replacement buoys were purchased this spring by BSLA. A big thank you to Dan Dyer for his continued dedication to placing the buoys in the spring and removing them in the fall.
- The website has been updated with new coding to increase compatibility with mobile devices and font size adjusted for easier reading. Thank you to Paul Shoemaker and Heather Wittman for their work with this project. Thanks also to Heather Wittman for her terrific work maintaining our website information, Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter accounts.
- The Resident Directory Committee, headed by Sue Fenton, Lisa Moore and Bonnie Brand, recruited the following volunteers to serve as neighborhood Calling Tree representatives — Adrienne Bray, Carolyn Corwin, Candy Malm, Liz Quaday, Nancy Ryan, Barb Kimer, Mary Beth Anderson, Laura Spolum, Lisa Reed, Ann Hilger, Jo Kilander, Sheri Preusse, Karen Nelson, and Jack Fischer. These volunteers and committee members started confirming contact information for Big Sand residents last summer. BSLA plans for the new print directory and updated on-line version (password secured) to be ready for distribution by the Annual Meeting. A primary reason for residents to be included in the directory is safety. In case of an emergency, the directory will provide phone numbers to immediately reach neighbors.

WILDFLOWER TREASURES

IN THE WOODS NEAR YOU

Terry Klepinski sent the following information about wildflowers that can be found in the woods around Big Sand. Terry is considering offering guided wildflower or native foliage tours in June or July. Watch the website or Big Sand emails with information about dates and times. Terry is a Certified Master Naturalist Volunteer and facilitator of the Wildlife and Environment section of Big Sand Lake's Management Plan.



Merrybells,
Uvularia grandiflora

Native Minnesota perennial with twisted yellow flower 1" - 2" long, in shade or part shade. Grows 1-2 feet tall and blooms from April through June. Green leaves surround the main stem.



Bloodroot,
Sanguinaria canadensis

Native Minnesota perennial, grows in part shade or shady woods. Small white flowers bloom for one or two days. Blooms from March through May, is 6-12" tall can emerge while snow is still on the ground. Named for the red juice that bleeds from the broken stems, leaves and roots.



Hepatica,
Anemone acutiloba

Sharp lobed Hepatica, a perennial native Minnesota wildflower. Flower is 1/2 inch wide and violet to white in color, plant is 6" tall. Leaves open after flowers bloom. Hepatica is among the first Minnesota wildflower to appear in the spring. Leaves are egg shaped with pointed tips.

★ ★ ★
WANT TO SEE THE STARS?
TURN OFF YOUR YARD LIGHTS
★ ★ ★

With respect for your neighbors and the night sky, please turn off your yard lights when they aren't needed or place a yard light shade to eliminate glare and direct light down to the ground. To read an interesting and worthwhile article about the adverse effects of nighttime lighting, Google "The dark side/ The New Yorker". Although the article was published in 2007, the information still pertains. Thank you for helping to keep Big Sand a place where we all can clearly see the night sky.

BSLA IS NOT JUST A SOCIAL ORGANIZATION

The primary purpose of the organization, as stated in the mission statement, is “To preserve and protect Big Sand Lake.” Since the inception of the organization in 1988, BSLA has undertaken activities for the preservation and enhancement of Big Sand Lake for today and for future generations to come.

One of the first accomplishments of the Association was a fly over of Big Sand. This action resulted in Big Sand Lake becoming the first Hubbard County Lake with 100% of its septic systems upgraded and compliant with county standards and is likely the reason for the amazing water clarity we now enjoy.

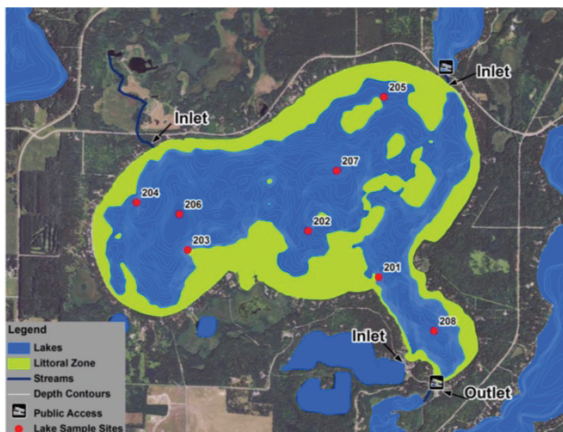
BSLA volunteers have continuously conducted monthly water quality monitoring activities over the years. Water samples are collected and water transparency (Secchi disc) readings are recorded and then sent to RMB Environmental Laboratories (RMBEL) in Detroit Lakes for analysis and tracking.

In addition, BSLA has participated in three other vital monitoring activities — Zebra Mussel Veliger testing; a Dissolved Oxygen (DO) / Water Temperature study; and a vegetative mapping of the entire lake. A brief description of these activities is below.

Individual results and reports of these activities are available at www.bigsandlake.org. Click on ‘BSLA Information’ and then on the ‘Water Quality Reports’ tab. Also on the website is the comprehensive summary and analysis of data that BSLA commissioned RMBEL to prepare in 2011. An update to that report is underway and will be posted when completed.

In 2016, BSLA purchased and placed, with the resident’s permission, 20 zebra mussel samplers at strategic locations around the lake. Residents check the sampler at the end of each summer and are instructed to report any suspicious findings to the DNR.

Cost to BSLA: \$240



Map: Big Sand Sample Locations

Water Quality Monitoring:

Overview: Levels of chlorophyll and phosphorus in the lake are monitored as well as transparency depths — all indicators of the health of the lake.

Process: On Sunday or Monday every 3rd week of the month, May thru September, a volunteer(s) collects water samples from designated locations and records the lowest depth at which a Secchi disc is visible (white disc at the end of a long rope). Volunteers from all lakes in Hubbard County participating in monitoring deliver their samples to Charlie’s Marine in Park Rapids for delivery by a Hubbard COLA (Coalition of Lake Associations) volunteer to RMBEL in Detroit Lakes.

Cost to BSLA: \$220 is estimated for each Hubbard County lake participating

Zebra Mussel Veliger Testing:

Overview: Veligers are the microscopic juvenile larvae of zebra mussels developing from the eggs of an adult female. Early detection allows for possible containment. One adult female zebra mussel may release up to one million eggs per year.

Process: The Big Sand volunteer uses a specially designed plankton net which BSLA purchased for approximately \$200. Samples are taken the first of July and again in the middle of July when the veligers tend to emerge. The volunteer takes samples at three different locations on the lake. Plankton and other debris left on the net after all water is drained are placed in a container supplied by RMBEL. The samples are preserved with a solution of 1/3 water and alcohol. The Big Sand volunteer takes the two samples in mid-July to Charlie’s Marine to be delivered to RMBEL with the July water quality samples. The Big Sand volunteer is responsible for cleaning and storing the net.

Cost to BSLA: \$180 (\$90/sample) - RMBEL analysis

Dissolved Oxygen(DO) /Temperature Study:

Overview: This DNR study measures the size of the available oxygen and temperatures in the thermal layer of the lake suitable for a healthy Cisco population and can predict possible summer fish kills. Additionally, monitoring DO/Temperatures will track long term trends for the general health of the lake.

Process: Big Sand and Little Sand shared the initial cost (approx. \$16,00) of the probe with a 100 ft. cable. This arrangement also keeps down the cost of maintenance and replacement parts. The DNR provides volunteer training for the intricate reading and recording of the results. Readings are taken every two weeks beginning May through October to measure dissolved oxygen and temperature from the surface to the bottom of the lake. The volunteer anchors his/her boat in the deepest possible part of the lake to take readings every 1-3 feet of depth to determine how wide the layer of water is with the optimal DO / Temperature available for Cisco to survive.

Cost to BSLA: \$75 - share of annual replacement of probe sensor; \$250 for share of equipment repair

Vegetative Mapping:

Overview: This mapping project was undertaken in 2009 to identify existing submergent and emergent vegetation. No Eurasian Milfoil was discovered. Discussion is underway to determine if and when another vegetative mapping study should be done.

Process: Don and Ivy Douglas devoted 37 hours between July 8 and July 31 to map existing vegetation in Big Sand. 995 points were mapped for sampling, using their 19 ft. pontoon, Garmin GPS Map 76, rake and rope collection, point-intercept grid. Only locations 37 feet deep or less had vegetation.

Invasive Species Laws

It is UNLAWFUL to:

- Move water equipment (docks, lifts, pumps, etc.) and place in another body of water unless dried for 21 days.
- Transport aquatic plants, ruffe, round goby, zebra mussel or any other prohibited invasive species on any road.
- Leave any body of water before removing drain plugs and draining all water related equipment. (including live wells and bait containers) **Note: To keep unused live bait, drain container and replace with tap or bottled water.**
- Launch a watercraft with aquatic plants, zebra mussels or any prohibited invasive species attached.
- Harvest bait (minnows, frogs, crayfish or other wild animals) from most designated infested waters, without a permit.

Guide to Aquatic Invasive Species & Laws,
Licensed Lake Service Providers List:

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais>

MN DNR Invasive Species Specialist – Park
Rapids: 218-732-8960

Hubbard County COLA: www.hubbardscolamn.org

www.dnr.state.mn.us/department/land/management_services/ais/

STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

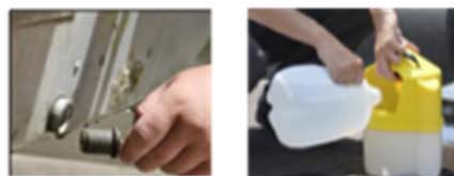
- **CLEAN** visible aquatic plants, zebra mussels and other prohibited species off your watercraft, trailer and other water related equipment before leaving the water access or shoreland property.
- **DRAIN** water-related equipment (boat, ballast tanks, portable bait containers, motor) and drain bilge, livewell, and baitwell by removing drain plugs before leaving a water access or shoreland property. Keep drain plugs out and water-draining devices open while transporting.
- **DISPOSE** of unwanted bait, including minnows, leeches, worms and fish parts in the trash.

Recommendations BEFORE Going To Another Waterbody include one or more of the following:

- Spray with high-pressure water
- Rinse with very hot water*
- Dry for at least 5 days

*These water temperatures will kill zebra mussels and some other AIS: 120°F for at least 2 min or 140°F for at least 10 sec.

The Hubbard County Environmental Services' Free Watercraft Decontamination Station On-Call Available 7 Days a Week, Opening of Fishing Thru Mid-Sept: 218-252-6738, 812 Henrietta Ave, Park Rapids. This location & other MN decontamination stations are listed on MN DNR's website: https://webapps15.dnr.state.mn.us/ais_decon_sites



Check These Places on Your Boat & Trailer For Aquatic Plants or Animals. **Lower Motor to Drain Water on Land. Raise drained motor to safe height during transport.**



HC COLA Version: 2018

Healthy Lakes Depend on You! Think Ahead and Stop the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species! Be A Hero! Transport Zero!



EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL

Forms dense mats that interfere with boating and swimming. Long spaghetti-like stems. Delicate feathery-like leaves. Leaves arranged in whorls (circles) of 3-5 around stem. Each leaf has 12-21 leaflet pairs. Northern watermilfoil, a native look-alike, has 7-10 leaflet pairs. **Present in Hubbard County: Bad Axe Lake.**



PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE

A hardy perennial which can degrade wetlands and diminish their value for wildlife habitat. 3-7 ft. spike with small purple flowers. Downy smooth-edged leaves usually paired, opposite. Mature plants have many stems that grow from a root crown. **Present in Hubbard County.**



CURLY-LEAF PONDWEED

Forms weed mats that shade out native plants. Have somewhat stiff, wavy leaves with fine-toothed edges that are 1/2 inch wide and 2-3 inches long, arranged alternately around the stem. When it dies back in mid-summer, it releases nutrients which may cause other problems. **Present in Hubbard County.**



STARRY STONEWORT

Forms extremely dense weed mats, reduces water flow, prevents recreational activities, impedes movement of fish and decreases spawning activity. It has spirals of 4-6 branchlets, blunt tips, anchored by colorless rhizoids, contains up to several dozen 4-5mm star-shaped bulbils. **Not present in Hubbard County.**



ZEBRA MUSSEL

Filter feeders which take plankton out of the water that young fish rely on for food. Yellowish-brown clams, up to 2 inches long, have light and dark stripes on their "D" shaped shells. Damages ecosystems. Uses byssal threads to attach to all hard surfaces. **Present in Hubbard County: Benedict, Garfield, Steamboat Lakes.**



RUSTY CRAYFISH

Grazes on and can eliminate aquatic plant beds. Adults 3-5 inches long. Claws larger and smoother than other crayfish. Dark rusty spots on each side of carapace. Displaces and can hybridize with native crayfish. **Not present in Hubbard County.**



SPINY WATERFLEA

Competes with small fish for food and fouls gear. Tiny crustacean (<1/2 inch). Difficult to distinguish without magnification. 1-4 pairs of barbs on tail. Prominent, tiny, dark eyespot. Clumps look and feel like gelatin. Impossible to eradicate. **Not present in Hubbard County.**



FAUCET SNAIL

Populations can outcompete many native snails and are hosts to a parasitic trematode that can kill waterfowl. Shells have 4-5 whorls and a right hand opening with a hard cover called an operculum. Shells are light brown or black color and are generally smaller than 1/2 inch in length. **Present in Hubbard County.**



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

BIG SAND LAKE 2018 CALENDAR

ANNUAL MEETING and FAMILY PICNIC

Saturday, June 23

23811 Greenleaf Drive

Meeting 10:00 a.m. - Family Picnic immediately following

FOURTH OF JULY PARADE

Wednesday, July 4

11:00 a.m. at Northeast end of the lake

LADIES COFFEE/HAPPY HOUR

May 23, June 26, July 19, August 22, September 27
(Locations TBD)

SOCIALS

July date TBA - Hosted by Randy and Sheree Seavers
Saturday, August 25 - Hosted by Jeff and Bonnie Brand
at Pine Cone

Saturday, September 15 - Headwaters Golf Club
preceded by 2nd Annual Golf Outing

BIG SAND DINNERS AT LOCAL RESTAURANTS

Random and Casually Scheduled

Contact Linda Van Bruggen, freddie54mn@yahoo.com,
for email notifications

BSLA BOARD MEETINGS

Saturday, May 26 - 8:30 a.m.

Saturday, June 2 - 8:30 a.m.

July, August, September and October dates TBD

DEADLINES FOR NEWSLETTER MATERIALS

FALL ISSUE - September 1

If you have an idea for an activity
or are interested in hosting an event,
please contact either

Adrienne Bray - adriennebray@gmail.com

Beth Krueger - wkrueger@paulbunyan.net