



## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Summer 2019 certainly went by much too quickly. The weather during the summer seemed wetter than past summers with many windy days. Hopefully everyone still was able to enjoy the water, woods and trails around our beautiful lake.

I ask everyone to give a hearty welcome and thanks to Don Kilander. Don has volunteered to join the BSLA board now and to step up and become the BSLA President Elect after the annual meeting in 2020. We will hold the vote for Don at the annual meeting. Don has a lifetime of service to the North Dakota community and he has now volunteered to bring his expertise to the Big Sand Lake Association. Community service obviously runs in the Kilander family as Jo Kilander is also a BSLA board member. Jo has also stepped up to volunteer to be the BSLA Board Secretary and the BSLA Social Activities Coordinator. Thanks to the Kilanders for your commitment to Big Sand Lake. Please thank Don and Jo for their efforts, time and energy to support the Big Sand Lake Association.

We opened the summer with a great annual meeting at Pine Cone Lodge. Many thanks to Bonnie and Jeff Brand for letting us use their beautiful resort for our annual meeting. They have restored the resort to a magnificent level and yet have preserved the long history of the resort on the lake. The old dining hall with all the historic photographs and memorabilia is something everyone should visit to appreciate all the history of the resort and the lake. The Brands have offered the use of Pine Cone Lodge for our 2020 annual meeting. I really appreciate their support for the Big Sand Lake Association. The annual meeting was very well attended, approximately 75 friends and neighbors. We all enjoyed getting to talk to our neighbors and spend time with so many new friends. The beautiful setting at Pine Cone Lodge certainly enhanced our gathering.

We all enjoyed an informative seminar from Nicole Kovar, Invasive Species Specialist. Nicole spoke to us about DNR efforts to halt the spread of AIS and some of the important scientific research to defeat AIS. The scientific and field work conducted by Nicole and other scientists will hopefully provide solutions to the AIS problems in the near future.

We then had a great luncheon served by Main Street Meats. They do a great job and they make the work of all the volunteers who help produce the annual meeting much easier, as Jeff for Main Street Meats is fully self-contained and he brings everything he needs to serve a delightful lunch for everyone.

Donna Dustin, Fisheries Biologist, DNR, conducted an emergent vegetation survey on the lake in July. I accompanied Donna and it was a great day. The weather was perfect, and we had a sunny pleasant day. Donna had the benefits of technology to map the vegetation and this technology was certainly helpful in accurately mapping the lake vegetation. The initial results of the survey are posted on the BSLA website. The survey is an important database to measure the health of the lake through the next few years.

In July we all enjoyed a social gathering at the beautiful home of Margaret Prah and Tom Patterson. Almost 70 of our neighbors gathered at their home on the west shore of the lake. Everyone had a great time; the weather was sunny and clear and there was an incredible array of food.

In August we all met again at the beautiful lakeside home of Randy and Sheree Seaver. We again had quite a large group of neighbors who enjoyed a beautiful day with a remarkable variety of food and drinks.

Thanks to the Brands, Margaret and Tom and Randy and Sheree for hosting our meetings and socials and providing us with another successful social season.

We rely on all of our volunteers to organize our socials, monitor the health of our lake and raise funds for our AIS inspection programs. This past fall we issued a call for volunteers to help with our buoy water safety program. Dan Dyre has been solely responsible for the program for many years, to the benefit of everyone on the lake. Tim and Mary Hestness volunteered to help with the annual process of removing the buoys in the fall and installing the buoys in the spring. Tim and Mary even volunteered to buy an old pontoon boat to help with the large, unwieldy, heavy buoys. Dan Dyre volunteered to provide an outboard motor for the pontoon.

And then BSLA Board member Sue Fenton started making phone calls to follow up on a rumor she heard that the Hubbard County Sheriff's office might be able to take over the duties of installing and removing the buoys. Sue persisted and made many phone calls to follow up with the Sheriff. As a result of Sue's initiative, the Sheriff's office has agreed to assume management of the buoy program. Many thanks to Sue for resolving this issue, to the great benefit of everyone on the lake.

Please remember the annual dues for BSLA membership in 2020 is \$50. This is our first dues increase in 30 years. I hope everyone has a pleasant fall and a safe and happy Holiday season.

Best wishes for a safe winter.

Bob Bray



# EXTRAVAGANT SUMMER

By Liz Quaday

Sad to say, but this wonderful summer is drawing to a close. The weather is cool and overcast most days. We've had lots of rain. The earliest trees are beginning to show their change of color. The wildflowers in the ditches have gone from daisies and Black-eyed Susans to goldenrod and wild asters. The temperature of Big Sand Lake is falling. Since Labor Day weekend, the tourist population has thinned. Dorset's seasonal shopkeepers and restaurant owners are preparing to shutter their businesses. Summer folks are closing and winterizing their cabins and storing their boats. The stores in town are having their end-of-season sales. Saturday's farmer's market and roadside vegetable stands won't be open much longer. Those of us who are year-rounders are pausing to catch our breaths. Autumn is pressing in.

This is a good time to reflect on summer's powerful impact on the lake country. It is the season that we all live for in these parts. It means make-or-break financial survival for local business owners, certainly, but summer also revives those of us who call this piece of paradise "home". The opportunity to fully enjoy the warm months makes winter's long cold journey a trip worth taking.

So, how does one fully embrace the short-lived extravagance of the summer months? What attitudes and activities gathered like acorns during the months of June, July and August will keep the soul nourished during the rest of the year? From my experiences this past summer, I can make some recommendations:

Plant some flowers. Have a lot of bonfires. Sleep with the windows open. Snack on a handful of wild raspberries while walking to the mailbox. Take in as many outdoor concerts as you can; the free ones on the shore of Spirit Lake on Friday evenings in Menahga are a sure bet, especially when paired with the super-cheap snacks served up as a fundraiser by the Methodist church. Take walks on the county roads, and please pick up trash along the way! If you must do any computer work, take it out on the screen porch for goodness sake. Get out on the water as often as possible. Participate in the Big Sand Boat Parade on the 4th of July – whether you take to the water or watch from your dock. After the parade, have a barbecue and then head back on the water to see your neighbors shoot off fireworks from the shoreline. Take the grandkids fishing (without their phones) and tubing too. Head up to Lake George the last week of July and pick wild blueberries in the woods for free. Head to Park Rapids during Crazy Days – when all the shops have their biggest sale of the summer. Grab as many friends as you can and rent canoes on the slowest river you can find. Make a weekend of it in Duluth, especially when the Tall Ships Festival is in town. Don't miss the Great Lakes Aquarium while you are there! Cut big bouquets of wildflowers. Sit on the screen porch during evening thunderstorms. Pack as many friends and relatives into your cabin or lake home as you can, as often as you can. Play lots of card and board games. Everybody sleep late and eat too much good food. Get in your boat or pontoon and cruise the shoreline of the lake, especially with a glass of wine and some snacks. While you are out there, be sure to slow down in the Bay so that you can properly appreciate Nancy's hard work in planting the Ryan's hillside with a splendid bounty of colorful flowers. Spend at least a day at the Pine River Bluegrass Festival. Oh, and take in at least one classic boat show. The best this year was at Bar Harbor on Gull Lake, with acres of glossy mahogany to drool over. Say "yes" to as many potluck supper invitations as you can, especially those sponsored by the Big Sand Lake Association. Finally, as August comes to a close, overdose on humanity and fried food at the Minnesota State Fair (fun facts: nicknamed "The Great Minnesota Get-Together", the largest state fair in attendance, with over 2 million showing up during the 12 days before Labor Day).

Those of you who make Big Sand Lake your summertime home can certainly add your own suggestions to this list. Fall is on the doorstep now, but after what we hope will be a short winter, spring will roll into summer once again. Snowbirds will return. We'll leave the porch light and a billion stars on for you.

Go to: [postcardsfromlizblog.wordpress.com](http://postcardsfromlizblog.wordpress.com) for more posts and photos of life on Big Sand Lake from Liz





# WHERE HAVE THE TULLIBEE GONE ?

and with at least 3 mg/l of dissolved oxygen (TDO3). Climate change, increasing nutrients decaying and eutrophication affect these conditions and are factors in this decline.

Big Sand has been participating in a Dissolved Oxygen (DO) /Temperature study in coordination with the DNR Fisheries under the auspices of Doug Kingsley since 2007. The purpose of the study is to measure and track available oxygen and temperatures suitable for maintaining a Tullibee population. Monitoring DO/Temperature also tracks long term trends for the general health of the lake. Currently, Gene Fladeboe and Bob Conyers are the Big Sand volunteers who take monthly readings of water temperature and available oxygen at every 1-3 feet to a depth of approximately 90 -100 feet. The readings are then sent to Doug Kingsley for analysis.

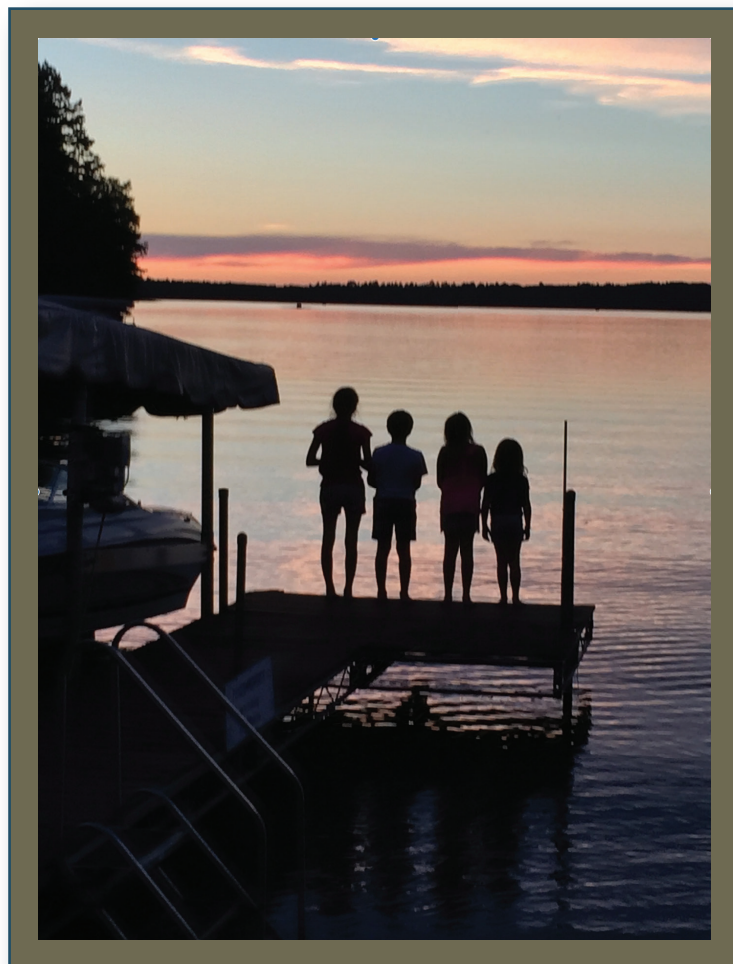
Mr. Kingsley recently provided a summary of the data through 9/28/19. In short, current conditions seem to exist for maintaining a Cisco population with layers of water with temperatures at 68 degrees or less and DO i3 mg/l or more. However, it appears that there may be a slight increasing trend for water temperature where dissolved oxygen is 3 mg/l (TDO3). Conditions change, with the worst usually in late August or early September. Conditions also change year to year depending on air temperatures.

2016 was the worst year since this type of monitoring began. That year Big Sand had only 24 feet of water cool enough and high enough DO to be suitable for Cisco — from 35 to 59 feet deep, However, that was better than Kabekona Lake that experienced a summer fish kill of Lake Whitefish and Cisco because of inadequate temperature/DO or Long Lake where there was only about a quarter foot of suitable habitat.

Go to [bigsandlake.org](http://bigsandlake.org) / Water Quality Reports tab for more information and the complete report. For questions about this information, you may contact: Doug Kingsley, MN DNR Area Fisheries218-732-4153 / [doug.kingsley@state.mn.us](mailto:doug.kingsley@state.mn.us)

Thank you to Gene Fladeboe and Doug Kingsley for contributing content for this article. And thank you to Gene and Bob Conyers for volunteering their considerable time and effort for this project.

Those of us who have been spending time at Big Sand since the 70's, 80's and early 90's may remember schools of Cisco (aka Tullibee) skittering across the surface of the lake usually at sunset. Unfortunately, that is now a very rare, if ever, site. Tullibee, a primary food source for walleye and other fish, are declining not only in Big Sand but in the 620 Minnesota lakes identified as deep enough and with conditions suitable for Cisco. Tullibee thrive in waters with temperatures no more than 68 degrees



# UP NORTH AT THE LAKE

## Reflections on Evergreen Lodge at Big Sand Lake

Sept. 1, 2019

I don't own a cabin or live year-round on Big Sand Lake like many of you do. However, as an envious outsider, I thought I'd share how my 35 year love affair with this lake began.

Starting in the early 80's, I was lucky to be invited on a trip to do some walleye fishing with my close friend and his family. Freshly out of college and living in Dubuque, Iowa, I had never even heard of Park Rapids, Minnesota let alone Big Sand Lake. For that matter, I had never fished for walleyes, so I thought this would be a fun experience. My buddy had told me about the fishing on Big Sand Lake and I was determined to give it a try. I jumped in the car and made the 8-½ hour trek North to another place I had never heard of...a resort called Evergreen Lodge.



As I pulled onto the gravel road leading into Evergreen, I was quickly met at my left by a picturesque Par 3 golf course with fairways lined by birch and pine trees. I remember

thinking, "This is going to be fun - fishing and golfing - two of my favorite things." As I descended down the winding road, it reminded me of the times I went to Minocqua, Mercer and Rhinelander, Wisconsin with my family as a child. At the bottom of the road a large log lodge came into view along with 18 small,



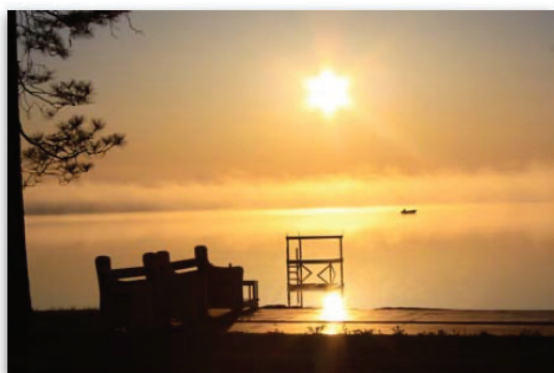
green cabins. From the lodge I could see that the beach extended a few hundred yards. Check-in wasn't necessary as I was told the doors would be unlocked and they would be expecting me, so I turned left and followed the drive down to Cabin #8.

The cabin was rustic yet quaint. It had two tiny bedrooms and neither would be mine. I was assigned to





the couch. The kitchen and bath were small, but at least we had running water and electricity. It was late May so we likely wouldn't need heat, although it did have an electric wall unit. There was no television (thank goodness), no microwave, coffee maker, air conditioning, patio or deck, and the only phone was a pay phone located just outside the lodge entrance. Our cabin fronted a narrow sidewalk, which led back to the lodge and ran parallel to all of the cabins. There were no picnic tables or charcoal grills, only a few fire pits and cement benches. A variety of vintage motel chairs were lined up outside each cabin.



The sand beach was clean and weed-free and gradually sloped down to the water's edge. Looking out at the lake on that sunny afternoon reminded me of pictures I'd seen of the Caribbean. Vibrant tones of blue, green and aqua colored the surface due to the structure of the lake. The water clarity was out of this world and from what I was told; you could see the bottom 20 feet down. The beach had 5 sets of white-painted docks, 2 swimming platforms and a weathered shuffleboard court just above. Down by the lodge, an old, cracked-cement boat ramp would act as the launchpad for what was affectionately known as "the barge," my friend's family boat. It was a 20-foot aluminum flat-bottom with a 35 hp Evinrude outboard motor. It had to be one of the ugliest boats I had ever seen, but supposedly it floated and I was willing to give it a try. The proprietor of the

resort offered launching service and backed what he later referred to as "the green rain gutter" into the water. And wouldn't you know, it actually floated! I was confident we'd be the laughingstock of the lake. Later on we would sink that same boat at the end of the dock, but that's another whole story in itself.

Now it was time to meet our hosts – Karl and Kay Dyre. Karl and Kay had purchased the resort back in 1957 and had already been running it for 25 years. Over the course of the next few days, I would have a chance to get to know them both. Karl was a no-nonsense kind of guy filled with great stories, sentiment and spirit. Kay was the fast talker of the two, kept the resort in order and had a heart of gold. They both were former schoolteachers and could outwork any of us in a heartbeat. This was duly noted by the way they operated and maintained their business. Evergreen Lodge was meant to be a quiet family resort and not a party place. I would later learn that it was also in my best interest to stay on their good side.



After laying a day's catch of walleye (3 full stringers) on the front step of the lodge to take pictures, I got a bit of a talking to by Karl for sliming up the concrete. In all seriousness, he and Kay were an awesome couple and I was grateful for their hospitality and the strict way they ran their resort. Next time I would take my pictures in the fish-cleaning house out back. Lesson learned!

Fishing on Big Sand Lake was good and there were many great spots to try. This is where I had my first experience using leeches as bait. As a





child I remember trying to remove these blood-sucking critters from my body after swimming in the lakes of Northern Wisconsin. And now I was supposed to pick these up and attach them to my hook? Maybe this fishing trip was a bad idea after all. Needless to say, I got the hang of it real fast, especially after I felt the tug of my first big walleye. Could this be the start of something special? Over the course of the next few days, we proceeded to catch our limit of walleyes (me with my trusty Zebco 33 and my friend with his Zebco 808). I was definitely hooked! I soon was told that if I was to get asked where I caught my fish, I should point and say, "Over there by the brown cabin with the red Lund." Of course dozens of areas on the lake fit this description, but they didn't need to know that. One should never share the location of their honey hole! Another lesson learned. All in all, I had a great time and it was a memorable trip. I sincerely hoped that I would be asked to visit again.



### And Onto the Next Generation

Thankfully I was invited back. This time, however, with my wife! The funny thing is, she actually wanted to come. And soon the family would follow. Both my daughters made their first trips to the lake within the first few months of being born. Whether it was an early season fishing trip with the guys or a late summer family vacation, it was a time we all looked forward to each and every year. The lake



always took precedence over other venues and soon became a family affair with my mom and

siblings often in attendance. Days were filled with tubing, skiing, fishing, biking, tennis, swimming and sunbathing. We made regular excursions through the inlet to Ida Lake, Little



Sand and our favorite hangout – Zorbaz. The girls would venture off to the candy and bookstores while I would go fishing.

A visit to the Taste of Dorset and Compañeros were always a given, as well as our daily ritual of happy hour and hoers 'devours on the beach (our girl's favorite activity - kiddie cocktails and all). We liked to call it "toddy time," a name my mom and grandma had used for years. The lake was truly a place where we could relax, unwind, meet new friends, enjoy each other's company and put everyday life on hold.

Over the years I've witnessed a multitude of changes at the resort including the rebuilding of cabins, the addition of



amenities (many of which were noted missing earlier in this story) including: Wi-Fi, pontoons, new deep-v boats with 4-stroke rental motors, kayaks, standup paddle boards and playground equipment just to name a few.



I've also seen the resort handed down a generation. Karl and Kay's son, Dan and his wife Juli, now handle the day-to-day

operations and do a phenomenal job. Karl passed on a few years back, the golf course has since closed and Kay recently retired from the daily grind, but the resort hasn't missed a beat. One thing remains unchanged - it's still a friendly place where generations can gather and carry on their own family traditions.



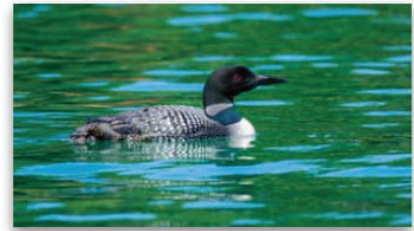
Fishing on Big Sand Lake has cycled over the years, sometimes good, sometimes bad, but I'm always able to pick up a few. Today there are more rock bass and pike than there used to be, but I'm told the walleye population still remains healthy. Unfortunately, I don't always make it for the fishing opener, but I've never missed a summer vacation in July or August. And just in case you're wondering, I upgraded from my old Zebco 33 to an open-bail spinning reel in the early 90's. My buddy, however, still uses his old Zebco 808. Some things will never change! He has his own cabin now on a lake in Wisconsin, but I'll forever be indebted to him for introducing me to Big Sand.



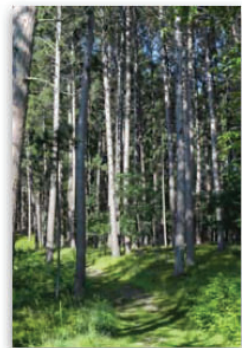
While there are many beautiful things to see up at the lake, it's often the sounds I enjoy and can relate to the most. The sound of the wind blowing through the pines; the sound of rain on the cabin roof during a late night thunderstorm; the sound of morning crows cawing outside my window; the sound of waves lapping against the shoreline on a blustery evening; the sound of Dan's 1958 John Deere tractor putt-putting back to the garage after a boat launch; the distant sound of an early morning motor boat crossing the lake; the sound of laughter during a family card game; and finally the sound



of a loon as its lonely call echoes off the water. To this day, it's the sound I most associate with being up North.



As I get older (I'm 58), I find that I now can enjoy the lake without having to keep busy and on a constant schedule. My early morning fishing excursions are fewer and farther between. I love to sit at the beach and read a good book and occasionally take naps. I like going on boat rides with my family around the lake. I enjoy walking and photographing out in the woods. My kids jokingly call them "nature boy walks". To me it's a peaceful and quiet time - a time when all my senses are in tune with nature, a time when I can capture the beauty on my camera and reflect on the gifts I've been given. I often dream about what it would be like to own a cabin on the lake. As I get closer to my retirement years, I still hope my dream comes true. But one thing is for certain; you can bet that I'll be back at Evergreen Lodge on Big Sand Lake year after year, as long as I am able.



*For those of you who summer or live on the lake, I hope you know how fortunate you are. Big Sand Lake is a magical place that we should never take for granted. It's a joy to know that places like this still exist. I applaud the efforts that you are making to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species in the lake. Thank you for working hard to keep it a place we all can enjoy for years to come.*

David Stork and his family are from Dubuque, Iowa. See more of his work at [dstorkphoto.com](http://dstorkphoto.com)

# A BIG THANK YOU

FROM YOUR BIG SAND LAKE CHARITABLE FUND!

Once again, the cabin owners of Big Sand Lake came through in a big way and fully funded the summer 2019 watercraft inspection program!

Watercraft inspection remains the best way to protect a lake from Aquatic Invasive Species infestation. It was wonderful to see 50 families make donations to the Big Sand Lake Charitable Fund, which fundraises every spring to pay for this program!

*A hearty THANK YOU to all of these donors  
for their stewardship of our beautiful Big Sand Lake!*

3-N Investment Company LLC

David and Christine Billion

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Paul and Marilou Birkeland

Susan Birkeland Quinn and Cathy Birkeland Marton

Debra Bowers

Bob and Adrienne Bray

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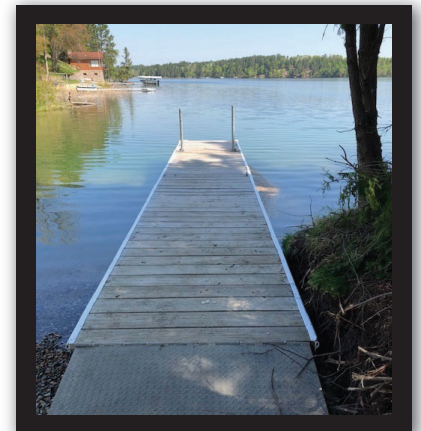
Sibley Dental Suite, PLLC

Pat and Carol Sokol

Laura Spolum

John and Susan Steffen

Jim and Jan Stephenson



Although we conduct this campaign each spring, donations to the Charitable Fund are welcome year-round. Remember, the Fund is maintained for the purpose of “enhancing and protecting Big Sand Lake and its environs.” Fundraising to pay for the watercraft inspection each year allows us to preserve the Fund for other uses, such as paying for treatments or remediation if we ever do face some type of infestation. A donation link to the Northwest Minnesota Foundation BSL Charitable Fund is provided on the Big Sand Lake website.

We will be back in contact with you via email in May 2020 to ask for your support again, once we know what the total watercraft inspection bill will be for next summer. Wishing you a warm and wonderful winter.

Ann Hilger, Chris Hilger and Linda Lee  
Big Sand Lake Charitable Fund Committee



# IN MEMORY

Al Zimmerman

Al Zimmerman, long time Big Sand summer resident on Iowa Beach passed away on Sunday, September 15, 2019. Al, along with Carol, (his wife of 59 years) and sons Todd and Mark, purchased their cabin on Big Sand in 1969.

Al spent countless hours on the lake driving the speedboat while his sons developed their water skiing talents. He loved sailing on the lake and, especially in his later years, watching the beautiful sunsets from their dock. Al was a strong BSLA supporter. He and Carol regularly attended Big Sand annual meetings and social events. Their son, Todd served on the BSLA board of directors.

All who knew and loved Al were deeply saddened to watch Alzheimer's disease slowly take him away in his later years. While the end was sad, his life was rich and full. Professionally he served as a professor of psychology at Concordia College in Moorhead and then worked for many years as a clinical psychologist at Merit Care (now Sanford). However, his time with his family and at the cabin on Big Sand were most treasured. A full obituary can be found at: [boulgerfuneralhome.com/obituaries/allan-zimmerman](http://boulgerfuneralhome.com/obituaries/allan-zimmerman)

## BIG SAND MEMORIES

By Ruth Larsen

As I recall, the road from Park Rapids to Big Sand Lake followed County 1 to the old golf course, before Headwaters Golf course was constructed. The road ran along the East side of Fish Hook lake to County road 18.

At the intersection with County 4 by Ingram Lake, there was a tricky maneuver to get on County 4. We then drove to County 40 and made a right turn onto County 40. About a half mile down the road the land became very wet and swampy, and we turned onto what is now Greenleaf Drive, we drove around the swampy area and drove back onto County 40. The gravel roads were difficult to traverse at times and the asphalt roads sure made travel easier.

## THOSE BIG SAND BUOYS!



Most of us who reside on Big Sand use and enjoy the lake but don't often think about the placement of the buoys and how they get where they are needed every season.

Dan Dyre remembers that not long after they arrived on Big Sand Lake in 1958, he and his dad, Karl, began putting the "markers" into the lake. He admits it was really self-motivated, because many of their guests at Evergreen Lodge were hitting the lake bottom with their outboard motors. In the early days, he can remember driving metal fence posts into the lake bottom in just about the same places where the buoys are currently located today. Some of the first markers were just boards that pointed away from the rocks. Later they used some Styrofoam blocks that were painted up and wired between two posts... more sledgehammer work! Eventually, after checking with the Sheriff's Office, the Lake Association offered to buy the buoys as long as the Dyres were willing to maintain them as well as put them in and take them out annually.

Over the years, Dan and his dad tried various combinations of cement blocks, chain, cable and connecting hardware to keep the buoys in place. However, because of the weight (135 pounds each) they still do come loose sometimes. There is no doubt they provided a large measure of safety for all and have saved lake users a lot of money by keeping their motors off the rocks.

Besides their time and muscle power, Dan shared that they even sometimes had to throw away the clothes they used to hoist the heavy buoys into the boat... thanks to the lovely gifts our seagull "friends" left them. They also had the problem of finding a boat that could handle the load... not an easy task!

Dan, on behalf of the residents of Big Sand Lake, the BSLA board extends a HUGE heartfelt thanks to you and your family for the many years of providing this invaluable service to our lake!



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

# BIG SAND LAKE 2020 CALENDAR

## ANNUAL MEETING / FAMILY PICNIC

Saturday, June 20 at Pine Cone Lodge

If you were unable to attend the June 2019 meeting, you may catch up by reviewing the minutes of the meeting at [www.bigsandlake.org/Members Area/Board Minutes](http://www.bigsandlake.org/MembersArea/BoardMinutes). The annual meeting / family picnic is a wonderful time to socialize with fellow Big Sand Lake residents and to learn of the current activities and plans for the lake association. Mark your calendars.

## 2020 SUMMER SOCIALS

July, Date TBD

Hosted by Deane and Jill Johnson

Saturday, August 8

Hosted by Carolyn Corwin/Dick Brammel  
and Wick & Holly Corwin

September, Date TBD

Annual Golf Outing at Headwaters Club

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

Jo Kilander - [jlkilan@cableone.net](mailto:jlkilan@cableone.net)  
Barb Kimer - [barbkimer@gmail.com](mailto:barbkimer@gmail.com)