



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I'm hoping you are all having an enjoyable spring (if that's what you call it!)? I was fortunate enough to be at our Big Sand cottage on the night of the lunar eclipse. Amazingly, I was able to stay awake to witness the eclipse in person and not have to rely on the television replay. One more unforgettable memory from Big Sand!

As previously sent out in an email blast, our "Ice Out" Contest finally came to a conclusion on May 9th at 9:30am. The prized trophy went back to a familiar location, but with a new winner. Congratulations, Pam Kobriger! Thanks to the dozens of you who entered a guess!

The saga of the "new and improved" boat ramp continues. In talking with Dave Schotzko with the DNR, he indicated that the bituminous plant which provides the servicing materials was late in opening because of the late spring which has caused more delays. The DNR has now given the contractor the dates of June 1-15 as a window for completion. The actual work should only take 2-4 days during that window. Hopefully, you will all have your docks in and boats on lifts before June 1!

Water quality and zebra mussel testing will continue this summer, as well as our AIS inspections at the boat ramp. Be sure to read the Water Quality article elsewhere in this newsletter. Our wish is to keep our Big Sand Lake as beautiful and pristine as we've become accustomed to expecting.

We are hoping to get back to a pre-COVID summer social schedule including bi-monthly Ladies events hosted by lake residents, the very popular 4th of July Boat Parade starting at 11am at the inlet, and the Social and Golf Outing in September. Look for the article in this newsletter for more information. Pink postcards will again be mailed to residents detailing the upcoming events. Timely details will also be posted on the website, www.bigsandlake.org and nextdoor.com/bigsandlake.

Our BSLA Annual Meeting is scheduled for June 25th and will again be graciously hosted by Bonnie Brand and her crew at Pine Cone Resort. We are determined to start the meeting on time this year and avoid the delays of last year as everyone arrived at about the same time just prior to the start of the meeting. Registration will begin at 10:30am and we encourage you to arrive at that time for coffee/lemonade and treats plus socializing with fellow lake residents. The meeting will start promptly at 11:00am with a family picnic to follow at Noon with Mainstreet Meats again doing the onsite grilling.

Regrettably after many years of dedicated service and commitment, Irene Weis is ready to pass the torch as Big Sand's representative to Hubbard County's Coalition of Lakes Association (COLA). Therefore, the Board is looking for a new representative. The responsibility would include monthly meetings on the last Thursday of the month and periodic updates to the BSLA Board at its meetings. Having attended a few meetings, I can attest to the great people in attendance from lakes throughout the county and the quality leadership by Sharon Natzel (our speaker at last years' Annual Meeting). Representation at COLA provides Big Sand Lake Association access to sharing regional concerns and a unified voice in bringing issues to the State of Minnesota. Again, THANK YOU Irene!

See you on the water!

Don



LET'S ALL ENJOY BIG SAND AND DO OUR BEST TO PROTECT OUR SHORELAND

We are a multipurpose lake – swimming, fishing, canoeing, kayaking, pontooning, jet skiing, tubing, water skiing and wake surfing. (Did we miss anything?) Fortunately, there usually is room on the lake for everyone. However, please always be aware and courteous of others. Also, please consider Big Sand's shoreline and the erosion that large waves can do. Tubing, jet skiing and wake surfing should be kept well in the middle of the lake. Please use slow - no wake speed within 150 feet (or more) of the shore. Let's keep Big Sand the beautiful place it is now and for future generations.



BIG SAND LAKE WATER CLARITY

For further information and historical data about BSLA, google 'DNR-MN Lake Finder' and follow the prompts to Big Sand Lake Hubbard County.

Water clarity on Big Sand Lake continues to be exceptional as the Secchi Disc readings ranged between 25' to 36' last year. The Secchi Disc readings are sampled at 5 different sites during the summer and sent to the MPCA for yearly data review.

The readings on Big Sand Lake go back to the mid 80s and have improved dramatically over the 35+ years. The likely reason for this improvement is that the newly formed Big Sand Lake Association arranged for a fly over of Big Sand in 1988. This action resulted in Big Sand Lake becoming the first in Hubbard County to have 100% of its septic systems upgraded and compliant with county standards.

Besides monitoring water clarity, BSLA volunteers conduct other monitoring and testing activities. Water quality (Phosphorus and Chlorophyll) is monitored monthly May-September; testing for the presence of zebra mussel larvae is done twice each summer; and measurement is done for the dissolved oxygen levels (conditions indicating healthy environment for tullibee, a food source for walleye and other large fish). More information and annual water quality reports are available on our website, www.bigsandlake.org.

Thank you to the current BSLA volunteers who get out on the lake and perform these important tasks. Gene Fladeboe and Randy Seaver are doing the sampling for water quality and dissolved oxygen levels, Bob Bray is doing the Zebra Mussel veliger sampling, and Gene and Rich Provinzino are doing the Secchi Disc readings for the MPCA. If you would like to volunteer to assist, please contact Richard Provinzino - richard.provinzino@gmail.com.

ATTENTION BIG SAND LAKE RESIDENTS



GET READY TO PARTY WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS!

As mentioned in the last BSLA Newsletter, some women met last fall to discuss the viability of once again planning and scheduling social events in order to foster lake friendships and a sense of community. We were hopeful at that time that restrictions due to COVID would be easing and that people would again feel safe gathering with their neighbors.

Although each person still has to make their own decisions on what is an acceptable risk, we feel that the time is right to begin to offer more opportunities for residents to interact with each other. Please note the Social Calendar included in this newsletter and record the pertinent dates so you won't miss anything.

The social calendar begins with the BSLA Annual Meeting and Family Picnic on Saturday, June 25 at Pine Cone Resort. We are specifically encouraging the 10:30 – 11:00 arrival time so everyone can sign in and get a nametag before the 11:00 start of the meeting. This is a great time to enjoy a cup of coffee or lemonade and get to know your neighbors on the lake. Plan on staying for the family picnic at noon for the lunch provided by BSLA.

One goal for this summer is to reinstitute opportunities for the ladies to gather as in previous years. To that end, events have been scheduled the 2nd and 4th Mondays from June through September at resident's lake homes. A mix of morning coffees and afternoon Happy Hours are already on the calendar. If you want to be on the email invitation list for these gatherings, please call, text, or email Jo Kilander. (See my contact information below).

The annual 4th of July Boat Parade continues to get bigger and better each year. Decorations and costumes are not required to participate but some are not to be missed! Typically, the parade begins at 11 a.m. with boats gathering on the eastern side of the lake near the inlet from Lake Emma. More details will be available near the 4th.

Potluck socials for all will be held in July and August. If you would be willing to host such an event, please contact me or another board member. Watch for more information on these socials on the pink postcards sent out during the summer.

As a finale to the summer social calendar, the popular Social and Golf Outing will once again be held at the Headwaters Golf Club on Saturday, September 10th. The golf is a non-competitive, fun, 9 hole scramble. All levels of golfers are welcome. You have all summer to work on your golf game (I need more time than that) in preparation for taking home one of the "special prizes" in several different fun categories. Don't play golf, no problem! Just come for the social afterwards in the newly remodeled Headwaters clubhouse.

Again, watch for your pink postcard, nextdoor.com/bigsandlake, blast emails and website postings for all the dates and times.

Jo Kilander, Social Chairman
701-361-9871
jo.kilander@gmail.com
(don't forget the "L" after jo)



WILDFLOWER TREASURES

Terry Klepinski sent the following information about wildflowers that can be found in the woods around Big Sand and perhaps in your own backyard. Terry is a Certified Master Naturalist Volunteer and facilitator of the Wildlife and Environment section of Big Sand Lake's Management Plan.

In addition, look for Columbine in a backyard near you or even your own! The early leaves may look like a weed but don't pull! You will be rewarded with delicate red with yellow flowers delicately hanging upside down from long, slender stems.

If you are interested in learning more about wildflowers and how to look for them, a good resource is Searching for Minnesota's Native Wildflowers – A Guide for Beginners, Botanists, and Everyone in Between by Phyllis Root.

RED COLUMBINE / AQUILEGIA CANADENSIS

Plants reach 1-3 feet tall. Leaves are alternate and compound with rounded leaflets up to 3 inches long and wide. Flowers are made up of 5 yellow petals surrounded by 5 red petal-like sepals which are 1-2 inches long and hang downward.



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, usually violet to white in color but can be multicolor as shown; 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.



BIG SAND LAKE ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Do you love Big Sand? Would you enjoy meeting and working with people who also love Big Sand? Do you have some time you would be willing to share for BSLA activities?

If so, please contact Don Kilander, kilanderdon@gmail.com, to indicate your interest and willingness to volunteer for one or more of the following activities.

BSLA BOARD

Help guide the work of the lake association.

Meetings are held as needed – typically 3-4 times per year and have been held recently via zoom

BOARD SECRETARY

Take and record minutes at board meetings and the Annual Meeting

COLA (COALITION OF LAKE ASSOCIATIONS) REPRESENTATIVE

Attend COLA meetings, and share information with BSLA

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Help with soliciting BSLA board and committee members

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Assist with membership recruiting and communication

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Solicit articles / Some writing and editing

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Plan and assist with BSLA events and activities

HOST A SOCIAL GATHERING

Pot-luck events at your lake home/ supplies provided by BSLA

WATER QUALITY MONITORING

Assist with on-the-lake observations and testing activities

FISHING COMMITTEE

Be informed of DNR activity / sharing information with BSLA

EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE

Help plan educational workshops for BSLA members

Examples: Identification and mapping of lake vegetation; installing rain gardens and buffer zones, etc.

UNDERSTANDING THE BIG SAND LAKE CHARITABLE FUND

In 2009, with a common interest and vision for protecting and preserving beautiful Big Sand Lake, the Big Sand Lake Association (BSLA) established the Big Sand Lake Charitable Fund (BSLCF), with the Northwest Minnesota Foundation. At that time, lake association members and their families and friends made donations to seed the fund.

The stated legal purpose of the fund was to “provide financial support to protect, preserve, restore and enhance the quality of Big Sand Lake and its environs.” The agreement that governs the use of the fund also includes other terms and restriction including that the fund can support an area that includes “Big Sand Lake and the land within 1,000 feet of Big Sand Lake.”

The agreement also states that the BSLCF must be managed by a Fund Advisory Committee of no less than three, and no more than five members, who are responsible for “determining the use of earnings and/or assets of the fund are used in a manner consistent with the stated purpose of the fund.” Current Fund Advisory Committee members are Chris Hilger, Ann Hilger and Linda Lee.

When the BSLA needs money from the BSLCF, they complete a formal grant request with the Northwest Minnesota Foundation, and submit it to the Fund Advisory Committee. It is then the responsibility of the Fund Advisory Committee to recommend approval of the grant to the Northwest Minnesota Foundation. Ultimately, however, the NWMF has final approval discretion. To date, the BSLCF has only been asked to recommend funding of watercraft inspection at the lake public access, but could also be asked to recommend funding for other purposes in keeping with the stated mission.

Each year, the Fund Advisory Committee runs a spring campaign to raise money to cover the cost of DNR watercraft inspection, so as not to deplete the BSLCF. Ideally, the BSLCF will grow in order to stand ready to deal with any potential future need, such as a remediation treatment in the case of an AIS infestation.

In recent years, donations to the BSLCF for the spring campaign have been sufficient to pay the watercraft inspection bill, and sometimes even slightly exceeded it. The BSLCF is slowly growing, and the current total balance is \$166,530.07. Donations to the fund are welcome and encouraged throughout the year!

When the Big Sand Lake Association solicits annual dues and donations each January, those funds do not go to the BSLCF. Only donations made directly to BSLCF of the Northwest Minnesota Foundation are a part of the BSLCF. Donations to BSLCF are tax-deductible.

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



IN MEMORY

*Memories made of friends
forever in our hearts*

BSLA is aware of the following long-time residents of Big Sand who have passed away in the last few years and have not yet been acknowledged and remembered in the newsletter. Please contact adm@bigsandlake.org with anyone that we have missed. Families are invited to submit brief obituaries or stories of loved one's connection with Big Sand for publication in future newsletters.

Evelyn Kvamme

Diane Brainard

Ken Wilcox

Frank Moody

Janet Quinn

Phyllis Anderson

Lowell Anderson



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

Forwarding Service Requested

BIG SAND LAKE 2022 CALENDAR

ANNUAL MEETING / FAMILY PICNIC SATURDAY, JUNE 25, PINE CONE LODGE

10:30AM REGISTRATION
(Coffee/Treats/Socializing)
11:00AM ANNUAL MEETING
NOON FAMILY PICNIC BBQ

This annual event 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!

2022 SUMMER SOCIALS

JULY, DATE TBD
AUGUST, DATE TBD

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING & SOCIAL

HEADWATERS GOLF CLUB
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH

2022 LADIES GROUP GATHERINGS

2ND & 4TH MONDAYS • 9AM OR 4PM

JUNE 13	HAPPY HOUR AT PAM STONE'S
JUNE 27	COFFEE AT JO KILANDER'S
JULY 11	HAPPY HOUR AT TARA SCHELL'S
JULY 25	HAPPY HOUR AT CAROLYN CORWIN'S
AUGUST 8	OPEN DATE
AUGUST 22	COFFEE AT LINDA LEE'S
SEPTEMBER 12	HAPPY HOUR AT BARB KIMMER'S

If you have an idea for an activity or are interested in hosting an event, please contact: Jo Kilander - joilkilander@gmail.com