



## PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Hi Big Sanders,

We find ourselves closing out the 2023 beautiful summer of sun and heat. Unfortunately, it brought on some drought that saw our lake levels drop almost two feet. Getting the docks and lifts out of the water this fall was a challenge for owners and those who professionally remove them. Let's hope for a snow filled winter to bring our lake back to normal levels.

The lake quality continues to be outstanding and as far as we know, we are still free of invasive species. The board hired Steve Henry, a Minnesota DNR Certified Aquatic Plant Surveyor, to do an invasive species check and aquatic plant point intercept of our lake. It's

important for us to be a step ahead of any problems that may arise. Results of the survey were reassuring that our beautiful Big Sand continues to be healthy and AIS free. See the article elsewhere in this newsletter for more information.

We continue to endorse and contribute to the AIS Watercraft Inspection Program. After the first of the year, we will be sending two statements for membership in the 2024 Big Sand Lake Association. One for your membership dues of \$50 and the other for a contribution to the Big Sand Lake Charitable Fund held by the Northwest Minnesota Foundation. These will need to be two separate payments either through PayPal or by personal check.

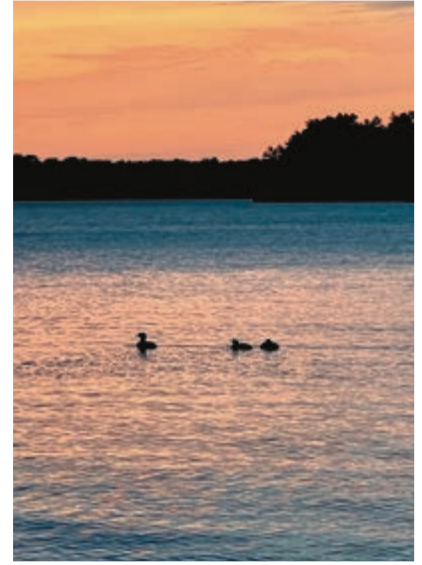
The board would like to ensure that all Big Sand residents are members of the Big Sand Lake Association. In 2024, *new* residents will be given free memberships. Secondly the lake will be conducting an intensive membership drive. If you are interested in volunteering to help, please contact Jo Kilander ([jokilander@gmail.com](mailto:jokilander@gmail.com) or 701-361-9871). With everyone helping, we should be able to increase our member participation.

The BSLA Nominating committee is working on filling board and officer positions. If any of you would like to more involved in BSLA, please contact me, Chuck Fenton, at [chuckfenton@outlook.com](mailto:chuckfenton@outlook.com) or 612-325-7661). Our annual meeting date has been set for June 22, 2024. We'll continue to send out those great reminder post cards as well as blast emails that will inform everyone of all upcoming events. We welcome anyone who would like to host a social event at your lake home.

It is my honor to serve you as your President of the Big Sand Lake Association, and I look forward to meeting all of you.

Pontoons on the Lake,

Chuck Fenton



# BIG SAND LAKE

## AIS WATERCRAFT INSPECTIONS SUMMARY



### WATER QUALITY REPORTS

Thank you to BSLA volunteers Richard Provinzino, Gene Fladeboe, Randy Seaver, and Bob Bray for testing and monitoring Big Sand's water quality. Gene Fladeboe collected monthly water samples and delivered them for analysis by RMB laboratories. Both Gene and Richard conducted and tracked frequent sechi disc readings. Sechi disk readings of 11-15 feet early in the summer were concerning. Fortunately the readings were much better as the season went on, with readings of the usual average of 24 and 25 feet. We can, and must, do our part to help Big Sand pristine by keeping fertilizer, grass clippings and leaves out of the water and by maintaining trees and vegetation on our properties to contain run-off. Bob Bray conducted the zebra mussel villager netting in August. Results of that analysis will be available later in the fall. Gene Fladeboe who officially tracks the water level of the lake for the DNR, reports that the lake came up one inch during fall rains. For more information on water quality for Big Sand, please visit our website, [bigsandlake.org](http://bigsandlake.org).

Aaron Anderson, Hubbard County Environmental Specialist and Watercraft Inspections Coordinator, provided the following results for Big Sand's inspections as of October 8th, 2023 and comparison with the 2022 results. Inspections were continuing on weekends during October.

#### BIG SAND STATISTICS 2022 VS. 2023

	2022	2023
Inspections	1510	1516
Entering %	55.70%	61.87%
Exiting %	44.30%	38.13%
Drain plug in %	0.24%	0.64%
PAWM %	1.43%	1.49%
Entering from infested waters	19.50%	16.10%
Entering from Zebra Mussel	10.23%	8.32%
Entering from Starry Stonewort	2.02%	3.73%
Entering from Out of State	13.08%	14.18%
Hours Scheduled	1100	1104
Hours Worked	1116	1064*
Inspections per Hour	1.35	1.42

PAWM = Plants Animals Water or Mud

\*Numbers as of 10/8/2023, inspections are still occurring.

### GREAT NEWS! SURVEY DETECTS NO AIS!

The BSLA Board voted at their September 9th Board meeting to explore having a Professional AIS Detection survey performed on Big Sand Lake. Information regarding a professional survey was presented at the September 30 Board Meeting. The Board voted to contract with Aquatic Survey Professionals, owned by Steve Henry. It was agreed the survey would accomplish both Aquatic Invasive Species Detection and Vegetative Plant Identification. This will allow an update of the Vegetative Mapping Documentation done on Big Sand Lake in 2009. Mr. Henry will provide data to the DNR for updating our 2009 Vegetative Mapping Survey. The Board is pleased to accomplish both of these projects through one professional survey.

Aquatic Survey Professionals surveyed our lake October 2nd, 7th, and 8th.  
Great News - NO Aquatic Invasive Species were detected!!

The survey cost came in at \$4590.34, lower than the proposed cost of \$4700.34. The Survey costs are being covered by the Big Sand Lake Charitable Fund.

Detailed results of the survey can be viewed on our website, [www.bigsandlake.org](http://www.bigsandlake.org) under the 'Water Quality / Vegetative Mapping' tab.





# BIG SAND LAKE CHARITABLE FUND UPDATE

## BIG SAND LAKE

Celebrate the Past



## CHARITABLE FUND

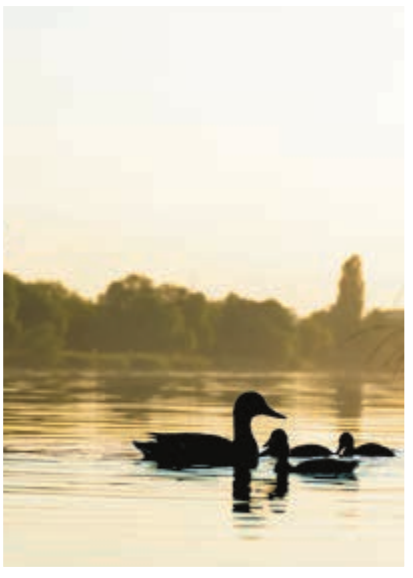
Prepare for the Future

Thank You for Doing Your Part!

The Charitable Fund Committee would like to take one more opportunity to thank Big Sand Lakers for their donations to the Fund over the past year. Last spring, our fundraising campaign consisted of Mailchimp direct marketing email messages, Facebook and Nextdoor Big Sand Lake website posts, and an announcement on the bigsandlake.org website.

Thank you for responding to our call to contribute to the Fund in order to “to provide financial support to protect, preserve, restore and enhance the quality of Big Sand Lake and its environs,” which is the purpose of the Fund. The Fund is available to support special projects that meet this stated mission, and paying for DNR watercraft inspection at the public access has been a critical use of Fund resources. The current total value of the Fund is \$183,117.44. Our goal is to grow the Charitable Fund, so that there is a pool of money ready and waiting to deal with any potential need or emergency that would affect Big Sand Lake.

*We understand that sometimes there is confusion regarding the payment of member dues, which support the activities of the Big Sand Lake Association, and contributions to the Charitable Fund, which is our investment account managed by the Northwest Minnesota Foundation. We will be working to clarify and simplify the difference between the two entities in the future!*



Contributions to the Fund are welcome year-round and can be made by clicking the “Charitable Fund” link on the right side of the bigsandlake.org web page.

With gratitude for your generosity and your love of Big Sand Lake,

Ann Hilger  
Chris Hilger,  
Linda Lee

Big Sand Lake Charitable Fund  
Advisory Committee

## DONORS TO THE CHARITABLE FUND

(July 1, 2022 to September 20, 2023)

- Chris Billing
- Kathryn H. Kimpton
- Cathy Birkeland
- Pamela Kobriger
- Paul T. Birkeland
- Paul J. Lee
- Debra Bowers
- Jacquelyn Lewis
- Robert S. Bray
- Jeffrey Lewis
- Robert Bergeron
- Peter Marrinan
- David Bergman
- Charles A. Mausbach
- Gregory Bruggen
- Thomas M. Mayerle
- Tim S. Conely
- Butch McConn
- Nicole Conover
- Patrick McGrath
- Carolyn G. Corwin
- Rolf Nelson
- Hollis Corwin
- Allison M. Neuschwander
- Michael G. Cziok
- James S. Nippert
- Donald & Mary Sue Zelle Reed Fund
- David Paster
- Larry Durand
- Brian F. Peterson
- William Eichten
- James Pierson
- Charles Fenton
- Pinewoods LLC
- Gary Gartner
- Richard J. Provinzino
- Richard Gilbery
- Steven Schell
- Barbara Goldner
- Scott Schmidt
- Deborah Goltz
- Mary Schrock
- William Hanley
- John & Nancy Scott
- Kristin Haugan
- Tom Scott
- Chris & Ann Hilger
- Randall Seaver
- David & Joan Hilger
- Jeffrey Shandorf
- Peter & Linda Hilger
- John Steffen
- Tim Hilger & Kathy Ebert
- James P. Stephenson
- Tricia Hilger
- Shari Sutor
- Hilger Compound LLC
- Thomas N. Tharaldson
- Don Hoodecheck
- Catharine Williamson
- Peter & Debbie Hilger
- Stan Williamson
- Graham Johnson
- Randau Wimmer
- Jo Kilander
- Justin Young
- Thomas Kimer
- Ronald Ytzen

# BIG SAND LAKE GATHERINGS

The social calendar for Big Sand residents this past summer and fall was filled with fun and diverse activities designed to please everyone's tastes. The BSLA Annual Meeting and family picnic started the fun at Pine Cone Resort. For the first time in recent memory the 4th of July parade was cancelled due to rainy weather. However, several hearty folks decorated their boats and carried on to the delight of likewise hearty spectators. The Ladies of Big Sand enjoyed coffee at Muskie Waters in Nevis, high tea on Liz Quaday's deck, mimosa's and treats at the Nemeth Art Center, and wine at the Wine Not? In addition, Big Sand couples enjoyed appetizers and drinks at the Good Life Café, a pop-up potluck social at Heartland Park, and a golf scramble/taco bar social at the Headwaters Golf Club. A special "Thank You" goes to Liz Quaday, Sherry Preusse, Linda van Bruggen, Debra Tharaldson, Barb Kimer, Chuck Fenton, and Barb Billing for hosting/arranging for these great get-togethers. Your participation and support for these gatherings is awesome and so appreciated!

Linda Van Bruggen will again be organizing events for Big Sand year-round residents during the winter months. Please contact Linda if you want to be added to her distribution list at [freddie54mn@yahoo.com](mailto:freddie54mn@yahoo.com).

Planning for next year's gatherings is already underway. If you have an idea for an event and/or want to host an event, please contact me.

Jo Kilander  
Big Sand Social Chair  
701-361-9871  
[jolkilander@gmail.com](mailto:jolkilander@gmail.com)



## MAKING THE NEWS

This year, Big Sand Lake was featured in three separate articles in the Park Rapids Enterprise – the one mentioning Betty turning 100; one about Evergreen Lodge & Resort with a nod to the Dyre Family, who have operated it for 66 years; and finally, about a bear on the loose approaching a young girl in a hammock over at Pine Cone Lodge & Resort. We had a *beary* busy summer.



## HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY

This Spring Betty Corwin, long-time resident on Big Sand Lake, celebrated a very special birthday, 100 years! The Park Rapids Enterprise had a nice article on Betty and her connection to the area. We all wish her a very Happy Birthday year!



# IN MEMORY

*Memories made of friends  
forever in our hearts*

**EVELYN KVAMME**

**MARGARET “DORSEY”  
PHELPS**

**STEPHEN H. DUER**

*BSLA commemorates residents  
known to us who have passed away  
since our last communication  
or during the last year.  
We apologize for any omissions.  
Family members and friends are  
encouraged to notify us  
and submit an article  
about the individual's life  
and connection with Big Sand Lake  
for publication in the  
Big Sand newsletter.  
Please contact us at:  
admin@bigsandlake.org.*

*If you wish, memorial donations may be  
made to the Big Sand Charitable Fund.  
A link for donating is on our website,  
www.bigsandlake.org.*

Evelyn Kvamme, 100, of Moorhead, MN passed away April of 2022. She loved to share the lake surrounded by family, loved ones, and friends. With her husband Richard, Evelyn traveled the world extensively, but she always said, “My favorite place to take in God’s creation was at the top of Vail Mountain and at the end of the dock on Big Sand Lake.” Evelyn’s daughters, sons-in-law, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren have grown up calling Big Sand home for the summers and the breath-taking views from the top of the ridge looking over the lake.

The history of the Kvamme Fjord cabin has seen many families enjoying the beautiful view throughout the years. It was originally purchased by Charles and Grace Hasley. Charles and his son Charles Jr. were killed in an auto accident west of Park Rapids on Highway 34 August 20, 1951. Grace Hasley and her daughter returned for one more summer before the property was sold to Clarence Tamm in 1954. The Tamm family enjoyed many summers on Big Sand Lake before selling the property to Savacools in 1966. The Savacools retained the property for 4 years before selling it to the Fernandes family in 1970. Richard and Evelyn Kvamme purchased the property in 1972, leaving their cabin on Lake Melissa that they enjoyed for 22 years. After Richard passed away in 2011, Evelyn continued to enjoy her favorite place to be from Spring until Fall. Richard and Evelyn’s daughters, Debra Tharaldson and Yvonne Waters, have been the current owners of Kvamme Fjord since 2012.

Margaret “Dorsey” Phelps, age 82, passed away on October 31, 2022 in Iowa City, Iowa. Although she was not able to visit her cherished “Point House,” in her final years, she continued to make plans for its improvement and care, as she had for the previous 30 years. She knew and appreciated the restorative powers of Big Sand Lake since her parents bought the place from Howard Fletcher, in 1968. Howard and his wife Linda had built a year-round home next door and sold the 1918 “cabin” and its contents to Dorsey’s parents, Gerry and Betty Wetlaufer, the men having been great fishing buddies. Dorsey and her husband, Chuck, began spending a few weeks every summer there with siblings, cousins, and their own children.

Dorsey enjoyed fishing with her dad in the early years, gathering with family, and watching long sunsets. She always had a gourmet meal waiting for the weary traveler and had many art and science projects for her kids and grandkids. She strove to keep the place as true to the original as possible, making curtains and painting household objects that transported its visitors to a simpler time. Dorsey’s son James Phelps (Dana) and her brother John Wetlaufer (Helen Turley) will continue to care for this family property.

**Stephen H. Duer – April 26, 1943 – June 2, 2023**

Steve was born and raised in Kansas City, MO and spent most of his life there working in the excavating business. During the summers as a young boy in the late 1940’s he loved being Up North at his family fishing cabins on Big Sand Lake, and later with his children in the 1980’s and nearly every summer from the mid 90’s until his death. The cabins are situated next to Pine Cone Lodge at 19666 Grouse Rd. The lots were purchased by Steve’s aunt, Kansas City pediatric physician, Mildred Duer, MD in the 1940’s. Aunt Millie died in 2006 and left the property to Steve. It has continued to be enjoyed by family and friends during the summer months with the hope that the legacy will be preserved for future generations to enjoy.

# BIG SAND LAKE WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

We reached out this past spring for volunteers, and in typical Big Sand Lake fashion, people came forward to assist in the preservation of our beloved lake. The following bios introduce 3 of the new members. More bios are planned for future newsletters. Joining Ann, Mark and Mike are new members Steve Kimpton and Linda Lee. Catharine Williamson is returning to the board for another term. Continuing board members are Chuck Fenton, Don Kilander, Jo Kilander, Richard Provinzo and Al Judson. We welcome volunteers. If you have an interest in serving on the board or participating in one of the BSLA committees, please contact our acting President, Chuck Fenton.

## ANN HILGER

Ann has been enjoying the beauty and serenity of Big Sand Lake for almost 40 years, since she first visited the area with her husband Chris, a fourth-generation Big Sand Laker.

A retired food industry sales and marketing executive, Ann has spent recent years dedicating herself to serving as a volunteer and board member for several school, arts, and social service nonprofit organizations. Ann loves to travel, play tennis, ride her bike and drift around the lake in a pontoon boat with family and friends, listening to Dean Martin or Frank Sinatra. She also enjoys bringing her granddaughter, a 6th generation laker, up north to learn about the joys of Big Sand!



## MARK KALVODA

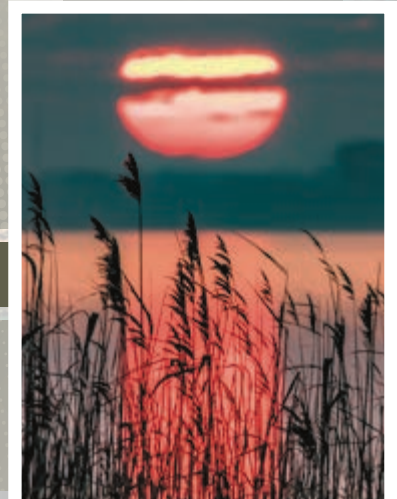
We are recent additions to the Big Sand Lake family having purchased our cabin in 2020. We immediately fell in love with its beauty, wildlife, and peaceful environment. My wife, Melanie (Veteran's Administration) and our four children: Matthew (U.S. Navy), Amber (NDSU), Brooke (NDSU) and Janelle (High School) all appreciate the warm welcome from all who enjoy Big Sand Lake year-round and look forward to meeting more of this family going forward.

I have been involved with many public and private Boards in the past and have served as Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Titan Machinery for 12 years and recently joined Enclave Companies to serve in the same role. I appreciate the opportunity to serve on the BSLA Board and to continue to work to preserve the beauty and peace that the BSL residents and the Association have protected in the past.



## MIKE CZIOK

My wife Deb and I have had property on Big Sand Lake since 1989. Our kids grew up in the water and now our grand kids have fallen in love with the lake. We have an amazing body of water. I view my position on the Big Sand Lake Association Board as a protector of our lake.





# BIG SAND LAKE ASSOCIATION Officers and Directors

## BSLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Chuck Fenton
Vice President	Catherine Willianson
Secretary	Ann Hilger
Treasurer	Al Judson
Past President	Don Kilander
Directors	Linda Lee, Jo Kilander, Steve Kimpton, Mark Kolvoda, Richard Provinzino, Catharine Williamson

## BSLA COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership	Sue Fenton & Barb Kimer
Social Activities	Jo Kilander
COLA Representative	Open
Newsletter	Open
Big Sand Facebook & Instagram Coordinator	Heather Wittman
Website Coordinator	Heather Wittman

## LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN FACILITATORS

Water Quality	Richard Provinzino
Dissolved Oxygen and Water Temperature Study	Gene Fladeboe
Planktonton Net Zebra Mussel Villager Testing	Bob Bray
Fishing Committee	Open

## BIG SAND LAKE CHARITABLE FUND ADVISORY BOARD

Ann Hilger, Linda Lee, Chris Hilger



## BIG SAND LAKE ASSOCIATION SPONSORED RAIN GARDEN

BSLA sponsored a Rain Garden Workshop through the U of M Extension Service August of 2009. Following the workshop BSLA created a Rain Garden near the Lake Emma Access. A sign identifies the garden at the East end of the access.

The garden is very overgrown. We are looking for a team of volunteers to restore the garden. The goal is to begin restoration Spring '24 prior to plant growth taking over once again. The garden was originally established with area native plants. Wick Corwin has agreed to lead the team of volunteers. Please contact Wick at [wick@corwinmediation.com](mailto:wick@corwinmediation.com) if you are interested in being part of the team.



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

Forwarding Service Requested

# BSL 2024 CALENDAR

## ANNUAL MEETING / FAMILY PICNIC SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 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!**

If you have an idea for an activity or are interested in hosting an event, please contact: Jo Kilander - [jolkilander@gmail.com](mailto:jolkilander@gmail.com)



### SOCIAL MEDIA



Check out the Big Sand Lake Association Facebook page and Instagram for Big Sand current events, photos and area happenings. For easy access, click on the Facebook and Instagram icons located on the right hand column on the homepage at [www.bigsandlake.org](http://www.bigsandlake.org).