



PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Happily, 2022 provided us with a fabulous summer on Big Sand! I know there was a lot of concern over the impact that our new (and improved) lake access would have on daily lake traffic. If last summer is any indication, it appears that we don't have to worry.

I'm happy to report that Tom VanBruggen is our new Big Sand representative to the Hubbard County Coalition of Lakes Association (COLA), filling the vacancy left when Irene Weiss stepped down from her long association with the organization. We are hoping to begin offering a link to COLA meeting minutes on our BSLA web site in the future. One of the things that COLA and a number of other groups are keeping an eye on is a University of Minnesota study which is looking at the various types of watercraft and the effect that their usage is having on shallow

water and shoreline erosion on our lakes. **Please be aware of your boat's wake and the affect it's having on those around you!**

Big Sand water quality continues to be amazing and our lake is still free of any invasive species. To this end, it is important that the BSLA continue to endorse the AIS Watercraft Inspection Program. Remember to mail your donation in support of this program to the Big Sand Lake Charitable Fund held by the Northwest MN Foundation. (This must be a separate check from your membership dues). As pointed out to me by some BSLA members, the inspection program is not perfect, but it is based on MN Rules and Regulations and it's the best we can do for now. Plus, it seems to be working! For more information about the Charitable Fund, click on "View Details Here" under the Charitable Fund tab on the home page of our website.

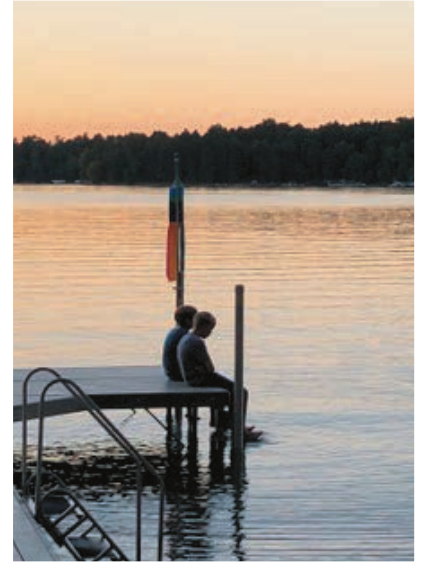
Lake buoys continue to be a topic of conversation. We are working on some ideas that would provide some solutions and more consistency in their location. Stay tuned!

The BSLA Nominating Committee is working on filling open board and officer positions. The BSLA Board of Directors will present a list of nominees to the membership at the Annual Meeting in June. If any of you want to be more involved in the BSLA, please contact me. (Don Kilander at kilanderdon@gmail.com or 701-306-0411).

Have a safe winter and join me in looking forward to our annual "Ice Out" Contest which signals open water and the start of what we are all seeking . . . a new summer season on Big Sand Lake.

See you on the water!

Don



BIG SAND LAKE CHARITABLE FUND UPDATE

BIG SAND LAKE

Celebrate the Past



CHARITABLE FUND

Prepare for the Future

Don't let the beautiful winter landscape fool you! We will be back enjoying the pristine water of Big Sand Lake before you know it!

To date, our lake remains AIS free, thanks to the hard work of the Big Sand Lake Association, who, during the winter, schedules summer hours for DNR watercraft inspection at the public access. They also apply for grants from Lake Emma Township and Hubbard County to help offset the cost of this important effort.

When the BSLA knows what the total cost of watercraft inspection will be, they will ask the Big Sand Lake Charitable Fund to pay the bill. This is where you come in!

The Big Sand Lake Charitable Fund was started by the BSLA in 2009 to be a long-term savings/investment account to prepare for, and to protect, Big Sand Lake's future. An initial fundraising campaign was conducted to collect a sum that was invested at the Northwest Minnesota Foundation in Bemidji, Minnesota. The stated legal purpose for the Fund is "to provide financial support to protect, preserve, restore and enhance the quality of Big Sand Lake and its environs."

This broad mission gives the Charitable Fund the ability to finance a variety of special projects for Big Sand Lake, as deemed necessary by the Big Sand Lake Association. To date, however, the only way the Charitable Fund has been used is to pay for annual DNR summer watercraft inspection.

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 – especially the event of an AIS invasion. As an example, the cost to Lake Koronis in Stearns County is \$170,000 annually to manage the invasion of Starry Stonewort (like Eurasian Milfoil but worse).

As of January 1, 2023, the Charitable Fund is valued at \$164,246.08. One way we keep the fund growing is by conducting an annual campaign to raise money to cover the cost of watercraft inspection, so as not to spend down the Fund. We conduct this campaign each year in the spring, primarily through email messages. Please watch for our May 2023 appeal and donate to the Charitable Fund!

Donations to the Charitable Fund are welcome and encouraged all year! All donors to the Fund are recognized on the BSLA website and in our newsletters, regardless of whether their donations were specifically directed towards watercraft inspection or not. The Charitable Fund donation link is on the BSLA website.

Currently, Ann Hilger, Chris Hilger and Linda Lee make up the Charitable Fund Committee. In addition to fundraising, we work with the Northwest Minnesota Foundation to monitor the Fund. We welcome any questions about how the process works, so feel free to contact us!

Ann Hilger
Hilger728@yahoo.com

Chris Hilger
chris.hilger@yahoo.com

Linda Lee
PJLee@aol.com



BIG SAND LAKE

AIS WATERCRAFT INSPECTIONS SUMMARY



2022

Note: Total state funded hours that have been allocated for Big Sand for 2023 will be 360, a reduction of 70 hrs from 2022. BSLA will be paying for more supplemental hours to maintain our 1100 hours of coverage. Watch for, and please respond to, forthcoming requests from the Big Sand Charitable Lake Fund for AIS donations.

The AIS Watercraft Inspections program is under the auspices of the Hubbard County Environmental Office and the DNR. The Hubbard County AIS Specialist, currently Aaron Anderson, recruits and manages the inspectors and the overall watercraft inspections program. The DNR trains and certifies the inspectors and is available to assist with problem inspections and consultation. Participating lakes are granted a certain number of state-funded inspection hours based on usage and other factors. Lake associations may request supplemental hours to be paid for by the individual lake associations. BSLA requested 1,100 hours of inspections for the 2022 season, of which 150 hours were allocated to the Lake Emma access. Due to the closure of the Big Sand access during construction in 2021, 128 hours were carried over from 2021.

Aaron Anderson submitted the following 2022 summary for Big Sand:

- Big Sand Lake Association: paid \$8,580.00 for 390 supplemental hours (128 hrs. were carried over from 2021 reducing the 2022 payment)
- BSLA received a \$3,300.00 grant from Lake Emma Township for 150 hrs.
- State-funded hours: 432 hrs.
- Total 2022 hours: 1100

2022 Inspection Results summary:

- A total of 1,532 inspections were completed
- Number of inspections per hour = 1.36
- Number of inspections upon entering Big Sand = 849
- Number of inspections upon exiting Big Sand = 683
- Number of watercraft entering from infested waters = 166
 - o 87 from Zebra Mussel infested waters
 - o 18 from Starry Stoneworts
- Number of watercraft entering from out-of-state = 111

BEAT THE WINTERTIME BLUES WITH BIG SAND SOCIAL EVENTS



Linda VanBruggen has volunteered to organize some winter events for anyone who might be at the lake this season. The nearly weekly 'Ladies Events' at WineNot, initiated in November, is continuing – typically starting at 4 p.m. on Wednesdays, sometimes followed with dinner somewhere with the men of Big Sand. Perhaps the men will start gathering at a separate area at WineNot or Revel Brewery on a weekly basis also? Some other ideas percolating are: snowshoeing in "Hollywoods-near Corwins", cross-country skiing at Soaring Eagle, or other ideas. Let Linda know if you have a suggestion for an activity.

Linda will send an email with details for events. Please contact her, freddie54mn@yahoo.com, to be on the list to receive notices. All Big Sand residents who live on the lake year-round or who only come to the cabin for sporadic winter visits are encouraged to participate.

BSLA MEMBERSHIP IT'S TIME TO RENEW FOR 2023!

The Big Sand Lake Association membership for 2022 yielded a total of 171 members – 160 residents, 9 Friends, and 2 honorary. Our goal for 2023 is to better that number. A meaningful thank you goes out to all members for your on-going support. A sincere welcome to those who were first-time members to BSLA this past year.

As we begin 2023 it's important to know that our calendar year runs January to January to better accommodate our budgetary process involving organizational expenses. It's helpful to get our membership commitments prior to the beginning of the summer season. Please follow the simple prompts below. Just a reminder -- a loon appears next to the names of current 2023 members in the password protected 'Resident Directory' (See Information below).

#1 -- PLEASE RENEW/JOIN NOW FOR 2023 – IT'S EASY! A membership form/return envelope is enclosed for your convenience. Or click on www.bigsandlake.org, then choose the appropriate tab under 'Membership' to submit your dues with a credit card or PayPal. A downloadable mail-in form is also available on all Membership tabs.

#2 -- PLEASE REVIEW/UPDATE YOUR BSLA PASSWORD and CONTACT INFORMATION. The password protected 'Resident Directory' and other BSLA information is found in the 'Members Area' on www.bigsandlake.org and is available only to members who have paid dues within the last two years. Passwords are automatically assigned but may be personalized. To view and update passwords and contact information, click on www.bigsandlake.org, then choose 'Update My Information' under the 'Membership' tab.

To maintain and preserve the pristine waters and peaceful beauty that is Big Sand Lake we need the commitment of all. Thank you in advance for your 2023 membership.

See you on the lake!

Sue Fenton / Barb Kimer
BSLA Membership Co-chairs

FALL SOCIAL AND 6TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

SEPTEMBER 10, 2022

Approximately 50 Big Sanders attended the Fall Social held on the new patio at Headwaters Golf Club on September 10th. Everyone enjoyed the wonderful taco bar prepared by the Headwaters staff. Prior to the taco bar, 24 golfers of all abilities participated in the 7th Big Sand Golf Outing. The event is a non-competitive annual, 9-hole golf scramble. However, the 5-some of Stan Williamson, Rob & Mary Beth Anderson, Deb and Mike Cziok posted the best score. Mark your calendars for next year's event tentatively scheduled for September 9th, 2023.

Pictured is the winning team of the 2022 BSLA Golf Outing: Stan Williamson, Rob Anderson, Mary Beth Anderson, Deb Cziok, Mike Cziok



IN MEMORY

*Memories made of friends
forever in our hearts*

TASSIE (MARY KATHERINE BARNETT) DAVIDSON

PATTI IGEL

DR. TIMOTHY "TIM" SCHMITT

*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.*

Tassie (Mary Katherine Barnett) Davidson, passed away at age 75 on October 7, 2022. Tassie was a talented artist, loving mother, and devoted wife. Tassie did not know a stranger and was a friend to all. Energetic, effervescent, the life of the party and a bright light in our lives, Tassie will be forever missed. Her legacy will live on in all the lives she impacted.

She and husband Raymond Davidson raised their two children in Sherman, TX, but found their way to Big Sand as often as possible. In later years, she and Ray were here every summer as Tassie took over managing the family cabin.

Big Sand has been a part of Tassie's life since birth. Her grandfather, William Lysaght of Cherokee, Iowa, came to Pine Cone for fishing and hunting in the early 1900's. When property became available on the south side of the bay near the Big Sand outlet (Iowa Beach, now Gladwin Drive) he purchased a lot in 1916 and started building the family cabin. Lysaght's daughter, Grace Lysaght Barnett, inherited the cabin which remains in the family and mostly unchanged today. (To see present and past photos, click on the Spring 2018 Newsletter, "How Iowa Beach Got Its Name" on www.bigsandlake.org.)

Patti Igel, age 82, passed away on November 23, 2022. Patti is survived by her husband of 58 years, Tom Igel and their 4 children and 9 grandchildren.

Patti's association with and love for Big Sand began when she started coming to the lake with Tom who basically grew up spending time on Big Sand with his aunt and uncle Lenore and Bill Kenney. The Igel's purchased the cabin on Hubbard Drive when the Kenney's sold in 1979. Patti and their 4 children spent summers at the cabin while Tom commuted to be with them on the weekends. The Igel children worked summers through high school and college in the Big Sand area- mostly at cousin Norb Kenney's Dorset House. Above all Patti cherished time with her family at the cabin, big family dinners, and watching her grandchildren grow. Everything Patti did was for others. She was best known for her kindness, compassion, and her warm smile.

Dr. Timothy "Tim" Schmitt, passed away on August 15, 2022 at the age of 77. Tim was a family physician for 45 years practicing in Wadena for most of that time and delivered 3,900 babies! In addition, he served 40 years as Wadena County Coroner and 12 years on the Wadena Deer Creek School Board.

His interest in Big Sand, like so many, came after his wife and 2 kids stayed at Evergreen Lodge for a week. He was hooked and asked Carl Dyre to let him know if any property went on the market. The family purchased a lot on County 40 in 1975 and started building the family cabin the following summer. We loved it at Big Sand, but primarily only spent weekends (if that) for 30 years while our 5 kids were involved in sports and activities in Wadena. There was never a phone or TV during that time to ensure that we truly enjoyed the lake and the peace and quiet and beauty of our pine cabin in the woods. Tim loved taking his 13 grandkids on pontoon rides and challenging them to cribbage on the deck, ping pong matches and doubles tennis on our tennis court. He enjoyed biking around the lake, reading, and talking to anyone who would listen to "stock talk". When he finally retired after 4 attempts, he took up working on the cabin property, planting trees, keeping it in the best shape it ever was. Gingie, Tim's wife of 50 years, will continue living at the cabin during the warm months.

BIG SAND LAKE NEEDS YOU

As mentioned in the President's Letter elsewhere in this issue, the BSLA Nominating Committee is working on filling open board and officer positions. In addition, volunteers are needed for committees that plan and organize the many activities that keep Big Sand the healthy, enjoyable place it is for all to enjoy.

This does not happen automatically. So -- if you love Big Sand and want to be more involved, -- please contact Don Kilander at kilanderdon@gmail.com or 701-306-0411. Someone from the nominating committee will contact you about finding an area of activity from the list below (or make your own suggestion) that interests you.

Open BSLA Board/Officer Positions (by-laws allows up to 16 members)

Help guide the work of the lake association. "Training"/Procedure manuals available. Terms are for an expected 3 years and can be renewed. President's term is two years plus one year as past president. Board members are elected/approved by the membership at the Annual Meeting. Meetings are held as needed -- typically 3-4 times per year and have been held recently via zoom.

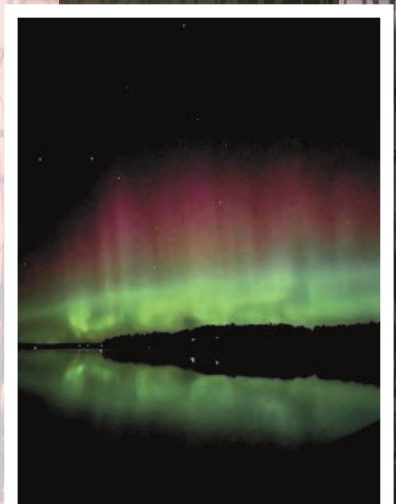
- **Special Need -- Board Secretary**
 - Take and record minutes at board meetings and the Annual Meeting

Standing Committees -- unlimited volunteers welcome

- **NOMINATING** — Help with soliciting BSLA board and committee members
- **MEMBERSHIP** — Assist with membership recruiting and communication
- **NEWSLETTER** — Solicit articles from BSLA members / Some writing and editing -- layout and design done by outside resource.
- **SOCIAL COMMITTEE** — Plan and assist with BSLA events and activities
 - Host a social gathering/event 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, buffer zones, septic systems safe for the lake, legacy cabins and plans for, etc.

OTHER POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES:

- **Big Sand Logo Products for Sale** — make arrangements to have items w/Big Sand logo such as coffee cups, notecards, t-shirts, etc.
- **Buoy committee** — research best coverage / oversee installation / maintenance
- **Website** — work with website coordinator to keep site updated



A HUGE THANK YOU FROM YOUR BIG SAND LAKE SOCIAL COMMITTEE

As we were optimistically planning social get-togethers over a year ago, we weren't sure if Big Sand Lake residents were ready to gather in large groups with their neighbors and/or if COVID would present a new variant causing people to pull back once again. Well, it appears that you were very ready to party with your neighbors based on the wonderful participation in both the Ladies' Coffee Hours/Happy Hours and the couples socials hosted by lake residents! Although it appears that COVID will continue to pose a threat for the foreseeable future, we ask that each resident assess their own personal risk and make decisions accordingly.

The Ladies of Big Sand met most 2nd and 4th Mondays throughout the past summer and early fall – hosted at resident's cabins, at the Nemeth Art Center, and the "Wine Not?" Wine Bar in downtown Park Rapids. A big "Thank You" to those who hosted – Pam Stone, Jo Kilander, Tara Schell, Carolyn Corwin, Linda Lee, Linda Van Bruggen, and Barb Kimer – and those who attended these events. Based on the fantastic turnouts and positive feedback, a similar schedule of events is being planned for 2023.

In addition to the ladies' gatherings, Big Sand couples enjoyed a potluck gathering at the Quaday cabin in August and a Taco Bar Social/Golf Scramble social at the Headwaters Golf Club in September coordinated by Chuck Fenton. Again, both events were well attended and offered the opportunity to make new friends and reconnect with old ones.

Especially needed for next summer are hosts for both the ladies bi-monthly events and evening couple/family get togethers (or other activities you might suggest -e.g. 4th of July parade watching and/or picnic / pontoon rafting party / your idea here!) The events are typically pot-luck and BSLA provides beverages plus help with planning, set up and clean up.

If you haven't participated in either the ladies' events or the couples gatherings in the past and want to participate or host please call, text, or email Jo Kilander to indicate your interest and you will receive regular emails with all the details. (See my contact information below).

Mark your calendars now for the BSLA Annual Meeting and family picnic next summer on Saturday, June 24th. More details to follow. Spring is right around the corner!

Jo Kilander, Social Chairman

701-361-9871

jokilander@gmail.com (don't forget the "L" after jo)



Thank You

BIG SAND LAKE ASSOCIATION

Committed to



Big Sand Lake

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BSL 2023 CALENDAR

ANNUAL MEETING / FAMILY PICNIC SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 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!

2023 SUMMER SOCIALS

BI-MONTHLY LADIES EVENTS
DATES TO BE DETERMINED

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING & SOCIAL

HEADWATERS GOLF CLUB
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH

Big Sand's "ICE IN"



~ 2022 ~

Big Sand's official, unofficial ice judge declared December 4th, as this year's "ice in" date. Watch for details on the website and on Nextdoor for the start of the "ice out" contest sometime in March.

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