

Big Sand Lake History Project Overview*

*Modeled after and adapted from Bay Lake, MN History Project

What are our objectives?

- To document historic information including current events and development for Big Sand Lake for the use of Big Sand Lake residents
- To strengthen our community by building personal relationships and developing a basic understanding of the history and development of Big Sand Lake.
- To expand on the story of Big Sand Lake as told in Big Sand Memories; a Story of Big Sand by Charles H. Corwin
- To prepare some type of publication to capture the historical development of Big Sand Lake

What steps will the Big Sand History committee follow to achieve our objectives?

- Gather general historical information.
- Recruit Shoreline History Coordinators.
- Recruit Special Interest Coordinators who will document lake-wide subjects such as boats, resorts and any other areas of interest.
- Research previous documented historical information.

What will be the role of the Shoreline History Coordinators?

- Coordinate a Shoreline History Initiative on their shoreline with each property/family.

What should be included in the individual property/family submission?

- A format that has worked well includes three sections:
 - 1) Historical Background
 - 2) Our Story
 - 3) Our Memories

Following are suggestions of what to include in each section:

Section 1: Historical Background

1. List the names of the original homesteader(s) and/or early residents. List the names and dates involved when ownership transferred. If possible, get the information from the abstract. If the abstract is not available, the Hubbard County Register of Deeds may help (fee based).
2. Here is an example of how abstract information can be listed: 1927 John Doe to XYZ Development 1945 XYZ Development to P.L. Hunt 1950 P.L. Hunt to C. Anderson 1960 C. Anderson to...

3. Include information pertaining to the property/structure:
4. If the property was undeveloped, when did you build.
5. Whether there were subsequent additions (when and who did the work).
6. Whether you bought or sold additional Big Sand Lake property (and when).

Section 2: Our Story

1. This is the “factual” part of each submission. It can be long and detailed or short and sweet. Often people use this section to document family information that they want their children and grandchildren to know. Best advice: go overboard! Those who come later will appreciate it.
2. Information / ideas for what might be included:
3. Who (in the family) originally purchased the property and when.
4. What was their story (where they came from, were educated, married, etc.)
5. Why they decided to buy lake property.
6. Why they purchased property on Big Sand Lake.
7. If the property has been handed down, who subsequently owned it and when.
8. If other family members owned Big Sand Lake property (either before or while you lived here) list their names and stories.
9. If a family member married another Big Sand Lake resident, mention the name and location.

Section 3: Our Memories

1. This is the “fun” part of each submission. Stories to include could be:
2. Visits to friend’s cabins on Big Sand Lake before you became owners.
3. Initial “adventures” (roughing it, etc).
4. Particularly fun visitors /Favorite family gatherings / Special events
5. Swimming/skiing/fishing/hiking/snowmobiling
6. Boats and other water toys – when were the first power boats on the lake, jet skis, kayaks etc.
7. Getting Poison Ivy, etc.
8. Winter time visits.
9. Friendships and relationships developed with other Big Sanders.
10. Memories related to the environment (lake, forest, animals, birds, etc.)
11. Consider including pictures.