



A Note From the President

Happy Spring! It has been a long drawn out winter, however there are lots of activities going on. We are using the Big Sand website to keep members posted. Please check out the website regularly.

Trainings for boat inspections are taking place early in May. The Lake George training is scheduled for 5/3/14 at 9:00 a.m., and Walker training is scheduled for 5/7/14 at 6:00 p.m. If you would like to participate in future training sessions please contact Mike Bolinski at 218-739-7576 ext. 259 or by email at Michael.Bolinski@state.mn.us. We will make every effort to post the schedule for boat inspection training sessions on our website, (www.bigsandlake.org).

We have again received a grant to help pay for the AIS inspections at the public access and the plan is to increase the hours through additional fund raising. We will continue to do water monitoring and veliger testing. We have also applied to Soil and Water to purchase a car counter to determine heavy traffic times at the public access.

The BSLA again supported the Freshwater Festival. The Freshwater Festival for 6th grade students in local school districts will take place early in May and the focus of the day is training on preservation of Minnesota lakes and rivers.

You are all invited to attend the BSLA annual meeting and picnic on Saturday, June 28, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. at Evergreen Lodge. The agenda will be posted on the Big Sand website prior to the meeting.

Update on the public access: the DNR did elect to purchase the Boggs property on Big Sand Lake and closed on the property on January 9th with Polly Boggs. All utilities have been disconnected; the house has been winterized and all structures remain locked. The property will be maintained until the structures can be removed, at

which time any excavated areas will be filled in to level the ground and prepare it for future development possibly in 2016. Parks & Trails staff will monitor the property periodically to insure it has been maintained properly and no damage has occurred. Future meetings will be held with the Big Sand Lake Association to discuss development plans. (Tony Walzer-DNR).

Hubbard County residents have been paying attention to the application by Enbridge to construct its proposed Sandpiper Pipeline. Information has been posted on the BSLA website or on the COLA website (www.hubbardcolumn.org).

Again, we hope to see everyone at the annual meeting on June 28th at Evergreen Lodge.

Candy Malm
Big Sand Lake Association President
Candy.malm@gmail.com

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Invasive Species:

Al Judson
joal1969@gmail.com

GRANT AWARDED TO BIG SAND LAKE ASSOCIATION

Lake Emma Township Healthy Lakes Partnership Grant has awarded BSLA \$4,500 as a matching grant with the association to pay for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) inspectors at the public access. Last year 630 hours of AIS inspections at the access were paid for by the grant from Lake Emma Township and designated BSLA AIS donations. The BSLA Board continues to be committed to battle AIS. Zebra Mussels have received a lot of the “ink” but there are other forms of AIS that are also very destructive to the quality of the lake.

Statewide last year 1,247 watercraft were found to have vegetation attached before launching and 134 incoming watercraft were found with zebra mussels attached (11 were stopped before launching into a non-infested lake). Progress is being made. For example, last year fewer boats were found to have plugs in while being transported. Other transportation violations are down as well.

In addition to the AIS inspectors the BSLA Board has decided to:

- Continue testing for veligers (infant Zebra Mussels)
- Continue to do water testing
- Continue to work cooperatively with Hubbard County and other area lake associations in efforts to combat AIS
- Purchase a vehicle counter to be used at the access to gather data regarding the amount of entries/exits and the times, so that inspector hours can be adjusted to inspect at peak times. This will not involve collection of individual or personal information.

More information regarding the Department of Natural Resources fight with AIS can be found at http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/natural_resources/invasives/2013-ais-annual-report.pdf . On a hopeful note, the DNR is working closely with the newly formed Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center at the University of Minnesota providing input and feedback on research needs aimed at managing the AIS challenge. Also, Hubbard County SWCD will have a decontamination unit available for boats suspected of transporting forms of AIS.

BSLA members who wish to donate to the AIS inspectors should write, “AIS inspectors” on the check and indicate the amount you are donating for AIS in the space in front of “Additional Contribution” on the BSLA 2014 Membership Form enclosed with this newsletter. Send your AIS donation along with your check for 2014 Membership Dues, and the form to: Big Sand Lake Association, PO Box 181, Park Rapids, MN 56470. Those wishing to donate using the PayPal system also have a place to check for AIS designation, membership, and/or donation.

Thank you!

BIG SAND LAKE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP 2014

A huge thank you to everyone that has already renewed their memberships for 2014! We are excited that you are visiting our website and taking advantage of conveniently renewing on-line!

We need everyone to be involved so if you have not yet renewed, now is the time to renew or become a new member of BSLA for 2014! Please encourage anyone who has not yet joined to do so now! It is okay to have multiple memberships per cabin and family, so please encourage younger generations to join! We are a stronger community with more members!

A membership form is included in this mailing. Please join again this year by returning your form and payment or by visiting <http://www.bigsandlake.org> and joining securely via the web. Please note: when renewing on-line you must return to the BSLA website, as directed, to finalize your transaction. See sample screens on this page for reference.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions! Thank you for helping us to preserve Big Sand Lake for generations to come with your membership! Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Annual Meeting!

Cindy Rehkamp
Membership Coordinator
rehkamp4879@msn.com

Big Sand Lake Area Association

Thanks for your order **PayPal**


Your payment of \$1.00 USD is complete.

You're now going back to **Big Sand Lake Area Association**.

If you are not redirected within 10 seconds, [click here](#). **Wait for an automatic return to BSLA or click here.**

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Big Sand Lake Association

Committed to the Preservation of Big Sand Lake

Hubbard County, Park Rapids, MN

search website

<ul style="list-style-type: none">HomeBSLA InformationMembershipCharitable Lake FundWebcamEvent CalendarNewslettersVirtual GuestbookPhoto GalleriesHistory ProjectLinks & ResourcesMember's AreaLake News ArchivesContact Us	<h3>Order Authorized</h3> <p>Thank you for your order!</p> <p>Your order has been authorized and your payment is being processed.</p> <hr/> <p>Invoice Number: 1195 Total Invoice Amount: \$1.00</p> <p>We are sending you a confirmation email with the details of your order to the email address you provided. Please check your "Junk Mail" if this email does not arrive to your "inbox".</p> <p>If you have questions about your membership or donation, please contact us.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"><p>You should see this screen when you are returned to the BSLA website.</p></div>	<h3>Charitable Lake Fund</h3> <p>Learn More About the Big Sand Charitable Lake Fund View Details Here</p> <p>DONATE NOW!</p> <h3>Virtual Guestbook</h3> <p>Do you have a story or comment to share about Big Sand Lake? Share it here!</p> <p>View Guestbook</p> <h3>Social Media</h3> <p> Share photos and Follow us on Facebook</p> <p> </p>
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Organizational Development & Communication:

Barb Kimer
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UP TO DATE

Things change, especially phone numbers and email addresses. Many Big Sand residents have dropped land lines in favor of cell phones. Many others are having to change phone numbers when signing up for new internet service; all factors which make the Big Sand Directory continuously out of date.

It is our goal to have our **Membership Directory up to date in 2014**. In order to do that, **we need everyone** to confirm or update contact information. The quick, easy and automatic way is to visit the Update My Information section at www.bigsandlake.org. The online directory is password protected which makes it secure but possibly frustrating. To login, you must enter the primary household email address you provided with your membership information. To retrieve that information and/or your password (or if you receive an error message) click on Forgot my password. Please check your junk mail if you do not immediately receive a return email. If that does not help you, please email info@bigsandlake.org with questions or concerns.

Please note that although all family members may list their email addresses in the directory, only one primary email per membership may be used to access the membership area.

Thank you in advance for helping keep our directory current. While you are updating your contact information, you may also renew your BSLA membership (see previous article). Thank you!



Swim Platform Awaits Ice-out

In Memory

JERRY
BENSHOOF

Jerry Benshoof died suddenly on October 15th, 2013 while exercising at his gym. He had owned his place on Glory Trail on Big Sand since retiring from US West in 1989. Jerry most loved observing the varied wildlife on his property and on the lake. His neighbors will miss seeing Jerry down at his dock and walking his dog on Glory Trail.

If you know of other Big Sand residents who have recently passed away, please contact us at info@big-sandlake.org

or send a note to BSLA

PO Box 181, Park Rapids, MN 56470

In Memory

JERRY
BOWERS

After a courageous and valiant 20 year battle with cancer, Jerry Bowers passed away on March 31, 2014 at home in Minneapolis. Many who knew his competitive spirit and his will to not give in, frequently referred to him as the 'Energizer Bunny'. Jerry and Debbie, his wife of 48 years, acquired their cabin on the south shore of Big Sand off Grouse Road in 1994. The Bowers have been active members of the Big Sand Lake Association ever since. Jerry previously served on the BSLA Board of Directors. His passion for flying airplanes led him to "The Angel Flight Program" which flies people with medical needs to their treatment destinations. Several of his 'missions' included flying children from the Chicago area to an AIDS camp in northern Minnesota. Jerry spent most of his professional career at Piper Jaffray. He loved spending as much time as possible at Big Sand with Debbie, their son and daughter, their spouses and 7 grandchildren. If he wasn't on the water with the family, he was most likely on the golf course. He will be missed and fondly remembered by all who knew him.

—2014 BSLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS—

President:
Candy Malm (2013-2014)
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Barb Kimer (2012-2014)
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Rich Jacobson (2013-2016)
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OFF BOARD POSITIONS

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Susan Fairchild Winn
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Social Director:
Linda Van Bruggen
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Directory Committee Chair:
Tara Schell
t.schell@comcast.net

Calling Tree Coordinator:
Open



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

Calendar of Events 2014

June

16 Ladies Coffee
10:00 am at Dorset House

28 BSLA Annual Meeting
10:00 am at Evergreen Lodge

July

4 Boat Parade
11:00 am meet at the inlet

26 Social Gathering
*5:00 - 7:00 pm
at Laura and Bob Spolum's
19578 Grouse Road*

August

16 Social Gathering
*5:00-7:00 pm
at Rich Jacobson's
23081 Gunner Drive*

If you would like to host
a social gathering,
please contact:
Linda Van Bruggen
Freddie54mn@yahoo.com



You are Invited

to attend the
**BSLA Annual Meeting
and Picnic**

**Saturday, June 28, 2014
at 10:00 am
at Evergreen Lodge**