



## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I want to thank Barb Kimer and Catharine Williamson for all the time and effort they have committed to the Big Sand Lake Association (BSLA) over the years. Through their vigorous efforts we all enjoy the beautiful crystal-clear waters and pristine environment of the lake. They leave a great legacy that I will work hard to match in the future.

I also want to thank the Board Members, past and present, for volunteering their time and efforts to continue the tradition of service to all the residents of Big Sand Lake. We rely on them to help manage the many aspects of the BSLA, from budget management, environmental activities, membership updates, resident directory and social outings for all members of BSLA.

Several board members and BSLA members serve the greater Hubbard county community in local government organizations or are working on AIS prevention groups and the Council of Lake Associations, (COLA).

We rely on the work of many unsung volunteers to monitor water clarity, survey for Aquatic Invasive species (AIS), monitor AIS samplers, remove and install the hazard buoys on the lake, conduct vegetative mapping, water quality monitoring, and dissolved oxygen monitoring. These are just a few of the many efforts undertaken by volunteers to preserve and protect the water quality of Big Sand Lake.

We have received the RMB laboratory study of Big Sand Lake water quality. The report is very comprehensive. It covers water transparency, phosphorus, chlorophyll, vegetative plants and dissolved oxygen levels. The report also reviews the water quality trends of the lake since 1994. In summary, all indicators are excellent. We have posted a link to the report of the BSLA website. I encourage everyone to take the time to read the report. It is reflective of the great work performed by our association members over the years to actually improve the overall quality of the lake.

As you can see from this comprehensive report the work of all our great volunteers has really paid dividends to all the residents of Big Sand Lake. We depend on volunteers; please consider volunteering to help us preserve and protect Big Sand Lake. Please contact me if you are interested in volunteering.

We have been advised by Hubbard County that costs for the AIS inspectors at all lakes who pay for boat inspections will increase from \$18.50 per hour to \$21.00 per hour in 2019. If we keep our inspection hours at 1100 hours, which is the number of hours we have budgeted for in recent years, this will be an increase of almost \$3000 over 2018 costs. There is a possibility Minnesota may increase their funding support for the AIS inspection program, but that has not yet been confirmed.

I hope everyone has a productive and safe fall and winter.  
Bob Bray



# ANNUAL DUES DISCUSSION

Those of you who attended the annual meeting in 2018, besides enjoying the great food provided by Main Street Meats, heard me initiate a discussion regarding the current annual membership dues for BSLA. Membership dues have remained fixed at \$40 per year for 30 years. While our current financial state is good, we all know that inflation over the last thirty years has diminished the value of a dollar over that time period.

I initiated this discussion at the annual meeting in order to gain feedback from you to determine if we should increase our annual membership dues. Several people volunteered to provide the board with their thoughts on this matter.

The board met on September 15, and we did discuss this matter. The board, unanimously, thought increasing annual dues to \$50 per year, effective in 2020, is appropriate. The reason for raising dues is to keep the finances of BSLA at a reasonable and prudent level. We have dues income of roughly \$6000 per year and generally our expenses slightly exceed \$6000 per year. In the past, we have relied on donations to BSLA to cover the difference between income and expenses. In 2018, we replaced two hazard buoys, at a cost of \$850, are working to publish a Big Sand lake resident directory, at a cost of \$1200 and replace or repair the BSLA sign at the public access. There is also a BSLA rain garden on Lake Emma, near the beach area where we are planning to place a sign. The sign will inform everyone regarding the rain garden and how the garden helps prevent runoff and contaminants from entering Big Sand Lake. We also sponsored two socials where BSLA provided the refreshments and the annual meeting where we provided refreshments and lunch by Main Street Meats. We also have expenses for the BSLA website, newsletter, Hubbard COLA, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram content management, water testing, postal expenses, and small contributions to lake advocacy groups. Your dues and donations to BSLA support all these activities.

Since increasing annual dues affects all members, we decided to schedule this matter as an agenda item for the 2019 annual meeting. At this time members will be able share their thoughts on this matter with the board.

The Charitable fund is a completely separate funding source that supports the annual AIS inspection program at the public access. The charitable fund also stands ready to support Big Sand Lake in the unfortunate event that AIS is discovered in Big Sand. The charitable fund has funding available to assist in the immediate remediation action against any AIS discovered in Big Sand Lake. Donations to BSLA do not support the AIS inspection program. The AIS inspection program is funded completely by your donations to the Charitable fund. Please support the Charitable fund and the Big Sand Lake Association. These two separate programs work symbiotically to keep Big Sand Lake pristine and free of AIS.

Finally, please pay your annual dues in January; this aligns with our fiscal year, which runs from January 1 to December 31. Paying your dues early will help us to better manage our income and expenses throughout the year.

---

## AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES INVADE HUBBARD COUNTY WATERWAYS

2018 is unfortunately a landmark and troubling year for Hubbard county AIS prevention efforts. Starry stonewort was discovered in Wolf Lake. Wolf Lake is on the Hubbard/Beltrami county line. Volunteers checking the lake for AIS contamination discovered the infestation. Starry stonewort forms dense mats of vegetation at the water surface that become so thick the mats inhibit water traffic. It also overtakes and outcompetes native plants and provides unsuitable shelter for native fish and native birds and animals.

Bad Axe Lake was discovered to have an infestation of Eurasian milfoil; Garfield Lake was discovered to contain Zebra mussel veligers. Curly leaf pondweed has been discovered in Portage Lake and Fish Hook Lake.

As AIS encroaches on Hubbard County and Big Sand Lake I encourage everyone to redouble their clean, drain, dry efforts. We have encouraged the DNR to consider providing decontamination stations at public access points on contaminated lakes. We are closely monitoring events in Wright County where it is required that all boats be decontaminated before entering any Wright County lake.

With the board support, I wrote a letter to the Hubbard County AIS coordinator. I expressed our support for the AIS program and will volunteer to support and assist the program in any way possible. I asked that the hours for the AIS Inspector at the public access be adjusted. We would like to have the inspector work until approximately one hour before sunset during June and July. This would accommodate the people who arrive to fish late in the evening during these peak activity months. **The Charitable fund is our most important program to fight against AIS. Please support the Charitable fund with your generous donations.**

Exciting news... the Big Sand Lake Resident Directory is about ready to go to print and it should soon be arriving in your mailboxes. If you do not receive a copy please contact us at [info@bigsandlake.org](mailto:info@bigsandlake.org). We have tried to be as accurate as possible and apologize if we've made any errors or omissions.

There are many lake residents to thank for their help with this project. Team captains (listed below) spent countless hours collecting and verifying the information listed in the directory.

Special thanks also goes to BSLA board member, Al Judson, for his assistance in checking the accuracy of all listings as they compare with the listings on the BSLA website.

Enclosed with your BSLA Directory there will be an envelope to make a donation to help defray publication and mailing costs. Please consider making a donation and joining the Big Sand Lake Association. We hope you find this directory useful in getting acquainted with and locating your fellow BSLA residents.

## TEAM CAPTAINS

Mary Beth Anderson  
Adrienne Bray  
Carolyn Corwin  
Sue Fenton  
John Fischer  
Ann Hilger

Patti Igel  
Jo Kilander  
Barb Kimer  
Candy Malm  
Lisa Moore  
Karen Nelson

Sherri Preusse  
Liz Quaday  
Lisa Reed  
Nancy Ryan  
Laura Spolum

Lorem ipsum





# 2018 SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

*We had a very successful season of activities in 2018.*

**JUNE 23RD** - We had the BSLA annual meeting, hosted by three Big Sand families. The Roseths, Fentons and Sederstroms devoted many hours of preparations to host this very successful gathering on their properties on the north shore of Big Sand. Many thanks to everyone for hosting such a pleasant event. We all enjoyed great barbecue hamburgers, bratwurst and hotdogs that were provided by Main Street Meats.

The annual meeting was a great event, if not bittersweet as we said thanks to Barb Kimer and Catharine Williamson as they moved on from their roles as co-Presidents of BSLA.

**JULY 28** - Our next social was hosted by Randy and Sheree Seavers, at their beautiful house on the south shore of Big Sand. The social was well attended, as it was a beautiful evening and we all enjoyed mingling with everyone at the Seavers' beautiful new home.

**AUGUST 25TH** - We all gathered at the Pine Cone lodge for a very pleasant evening of food and drinks. We all were very impressed with all the work Jeff and Bonnie Brand have accomplished at Pine Cone Lodge. It is a beautiful property, and it was fascinating to tour the historic dining hall and view all the memorabilia from days gone by on display in the lodge. We had over 60 members attend the social and I heard many compliments on how much great work Jeff and Bonnie have accomplished

## **GOLF OUTING AND SOCIAL AT HEADWATERS GOLF CLUB**

**SEPTEMBER 15TH** - We all enjoyed a great day at Headwaters. Thanks to Michael and Lisa Moore for organizing the 2nd annual BSLA golf outing at Headwaters Golf Club. Sue and Chuck Fenton also helped with the event. The outing was well attended; and the weather was great for golf. It seems that we have a golf professional in our midst in Salvador DaSilva, who displayed with golf expertise to all on the course.

After golf, we gathered at the clubhouse for the last social of the year. The food provided by our members was excellent and Headwaters provided refreshments and we all had a nice time for our last social of the year.

## **CONCERTS AT DEANE JOHNSON'S BEACH**

We also enjoyed a couple of concerts on the lake by Deane Johnson and some of the musicians from the Upper Mississippians. The music was exceptional and everyone who attended hope these concerts continue next year. I encourage you to get in your boat and join us next year. The music is a pleasant interlude and the evening sunset is another benefit of lake living.



## **IN MEMORIAM**

*Nancy Wenzel, 1928-2018*

and enjoyed permanent residency for the next thirty-three years. During the years, the family fished, swam, canoed, played golf, frisbee (avoiding the poison ivy, mostly), sailed in their Hobie-Cat, played with generations of family dogs and rode their horses. And shared the chores with no complaining at all.

Nancy's celebration of living on Big Sand was expressed in her piece in the Big Sand Newsletter of fall, 2015, where she wrote, "So it's been a good life here on Big Sand. We've raised a good family here, we've had a friendly life with generations of parents and all sorts of kids, and we have made dozens of friends. Some lives may be more glamorous than ours, but we wouldn't have wanted our life to be different. A cabin on a lake!"

~Fondly contributed by Richard Sederstrom

Nancy first visited Big Sand Lake with her parents, Vera and Hugh Fenton after they bought what became known as Fenton's Folly in 1945. After many summers visiting with her parents, she and her husband Jim built their own cabin, where they spent summers with their three sons and daughter until Jim retired from the medical profession in 1985. They moved to the lake from Fargo

# AN UPDATE FROM THE CHARITABLE FUND

As many of you know, The Big Sand Lake Charitable Fund is a separate entity from the Big Sand Lake Association. The Fund was established in 2009 with a stated mission "To provide financial support to protect, preserve, restore and enhance Big Sand Lake and its environs." The Fund is managed by the Northwest Minnesota Foundation, and monitored by your Big Sand Lake Charitable Fund Committee: Ann Hilger, Chris Hilger and Linda Lee.

In order to preserve the corpus of the Charitable Fund to deal with any future potential lake emergency need, we have been conducting an annual campaign to pay for AIS prevention measures in the form of watercraft inspections at the boat launch.

The cost of treating a lake that has already been infested with Zebra Mussels, Eurasian Milfoil or Starry Stonewort is significant. This is a case where "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure!" Watercraft inspection remains the single best tool for protecting a lake against AIS infestation.

The Big Sand Lake Charitable Fund Committee is happy to report that we were able to fully fund 1100 hours of watercraft inspection on Big Sand Lake in 2018. A complete list of every donor who contributed in 2018, either to the watercraft inspection campaign, or to the general fund, is shown to the right. We are immensely grateful to everyone who generously donated to protect our beautiful lake!

## **Now on to 2019...**

We are actively planning our campaign to raise the money necessary to pay for 1100 hours of watercraft inspection again in 2019. The DNR has informed us that the hourly cost of an inspector is being raised from \$18.50 to \$21.00 per hour, which will result in a \$2,750 increase in the total cost of inspections. Hopefully, that increase will be offset by an increase in state funding support, and potential grants from Hubbard County and Lake Emma Township, but we do not yet know what the full cost of inspections for 2019 will be.

Please watch your email for a new 2019 campaign message from us this spring! We will be contacting every lake home and cabin owner to ask for your support. Last year, about 25% of BSL households made contributions. Please do your part to preserve the pristine waters of our beloved lake, so that we can continue to enjoy it for many generations!

Thank you for your partnership!

Ann Hilger, Chris Hilger, Linda Lee - The Big Sand Lake Charitable Fund Committee

*Linda K. Barnett*

*David and Mary Bergman*

*Eric Billing*

*David and Christine Billion*

*Paul and Marilou Birkeland*

*Debra Bowers*

*Andrea U. Brainard*

*Diana Brainard*

*Bonnie Brand*

*Bob and Adrienne Bray*

*The Bruggen Family*

*Tim and Linda Conely*

*Hollis Corwin*

*Bryce and Carrie Craig*

*Tim and Linda Daugherty*

*Larry Durand*

*Bill Eichten*

*William and Carmelita Ellis*

*Steven J. Fuglestad*

*Timothy Gavin*

*Bill and Kelly Hanley*

*Peter and Linda Hilger*

*David and Joan Hilger*

*Christopher and Ann Hilger*

*Deane and Jill Johnson*

*Don and Jeanne Hoodecheck*

*Ellis and Cynthia Jones*

*Tom and Barbara Kimer*

*Evelyn L. Kvamme*

*Linda and Paul Lee*

*Jacquelyn Lewis*

*Michael and Nerissa Marzolf*

*Thomas M. and Susan Mayerle*

*Jon and Mary Monson*

*Rolf and Karen Nelson*

*John P. Nelson Family*

*Jon Nestoss*

*Charles and Barbara Perkins*

*Brian F. and Jane Ellen Peterson*

*James Pierson*

*The Pinewoods Trust*

*Scott and Sherry Preusse*

*John P. and Nancy Ryan*

*Tom Scott*

*John and Susan Steffen*

*Jim and Jan Stephenson*

*Thomas N. and Debra R. Tharaldson*

*Harold Thibault*

*Irene and Tom Weis*

*Stan and Catharine Williamson*

*Randau and Robyn Wimmer*





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

# BIG SAND LAKE 2019 CALENDAR

## ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, June 22 at 11:00 a.m.

Pine Cone Lodge

Hosted by Jeff and Bonnie Brand

*If you were unable to attend the August 2018 meeting don't miss this opportunity to attend and learn of the many possibilities for everyone to become involved in the preservation of our beautiful lake. In addition, this is a wonderful time to socialize with fellow Big Sand Lake residents along with the bonus of seeing the magnificent Pine Cone Lodge!*

## FOURTH OF JULY PARADE

THURSDAY, JULY 4

11:00 A.M. AT NORTHEAST END OF THE LAKE

## SOCIALS

July Social TBD

hosted by Margaret Prah and Tom Patterson

August Social TBD

hosted by Randy and Sheree Seavers

September 3rd Annual Golf Outing and Social TBD

Headwaters Golf Club

## DEADLINES FOR NEWSLETTER MATERIALS

SPRING ISSUE - March 1st, 2019

If you have an idea for an activity or are interested in hosting an event, please contact either

Adrienne Bray - [adriennebray@gmail.com](mailto:adriennebray@gmail.com)

Beth Krueger - [wkrueger@paulbunyan.net](mailto:wkrueger@paulbunyan.net)