



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

As we are all aware, COVID-19 has presented many challenges over the past many months; however, with the exception of the cancellation of our annual meeting and our much-anticipated socials, I am thankful that it has been business-as-usual for the Big Sand Lake Association with some volunteer changes noted below.

I want to highlight the changes to our Board of Directors. Our thanks and appreciation to both Bob Bray and Sue Fenton for their years of service provided the Board. Bob Bray has served as president for the last three years and Sue Fenton has served as a Board member for more years than she can remember. Sue has graciously volunteered to continue her work on the membership committee. Our sincere thanks for their dedication to Big Sand!

The Board of Directors elected three new members - Patrick McGrath, Chuck Fenton, and Don Kilander; and elected Don to follow Bob Bray as BSLA President. Due to Covid-19, these changes will be presented to the membership for formal ratification at our 2021 annual meeting. A complete list of the current board is included elsewhere in this newsletter.

Hopefully, you were all exposed via blast emails to the Minnesota DNR plans for an expanded boat access (See "Renovation" article elsewhere in this newsletter). The DNR hosted a virtual call with interested lake residents to go over the design and answer any questions. In addition, I have spent hours on the phone with Dave Schotzko, DNR project manager, as have Tim Hilger and Bonnie Brand, discussing our questions, concerns and thoughts. I believe we all expressed our concern over the perceived need for an expanded access and the resulting impact on resident's access to the lake during construction, but kept getting the response that the new design was needed to comply with federal and state ADA requirements.

Through mostly Tim's efforts, it looks as though the originally planned summer long construction project will have a reduced time frame of approximately six weeks; but, the dates have yet to be determined. Through all of the discussions, Dave has been understanding of our concerns, but has indicated that the project will move forward. As the schedule is made known, I will update all of you via a blast email and postings on our website and Nextdoor Big Sand.

Speaking of the website, www.bigsandlake.org, I encourage everyone to check in on a regular basis. The homepage is informative for current Big Sand information. Other features on the website include two webcams providing year-round, real-time views of the lake; AIS, water quality and fishing reports are available in addition to beautiful photos submitted by Big Sand residents. Most importantly is the password protected (your lake address) 'Member's Area'. There you will find the most current BSLA information and the Big Sand Resident Directory.

Keeping track of AIS and water quality has been an ongoing project. Bob Bray, after stepping aside from his duties as the BSLA president, has taken over the Zebra Mussel water sampling and getting samples to the state for their testing. To date, the test results indicate that Big Sand is still clear of any infestation. Bob Conyers and Gene Fladeboe have continued their work with testing the temperature of our water and the oxygen saturation level and Richard Provinzino has continued to test water clarity. The BSLA board commends all Big Sand residents for their continued efforts in maintaining the health of our beloved lake.

Tom and Susie Mayerle have taken over the care of the beautiful, newly restored signage at the boat landing from Carol Zimmerman. Tom and Susie, it looks great! Many thanks to Carol for her kind attention to this effort for many years.

Al Judson continues in his role as treasurer of BLSA and happily reports that our finances are in the black and as strong as they've ever been. Sadly, this is due in part to the cancellation of all face-to-face activities. He also reports that we now have 160 voting lake resident members along with 9 friends of Big Sand and 2 honorary members. Look for your membership renewal letters in the mail shortly after you receive this newsletter. Let's show our support for the lake activities and do our part! Here's to 100% participation in 2021! To receive a copy of the current treasurer's report, contact Al Judson, joal1969@gmail.com.

We are happy to report that the Hubbard County Sheriff took over the responsibility of placing and removing the lake buoys that Dan Dyer had been doing for so many years. A big shout-out of thanks to Dan for the many years of accomplishing this thankless and difficult task.

Notably, one of Big Sand's favorite annual traditions did go forward again this year, the Fourth of July boat parade. Keeping with tradition, the parade was led by Bill Eichten in his beautifully restored Chris-Craft. And, as reported by many of the lakes "old timers," it had the largest participation in memory, with more than 40 boats.

Thank you goes out to Deane Johnson for inviting Big Sand residents to listen in to a lakeside rehearsal concert of the Park Rapids String Quartet. Many of us enjoyed the music from the comfort of our boats and pontoons on a beautiful evening with a beverage of choice.

And finally, a sincere thank you to two former Big Sand residents — Cindy Rehkamp, who volunteers to edit our newsletters, and Heather Whitman, who accepted the position of managing the blast emails and content for the website homepage.

As we wrap up 2020 and look forward to an EARLY ice-out in the Spring, we remain thankful for our blessings and full of hope that 2021 will be healthy for all. As your president, I welcome your comments/questions/concerns any-time via email or phone, so please don't hesitate to contact me.

Don | donkilander@cableone.net | (701)306-0411



DNR PLANS RENOVATION OF BIG SAND ACCESS

BSLA received notifications in late September from Dave Schotzko, DNR Parks & Trails, Bemidji, that the DNR will be renovating the Big Sand public water access next summer 2021.

A Skype meeting to discuss the renovation was held on the evening of October 14th with Mr. Schotzko and two representatives from the DNR St. Paul. Blast emails were sent on September 12th and 13th to all Big Sand residents inviting them to participate in the call. DNR representa-

tives listened to our concerns and answered questions but indicated that the design had already been vetted and will progress as planned. (If you are not receiving BSLA blast emails, please check your Spam Mail or contact us at admin@bigsandlake.org.)

Originally the DNR planned to close the access for the entire summer. However negotiations were successful in reducing the time the access will be closed. The final plan and dates for closure will be sent to residents via blast email and also posted on our website, www.bigsandlake.org when available.

Components of the renovation include:

- The current driveway entrance to the parking lot from Grouse Road will be closed
- All traffic to the public access will be directed onto Gladwin Dr. to access both the launching area and the parking lot
- Vehicles launching watercraft will turn left from Gladwin Dr. into a circular path (currently the vacant lot) to the launch ramp.
- Vehicles leaving the launch area will cross Gladwin to the parking lot or turn right to exit to Grouse Rd
- The parking lot will be black topped and a cement walking path will be constructed from there to the currently existing dock alongside the launch ramp.
- The launch ramp will remain in the same location with extra cement planks added to help control erosion
- A paved handicapped parking spot will be constructed in the circular grassy area currently forming the traffic pattern for launching watercraft. The portable toilet will be located in this area on a cement slab with a wooden privacy structure around it



The construction plan for the renovation may be viewed on our website, www.bigsandlake.org. Page two of the 18 page document reveals the demolition plan for removing trees and installing erosion control areas, etc.. Page four is a drawing of the design for the finished project.

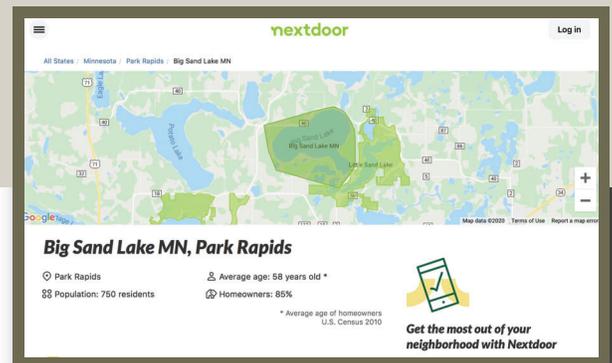
NEXTDOOR *Please Join In!*

Nextdoor currently has 151 residents active on the site within our mapped Big Sand Area. The more members we have, the more useful the site! Nextdoor is a private site requiring log in.

Although Nextdoor is not officially sponsored by BSLA, we encourage you to participate. It provides an excellent means of communication. Smaller groups can be established within the neighborhood - the Big Sand Lake Coffee Group is an example.

Nextdoor is easy to use. To sign up, enter your Big Sand Lake street address. A few glitches have occurred with the County 40 addresses. If this occurs we can help. For an easy way to join, contact us and we would be happy to send you an email invitation!

It's best for interested individuals at the address to join separately. This way, each is notified when there is a post. If you already belong to another Nextdoor neighborhood, you will need to use an alternate email address to create an account in the Big Sand neighborhood. According to Nextdoor, your email address can be tied to only one residential address on Nextdoor. *Questions:* Catharine Williamson SpiritW@me.com 952-936-0204



Benefits:

- Quick Communication — Anyone may post a message
- Quick Responses - anyone may respond. A private response or a response seen by all neighbors may be sent.
- Secure Site

How have we seen Nextdoor used?

- Notification regarding lake residents
- Communications regarding weather damage
- Communications regarding service providers. *For example, do you have a recommendation for an electrician? Or, a resident is interested in providing a service such as babysitting or dog walking*
- Notification of BSLA events
- Item lost notice
- Pet lost notice
- Notification of break-ins and what is known

AIS INSPECTIONS 2020 SUMMARY

COVID 19 had its effect on AIS inspections last season. The Hubbard County Board asked all departments to cut expenses by 20%. This action resulted in a reduction of approximately 2,500 hours of AIS inspections available county-wide. Although the number of inspections hours was reduced, the total number of inspections was greater than 2019 likely due to more people utilizing outdoor activities during the pandemic. For example, in 2019 the total number of Big Sand Lake inspections was 1,466 compared to 1,844 in 2020.

Thanks to the generous donations from Big Sand residents to our Charitable Lake Fund, BSLA was able to request 1100 inspection hours. Due to the decrease in funding from Hubbard County, only 969 inspections hours were granted to Big Sand. Even with the reduction of our hours, we were fortunate enough to have a certified inspector at the landing most days starting from fishing opener on May 10th through August and then on weekends in September.

A partial summary of results from Big Sand's 2020 inspections, compiled and provided by Nicholas Macklem, Hubbard County Environmental Specialist, is below:

- Number of inspection hours worked — 969
- Total Number of Inspections — 1,844
- Average inspections per hour — 1.9
- Watercraft entering from out of state — 196 (11.75%)
- Watercraft entering from infested lakes — 193 (18.02%)
- Watercraft entering from zebra mussel infested lakes — 116 (10.83%)
- Watercraft entering that had plants, water or mud — 20 (8.5%)

The complete chart of 2020 results for Big Sand and for each lake in Hubbard County participating in the inspection program can be viewed on our website, www.bigsandlake.org under the "AIS Prevention and Reports" tab.



Considering the closure of the access during the construction next summer, it is unknown at this time what the plan will be for funding Big Sand's AIS inspections in 2021. Rest assured that there will be an inspector present whenever the access is open. Watch for, and please respond to, forthcoming requests from the Big Sand Charitable Lake Fund for AIS donations.

BE AN AIS FIRST RESPONDER JOIN "EYES ON THE WATER"

Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations (HC COLA) encourages all lakeshore owners to participate in "Eyes on the Water," a citizen monitoring program for early detection of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). Lakeshore owners can be a "first responder" in locating possible AIS presence on their lake. Early detection and treatment has been proven to be an effective way of stemming the subsequent spread of AIS to other areas of your lake and AIS spread to other lakes.

To participate in this program, google "Hubbard County Cola Eyes on the Water". All that is required of participating is to agree to watch for AIS on your lakeshore and equipment and to complete a survey at the end of season.

One hundred and thirty-five people representing thirty-nine different lakes participated in the 2020 program. So far only four Big Sand Lake residents are participating. Results of the this and past year's survey can be found at hubbardcolamn.org.

BSLA BOARD MEMBERS

Officers

President Don Kilander donkilander@cablone.net	Vice President Matt VanBruggen m.vanbruggen@pemlaw.com
Secretary Jo Kilander jkilander@cablone.net	Treasurer Al Judson (2017-2019) joal1969@gmail.com

Directors

Bonnie Brand bjbrand@info-link.net	Carolyn Corwin cgcorwin@icloud.com
Chuck Fenton cfenton@q.com	Patrick McGrath Patrick.McGrath@morganstanley.com
Rich Provinzino richard.provinzino@gmail.com	Irene Weis ilweis@paulbunyan.net
Aaron Roseth aaron.roseth@esgarch.com	Dan Dyre (ex-officio) Dandyre57@msn.com
Bob Bray (Past President) Rsbray57@gmail.com	

Breaking News

BIG SAND'S 2020 "ICE IN" DATE

Big Sand's official, unofficial ice judge declared December 19th 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.



WATER QUALITY BIG SAND LAKE

Gene Fladeboe

Bob Conyers and I monitored Big Sand Lake for the water level, water quality, temperature and the oxygen level.

During the year 2020 the lake level started at 1428.69 and finished at 1428.59. The historical high is 1429.89 in 2001 and the lowest recorded level is 1426.98 in 1995. We are going into 2021 with a healthy level.

Water samples are taken monthly through the summer. This measures the phosphorous and algae levels which are indications of water quality. On a range from 0-100 with 0 being the best.

- Transparency ~ 34
- Chlorophyll ~ 38
- Phosphorus ~ 32

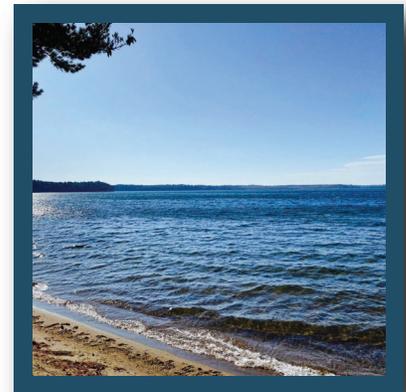
Transparency shows improvement of 3.8 ft. per decade. The other numbers are better than similar bodies of water.

The oxygen studies are done through the summer. This was started to monitor the temp and oxygen content following a summer where we experienced a tullibee die off due to warmer waters and a subsequent low oxygen level. In a visit with DNR fisheries this summer they said that both measures were in the healthy range.

The Sechi Disc readings are included in the water quality samples provided to the lab in Detroit Lakes. Bob also submitted Sechi Disc readings to MPCA. Those are taken at three locations and range from 14 to 34 feet.

Minnesota DNR website under Lake Finder has a lot of useful information.

The BSLA thanks Bob for his volunteering for the past number of years. Bob and Becky have left the area but we hope they return to visit.



Thanks for your membership dues in 2020.

We had an increase of membership for 2020 to 169 members!!! Looking to this new year, please refer to the enclosed envelope for renewal directions for 2021 either online or with the convenient envelope. In the membership directory at www.bigsandlake.org under Member's Area, the loons next to everyone's names signals that your dues have been paid. The loons disappear on Jan 1 to make way for your 2021 loon. Get your loon back up by paying your dues. To access the directory, enter the email address associated with your membership and use your cabin house number as the password. If you have difficulty, contact admin@bigsandlake.org

Thank you for supporting BSLA as we strive to help to protect and keep Big Sand Lake the beautiful place it is for all to enjoy — even during a pandemic.

Bonnie Brand | bonnie@pineconelodge.info Barb Kimer | barb-kimer@gmail.com
BSLA Membership Co-Chairs

BSLA

MEMBERSHIP DUES 2021



IN MEMORY OF RUTH LARSEN

Submitted by Jo Judson



It is an honor to write a tribute in memory of our dear friend, Ruth Larsen. Ruth died on October 4, 2020, at St. Joseph's Hospital in Park Rapids. A week-an-a-half before her death Ruth suffered a heart attack at her beloved home on Big Sand Lake. In talking to her son, Mark, I found that this sudden event was timed well: just after speaking to Mark on the phone and a few minutes before her home health-care nurse arrived for a scheduled visit. An ambulance was called for Ruth.

During her days in the hospital Ruth was able to welcome and bless friends and family. She was aware and conversive right up until the time of her last breath, her sharp mind and wit displayed in her communication with others.

Ruth's home revealed the heart of Ruth. Situated in a beautiful setting on Big Sand her view from her living room was of the lake, her garden, and big pine trees. Inside her home, Ruth welcomed guests with a visit at her dining room table and perhaps a cup of hot chocolate or a cookie. Sitting at her table I would find her mail, her Bible, and devotionals or magazines. In her living room, Ruth was very happy to offer visitors a comfortable place to sit on her new couch or chair. Her loyal calico cat, Molly, often came to sit in my lap when we visited. Ruth would say to just push her away if she was a bother, but Molly loved to be petted, so I obliged. A purring cat and a visit with my dear friend was always a day brightener. Her full book shelves and the magazines on the coffee table invited conversations about books, ideas, and current events. Beside her chair she always had the book she was currently reading. Ruth had a wealth of traveling experiences to share, and she had a keen talent for listening to the others in the room. She was a good letter writer and wrote letters to shut-ins on a regular basis. Two things I found out at Ruth's funeral were that Ruth was a poet and an artist, her works put away and not on display in her home. She did share with me dear stories of her children and grandchildren. The following is the second verse of a poem written by Ruth that I feel sums up our frequent visits:

Communication / Communication is a / Two-way street when / You talk and I listen or / I talk and you listen.

On cool fall days I would find Ruth's home toasty warm heated by the wood stove, wood stacked beside it in the corner of her living room, and two-way street communication from the heart. Toasty warm: the heart of Ruth's home and the heart of Ruth.

From her obituary I find the following information: She was born in Fergus Falls, Minnesota, on October 1, 1927, in Fergus Falls, Minnesota. She attended Valparaiso University and then graduated from Moorhead State Teachers College, Moorhead, MN, in 1949. She was married to Daniel Larson in 1951. She attended United Theological seminary in New Brighton, MN, where she received an MA in religious studies in 1987. She taught English in Hawley and Ada, MN, and at Tarsus Amerikan School, Tarsus, Turkey, and Koc Oel Lisesi, Istanbul, Turkey. She worked part time at the Park Rapids Area Library and at Living at Home in Park Rapids. She was an active member of Calvary Lutheran Church in Park Rapids. Ruth enjoyed her WOW book club. She is survived by her three children, a son-in-law, a daughter-in-law, and four grandchildren.

Mark filled me in on some of the history of Ruth's home on the lake. Mark's grandparents on his father's side, Victor and Beatrice Larsen, bought the property in the 1940s. They built the original cabin on the lake and Beatrice planted a lot of white pines which are now mature. Beatrice and Victor owned and operated Ace Hardware downtown Park Rapids, and later Ruth and Dan owned and operated the store until around 1981. One Christmas, Dan's grandparents surprised Ruth and Dan with the deed for the lake property. In 1997 the original cabin was added onto and made into a winterized home. There were many special times at the lake: swimming, a floating dock, and horse shoes among them. Mark recalls Ace Hardware parties at the lake, and I personally recall a picnic at their property many years ago.

Ruth was very grateful to remain living in her home until she died. She was thankful to her many good friends who assisted with her needs as she enjoyed the home she loved. Ruth's children and grandchildren look forward to many future gatherings on Big Sand Lake.

IN MEMORY OF TIM DAUGHERTY



Tim Daugherty, son of long time Big Sand Lake residents the late Bob and Marjorie Daugherty, passed away on October 4, 2020 at the age of 73 with his family by his side. Tim was born and raised in Nebraska and spent much of his adult life in Omaha. He was founder of Valley Products Corporation where for 40 years he used his incredible ability to create and manufacture specialized electronic and industrial equipment. Tim earned his pilot's license at 18 and continued to own and operate a variety of planes for many years for personal and business use. Additionally, Tim was a philanthropist and especially proud of the work he did on the Robert B. Daugherty Foundation Board, the University of Nebraska Foundation Board along with many other boards and advisory councils.

Those of us who were lucky enough to be Tim and Linda's neighbors on Big Sand Lake or to have met them at a Big Sand Lake event will remember Tim's undeniable warmth and friendliness. Tim is survived by his wife of nearly 43 years, Linda, and his two adult children, Ryan and Rebecca, both of whom are New York City residents. Rebecca is currently living at and working remotely from the Big Sand cabin during the COVID pandemic. A full obituary is available at <https://heafyheafey.com/james-timothy-tim-daugherty/>.