



# PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Halloween is behind us (or maybe in front of me because of all the unneeded calories that I've snitched from the "Trick or Treat" basket) and we are beginning to prepare for the Thanksgiving holiday. Even with our continuing battle with COVID, we have a lot for which to be thankful.

The past year on Big Sand saw continued excellent water quality. A big thank you to the testing team led by Richard Provinzino. Because of the generous contributions by you, the BSLA members, we were able to test and monitor for invasive species and keep them at bay at least for now. Invasive species seem to be creeping closer and closer. Thankfully, through cooperative funding by Lake Emma Township, Hubbard County, and our Charitable Lake Fund, we had significant hours of inspection at the public access this season.

The work on the reimagined public access has been another intrusion on Big Sand Lake life. As hard as many lake residents tried, we were not able to stop the DNR project. I'm still hopeful that once it is complete it will be an improvement even though the general feeling remains that it was not necessary.



Our neighbors on Gladwin Drive have dealt with the brunt of the disruptions, so I'm hopeful that the remaining work next spring will go smoothly. I happened to catch the job superintendent on the day the ramp was reopened the first week in October and pushed him pretty hard on his spring schedule for putting down the two layers of asphalt and remaining landscaping. He



shared that since all the grading is already done that it will be one of their first projects after road restrictions are removed. Fingers crossed that it will be finished for our May fishing opener weekend!

We were a little nervous about only using email and our website to notify residents about our Annual Meeting in June. Our fears were unjustified as the resulting turnout was beyond expectations. Based on the size of the crowd, the BSLA Board will try to streamline the registration process and start it earlier to allow for plenty of time to socialize before the start of the business meeting.



In the midst of continued COVID restrictions and precautions, we were still able to enjoy a well-attended social on the Corwin properties on a beautiful summer evening in July – thank you Betty, Wick, Holly, Carolyn and Dick Brammell! Unfortunately, the get-together on Necce's patio in August was rained out. The summer ended with a fun social and golf outing at the Headwaters Golf Club. We are already penciled in on their calendar for next fall on the Saturday following Labor Day.

We hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter. Although going to an all-digital version was considered, the Board felt that receiving a hard copy through the mail was still very much appreciated and anticipated by lake residents. Thank you to Barb Kimer for her work in soliciting and writing articles and to Cindy Rehkamp and Haas Printing for editing and layout. I know Barb would like others to join the effort. Please contact her at [barbkimer@gmail.com](mailto:barbkimer@gmail.com) if you would be willing.

Have a safe and health filled winter season and I will look forward to seeing you in the spring!

Don Kilander  
BSLA President

# BIG SAND LAKE 2021 WATER REPORT

For further information and historical data about BSLA, google 'DNR-MN Lake Finder' and follow the prompts to Big Sand Lake Hubbard County.

Big Sand continues to be one of the most clear and healthy lakes in Minnesota. Secchi disc readings this year ranged from 34-17 feet; temperature/dissolved oxygen readings, and the phosphorus and algae reports are holding at previous levels. The good news is that the zebra mussel veliger testing was clear. Gene Fladeboe reports that the lake dropped .94 feet at the low and came back to .62 feet lower than the Spring baseline.

Thank you to the following volunteers: Richard Provinzino and Gene Fladeboe for doing the secchi disc readings; Bob Bray for the zebra mussel veliger testing; Gene and Julie Fladeboe for the Phosphorus and Algae sampling and sending that to the lab in Detroit Lakes; and Randy Seaver and Gene Fladeboe for taking the temperature and oxygen readings.

# 2021 AIS INSPECTIONS SUMMARY



*Richard Provinzino submitted these photos taken this October by a relative on Big Birch Lake in Melrose County of his zebra mussel encrusted lake equipment. Zebra Mussels were first discovered there in 2016. Within two years the whole lake was infested.*



Nick Macklem, Hubbard County Environmental Specialist, and head of the AIS Inspections program, provided the following summary information.

Certified AIS inspectors were on duty at the Big Sand access for 972 of the hours of the contracted 1,100 hours during the 2021 boating season. The 128 hours of inspector time lost when the access was closed during construction will be credited to Big Sand for the 2022 season.

A total of 1,504 inspections were conducted – 892 were for watercraft entering Big Sand and 612 exiting. 115 were from out of state; 133 were entering from infested waters; 86 were from Zebra Mussel infested waters; 11 from Starry Stonewart infested waters; 8 had plugs in on arrival; and 2 had plants, animals or mud found upon arrival.

# ARE YOU READY TO PARTY ONCE AGAIN ??

Shortly after a very successful BSLA Social and Golf Outing on September 11th (thank you to the Fentons, Moores, Fladeboes, and Kimers for organizing) a group of Big Sand women were inspired to meet to brainstorm about a Social Calendar for next summer. Please read on for some of the tentative plans and how you can be involved.

Planning BSLA social events last summer proved to be difficult as residents were still unsure about gathering with each other due to concerns regarding COVID and its potential impact on their health and the health of their families. We're cautiously optimistic that most of these valid concerns will be a thing of the past by the time we are ready to put in our docks and boats next summer and to start to enjoy our beautiful lake.

With that in mind, one of the first priorities of the social committee is to send out a postcard listing the activities planned for the summer with dates, times, and locations in advance as has been done in previous years. Yes, you'll have more than a week's notice and be able to plan around the activities in which you want to participate!

The BSLA Annual Meeting/Picnic in late June is the highlight of the summer calendar, but several potluck get-togethers at neighbor's cabins will also be planned. In addition, women's events will be planned for the 2nd and 4th Mondays – afternoon cocktail socials and morning coffees. Visits to local attractions such as the Nemeth Art Center and the Forestedge Winery will be considered. Some of the women at the meeting in September have already volunteered to host one of these events. Other ideas might include a pickle ball and picnic event, ice cream social, chili cook-off, pontoon flotilla, or your idea!

To accomplish all this, the Social Committee will have one or more virtual planning sessions in early spring. Ideas abound, BUT we need your help! If you would like to participate in planning for next summer's get-togethers, and especially if you are willing to consider hosting an event at your cabin, or have an idea for an event, please contact me via text, phone or email.

I hope to hear from you and will welcome your participation with the BSLA Social Committee at any level. Have a safe winter and hoping for an early ice-out again this spring!

Jo Kilander, Social Chairman  
701-361-9871 • [jo.kilander@gmail.com](mailto:jo.kilander@gmail.com)  
(don't forget the "L" after jo)

## WELCOME NEW BIG SAND LAKE RESIDENTS

Welcome to sixteen new Big Sand residents since 2019. We are excited to get to know you! If you have a new neighbor, please extend a warm welcome and encourage them to join the Big Sand Lake Association (BSLA). Becoming a new member is a great way to meet and socialize with other residents but most importantly to support efforts to preserve and protect the lake.



# BIG SAND LAKERS!

## Thank You

The Big Sand Lake Charitable Fund Committee would like to gratefully acknowledge the following 65 Big Sand Lake home and cabin owners who contributed generously to the Fund to support DNR watercraft inspection at the boat launch this past year.

Thank you for helping to keep Big Sand Lake AIS free!

David H. Billion	Don Hoodecheck	Pinewoods LLC
Cathy Birkeland	Cynthia Jones	Pritzker Pucker Family Foundation
Paul T. Birkeland	Tom Kimer	Richard Provinzino
Debra Bowers	Tanya Knudson	Gingie Schmitt
Andrea Brainard	Pamela Kobriger	Tom Scott
Bob Bray	Wayne Krueger	James Shandorf
Gregory Bruggen	Evelyn L. Kvamme	Carol & Pat Sokol
Tim Conely	Linda & Paul Lee	Laura Spolum
Carolyn G. Corwin	Edith Long	John Steffen
Hollis Corwin	Matt Lyons	James Stephenson
Bryce & Carrie Craig	Peter Marrinan	Sari Sutor
Michael Cziok	Michael Marzolf	Thomas N. Tharaldson
William Eichten	Charles A. Mausbach	Stan Williamson
William H. Ellis	Butch McConn	Randau Wimmer
Evergreen Lodge Resort & Golf Course	Patrick Mcgrath	Justin Young
Tim Fischbach	Rena Mears	Ronald Ytzen
Gary Garner	Robert Milligan	Donald & Mary Sue Zelle Reed Fund
William Hanley	Jon Monson	Carol Zimmerman
Ann & Chris Hilger	Tom Naerebout	
David & Joan Hilger	Rolf Nelson	
Dr. Peter & Linda Hilger	Sandra Ondracek	
Deborah & Peter James Hilger	Charles Perkins	
Tim Hilger & Kathy Ebert	Brian Peterson	
	James Pierson	

*Note: donations made to the Northwest Minnesota Foundation website take up to a week to be recorded. Please let us know if we missed your name so we can update our records!*

# A BIG SAND STORY

## Hello and Good-Bye

Cynthia and Ellis Jones said hello to Big Sand in June 1995 when they purchased their home on County 40 on the north shore of the lake. The house, one of the newer structures on Big Sand, was built in 1989 by John Masog, a Park Rapids attorney, now deceased.

How the Joneses became Big Sanders begins like this. Ellis was a pilot for Northwest Airlines. He and Cynthia were living in Kansas City when Ellis's assignment with Northwest became Anchorage, Alaska. They were going to relocate to Minneapolis for convenience for Ellis's job. Instead, they decided on Park Rapids, arriving in November 1994. Family connections and the lure of lake country were the incentives for this decision.

Ellis spent many summers here with his parents. His father had been coming to the Park Rapids area from Kansas City for summer-long visits since childhood. Ellis's mother grew up in Park Rapids and met Ellis's father at age 16 so connection to Park Rapids was strong. Cynthia and Ellis lived in Ellis's father's cabin on Fishhook Lake from November 1994 to June 1995 when they purchased the property on Big Sand.

Cynthia immediately jumped into being active with the lake association. She was part of the group responsible for rejuvenating BSLA when the membership had dropped to a low 32. Cynthia wrote the newsletter for several years which at that time was called the Sandpiper. Cynthia also served as BSLA treasurer for 16 years, retiring from that position in 2013. Ellis also served on the BSLA Board of Directors from 2014-2019.

From May 2001 to May of 2019, Cynthia owned and operated her beautiful store, Riverbend, on main street in Park Rapids. She sold to Lyle's Shoes of Wadena now in Riverbend's location. Both Cynthia and Ellis were pillars of the downtown business community helping to make Park Rapids the vibrant community we all enjoy.

Now Cynthia and Ellis are saying good-bye to Big Sand and Park Rapids as they are moving to Colorado to be closer to family and grandchildren. They sold their home on October 15 to Kyle and Patricia Rasmussen who are starting their own Big Sand story. Kyle is a retired hospital administrator and Patricia is a family physician at Essentia Health in Park Rapids. We welcome them to the Big Sand neighborhood.

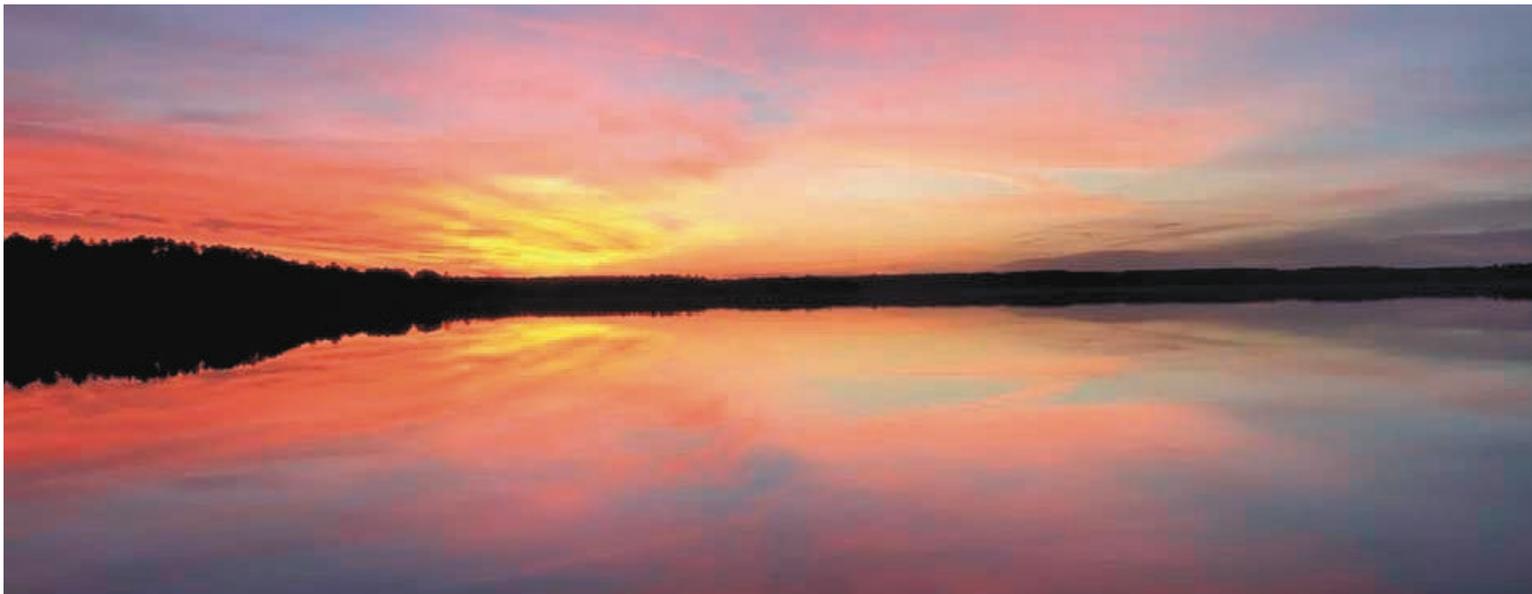
We will truly miss Cynthia and Ellis but wish them well on their new adventures. If you wish to keep in touch, their new address is 904 Wapiti Dr. Unit 11A, PO Box 2525, Fraser CO 80442.

### \*EDITOR'S NOTE:

*We hope that 'Big Sand Stories' will become a recurring feature in future newsletters.*

*Every Big Sander has a story, whether a new or a long-time resident on Big Sand. What brought you or your family to Big Sand? We look forward to hearing from you with stories about historical family cabins; newly built cabins; experiences on and around the lake; encounters with wildlife, etc.*

*If you have an idea for a story, contact [adm@bigsandlake.org](mailto:adm@bigsandlake.org). Thank you in advance for participating.*



# FALL 2021

# ALMOST NORMAL

by Liz Quaday

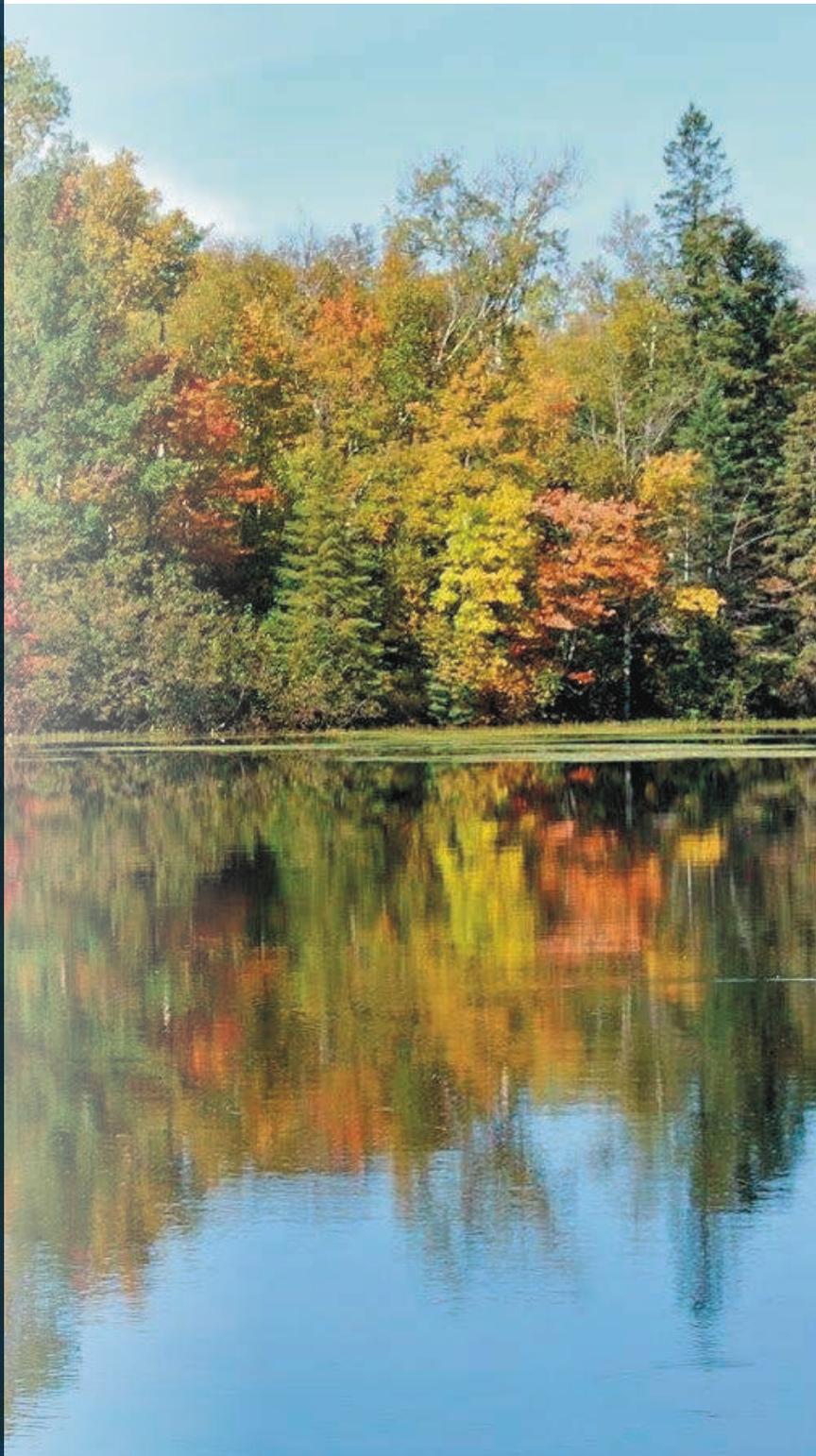
It is hard to beat a summer on Big Sand Lake... but readers of this newsletter already know that, don't we? This year, the summertime seemed especially sweet, after 2020's lockdowns and pandemic fears. Covid regulations were at least partially lifted, thanks to vaccine availability and the care taken with social distancing, and life began to feel more normal here on the Lake.

As always in the North, the transition from spring to summer happens in a rush, typically in June. This year was no different, though, as with most of the rest of the country, this summer proved to be hotter and drier than any on record. We missed our usual dose of regular thunderstorms throughout the season. The lake level went down by a foot and the grass in the ditches began to look pretty dry. There was even a large, persistent wildfire in the northeast part of the state, along with smaller blazes elsewhere. Smoke from fires in Canada (which are not suppressed in that country) blew south and made it difficult to even see across the bay for much of July and into August. Thankfully, we got a bit of a reprieve in mid-August and began to see some rain again. The woods and fields greened up, and it felt more like typical late-summer weather.

Despite the weather and ongoing covid issues, life in town and on the lake felt more normal this summer than last. Tourists returned to the Lake Country, and businesses in town reopened to do their usual trade. We happily participated in the annual Boat Parade on Big Sand Lake on a breezy July 4th. The flowers in my boxes bloomed like crazy. The swimming and boating was superb. Neighbors sunning on their docks never failed to wave as we boated by along the shoreline. Friends and family came for visits and enjoyed a share of lake time. All-in-all, it was summertime, and the livin' was easy.

It is now fully fall here on Big Sand. Summer's extra heat has proven to confuse the color in the trees this year, with various species peaking in different sequence than normal, but gorgeous nonetheless. The weather has been warm and pleasant, and the woods in their glory. We got our final boat rides in and the docks and lifts removed before the weather begins to turn cold and the snow flies. For now, the final leaves cling to the trees and the lake is largely empty of boats, but lambent in the fall sunlight. For us, autumn has become the sweetest of all seasons, a time to be savored before the harsh but beautiful cold of winter, the cycle of life.

(To read more of Liz Quaday's observations as a newcomer to life on Big Sand Lake, please visit her blog at [postcardsfromlizblog.wordpress.com](https://postcardsfromlizblog.wordpress.com)).



# IN MEMORY

## Candy Malm

*“Candy’s heart and calendar were always full...”*



We were so saddened to hear that Candy Malm passed away from a sudden health condition on January 31st, 2021. Candy was a Big Sand friend to all and a mainstay in the Big Sand Lake Association. She served on the BSLA Board and first became President in 2013 when previous president, Al Judson, stepped down to take on the treasurer’s position when Cynthia Jones retired. Candy served as President until 2017, taking on an extra year when Rich Jacobson, president-elect, passed away before he could take office.

The following wording from Candy’s obituary in the Park Rapids Enterprise on February 4, 2021, perfectly captures Candy’s spirit.

*“Candy’s heart and calendar were always full. Her smile and energy brought positivity to any situation. She loved Big Sand sunrises, long pontoon rides, and usually was the last to leave the campfire. She started the day by walking or swimming, and then would make time in the afternoon to get back outside and cross-country ski. Candy’s friends knew that she was always planning their next adventure or looking for a book to recommend for book club. She was an active community member and taught us all the importance of showing up for others. Above everything else, Candy was a loving sister, mom, and grandma.”*

Candy is survived by 3 children – Dona (Mark) Mulrooney, Blaine, MN; Jason Malm, Liberty, MO; Sam (Sheena) Malm, Dresser, MN; and 7 grandchildren who continue to be frequent Big Sand visitors.

- BSLA commemorates residents known to us who have passed away since our last communication or during the previous year. We apologize for any omissions. Family members are encouraged to submit an article about the individual’s life and connection with Big Sand Lake for publication in the Big Sand newsletter. Please contact us [admin@bigsandlake.org](mailto:admin@bigsandlake.org).

# BEST GEAR #BIGSANDLOGOS

Looking for t-shirts, sweatshirts, blankets, towels, hats, etc. embroidered with Big Sand logos? Andi Radniecki at Unknown Legend Designs just north of Dorset has designed and printed a variety of items for BSLA over the years. Most recently she created our 30th Anniversary BSLA T-Shirt. She has a variety of Big Sand logos to choose from for individual custom orders.



## UNKNOWN LEGEND DESIGNS

Bring this ad for a 10% discount on custom orders.

Selection of Sweatshirts, Hats, T-shirts, Blankets and more with Big Sand Logos

unknownlegends@msn.com • 218-255-4523 or 218-732-3314  
20878 Forest Hill Loop • Park Rapids, MN 56470



# BSLA BOARD MEMBERS

## Officers

<b>President</b> Don Kilander kilanderdon@gmail.com	<b>Vice President</b> Matt Van Bruggen m.vanbruggen@pemplaw.com
<b>Secretary</b> Jo Kilander jolkilander@gmail.com	<b>Treasurer</b> Al Judson (2017-2019) joal1969@gmail.com

## Directors

Aaron Roseth aaron.roseth@esgarch.com	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
Bob Bray (Past President) Rsbray57@gmail.com	Dan Dyre (ex-officio) Dandyre57@msn.com

## BSLA MEMBERSHIP

Thank you to all the 2021 BSLA members for supporting our lake association as we work to preserve, protect and defend our beautiful lake. If you are not currently a member, please consider joining to protect the beauty and quality of Big Sand Lake for generations to come. Information for 2022 membership will be mailed in early January.

## BIG SAND LAKE ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEER POSITIONS AWAIT YOU

Become involved and in the know. We are grateful to all our dedicated volunteers who contribute in so many ways. Meet new people who share your love for Big Sand. Studies have shown that volunteering is good for your health!

To learn more about how you can volunteer for BSLA, please reach out to one or more of the contacts below for the following opportunities:

### **SERVE ON THE BSLA BOARD**

Don Kilander, kilanderdon@gmail.com

### **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

Sue Fenton, cfenton@q.com

### **NEWSLETTER**

Barb Kimer, barbkimer@gmail.com

### **SOCIAL COMMITTEE**

Jo Kilander, jolkilander@gmail.com

### **WATER QUALITY**

Richard Provinzino, Richard.provinzino@gmail.com



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

Forwarding Service Requested

# BIG SAND LAKE 2022 CALENDAR

## **ANNUAL MEETING / FAMILY PICNIC SATURDAY, JUNE 25, PINE CONE LODGE**

If you were unable to attend the June 2021 meeting, you may catch up by reviewing the minutes of the meeting at [www.bigsandlake.org /Members Area/Board Minutes](http://www.bigsandlake.org/Members%20Area/Board%20Minutes). 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!

### **2022 SUMMER SOCIALS**

July, Date TBD  
August, Date TBD

### **ANNUAL GOLF OUTING & SOCIAL**

Headwaters Golf Club  
Saturday, September 10th

### **WOMEN'S GATHERINGS**

June through September  
2nd & 4th Mondays

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

Jo Kilander - [jolkilander@gmail.com](mailto:jolkilander@gmail.com)