



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Our hearts were broken with the unexpected passing of our President Chuck Fenton. He led BSLA with dedication and passion. Chuck enthusiastically expressed his goal to have all Big Sand residents become BSLA members. He had a plan in place and was actively working toward this goal! Chuck, since his childhood, enjoyed a long association with Big Sand Lake. His full obituary may be seen in this newsletter.

The BSLA Board is continuing to pursue Chuck's goal of 100% membership. Please complete your 2024 BSLA membership if you have not already done so.

The membership committee is actively reaching out to all residents on the lake. It is planned to print a 2025 Member Directory. Member information is being updating to be certain our data base is as accurate as possible.

The BSLA Board passed revisions to the BSLA By-Laws at their Aug 24th meeting. Chuck recognized the need for several areas of clarification. He appointed a committee Fall of 2023 to address the areas of need. Following the process specified in our current by-laws, the revised By-Laws will be presented at the 2025 annual meeting for a membership acceptance vote.

The BSLA Board is working to improve the placement and removal of marker buoys on the lake. Please see the Buoy update article!

A Big Thank You to Dana and James Phelps for hosting our Aug. 10th BSLA Social. The large turnout enjoyed a beautiful evening of camaraderie. Our hosts graciously opened their historic property for viewing. A surprise to many is a cave on the property that retains a year-round temperature of 55 degrees!

A large, enthusiastic group enjoyed Ladies Socials throughout the Summer and Fall! Our annual September golf outing and social has been renamed The Chuck Fenton Memorial Golf Classic. Chuck loved the game of golf and led this BSLA event for many years.

Very good news — The Sept 10th RMB water sample lab reports show no Zebra Mussel Veligers detected in Big Sand Lake! The report lists 13 area lakes testing negative for Zebra Mussel Veliger and Spiny Water Fleas.

RMB Labs, who analyze our water samples will be producing a 7-year report to be completed by the end of 2024. You may find RMB 5-year reports going back to 2012 on our website under the Water Quality tab. The 2022 update was not completed (Covid) and the 7-year report will bring us up to date.

Welcome our new board members, Barb Billing, Craig Bryce, Justin Young, and Wick Corwin!

Thank You to All our Volunteers! We all know without our many volunteers and generous members, BSLA would not be the strong lake association we are proud of today! The BSLA board welcomes your comments and concerns. Please contact me or any board member.

Catharine Williamson
BSLA@BigSandLake.org or CWilliamson@SpiritW.com





CHARLES "CHUCK" FENTON

CHARLES FENTON

MARCH 20, 1949 — JULY 19, 2024
LITCHFIELD, MN

Charles Fenton, A man of great character with a joy for life has left us far too early. Charles 'Chuck' H. Fenton, of Litchfield, MN passed away on July 19th, at his lake home in Park Rapids, MN, after a short and heartbreaking battle with pancreatic cancer. Chuck was surrounded by his loving wife, Sue and two children, Josh and Cassie as he made his way to his forever home. A visitation will be held Thursday, July 25th at Johnson-Hagglund Funeral Home in Litchfield, MN from 4 – 7pm. A funeral service will be held Friday, July 26th at First Lutheran Church in Litchfield, MN at 1pm, followed by an interment at the Lake Ripley Cemetery and a reception at the Litchfield Golf Club on Lake Ripley.

Chuck was born on March 20, 1949, in Litchfield, MN. He was born to Richard (Dick) and Margaret (Maggie) Fenton and was the oldest of 3, with two sisters, Deborah (Debbie) and Susan (Suzy). At a young age, the Fenton Family moved to Scottsdale, Arizona, where Chuck spent some of his younger years playing in the deserts of Arizona. When Chuck was 16, his family moved back to Litchfield, where his father, Dick, came back to help run the family car dealership, Fenton Motors. Chuck graduated from Litchfield High School in 1967.

Chuck attended the University of Minnesota and received a bachelor's degree in political science. While attending the U of M, Chuck was a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity. He always spoke of the fond memories he had living at the fraternity house with his fraternity brothers.

Following his days at the U of M, Chuck started his professional career working as a realtor in the Twin Cities. During this time, he met his beloved wife, Susan (Sue) Stenberg. Chuck and Sue met while living in the same apartment complex in Bloomington, MN. You might say it was love at first sight, because 3 weeks later, Chuck proposed to Sue and they were married 3 months later, on October 12th, 1974, in Annandale, MN. Following their marriage, Chuck and Sue resided in Burnsville, MN, where Chuck continued his real estate career and Sue worked as a teacher in Bloomington. In 1975, Chuck and Sue moved back to Chuck's hometown, Litchfield, where Chuck joined the family business, helping run Fenton Motors, while Sue worked as an elementary school teacher in Litchfield. Chuck and Sue welcomed their son, Josh in 1979 and daughter, Cassie in 1982.

Chuck was an active leader in the Litchfield community his entire life. He served as a member on the City Council, youth hockey board and First Lutheran Church council. Additionally, he was the President of the Litchfield Kiwanis Club, and he started a Ducks Unlimited chapter. One of Chuck's greatest passions in life was golfing. For many years he served as a board member and president for Golf Club Inc. The Litchfield Golf Course and its community were near and dear to his heart.

Some of Chuck's hobbies included hunting, fishing and golfing. He loved the outdoors and spending time at his lake home in Park Rapids, MN on Big Sand Lake, where upon his passing was serving as the President of the Big Sand Lake Association.

In Chuck's retirement years he worked part-time at 2nd Swing in Minnetonka. I think if you asked him his favorite job he ever had, this would be it. He loved all his colleagues and spoke of the fun times he had often.

Most of all, Chuck adored his family, his wife Sue, his children, Josh (Lindsay) and Cassie (Chris) and his 5 Grandkids, Ryan (15), Luke (12), Drew (9), Grace (12), and Charlie (10). As his grandkids grew, his favorite thing to do became watching them play hockey, baseball, softball, football, basketball, and golf. They adored him just as much as he adored them. Our hearts are broken upon the passing of our husband, father and grandfather but we are comforted knowing he was greeted upon his passing by the family and friends that have gone before him, including his grandparents, parents, sister Debbie and the many friends.

Everyone who met Chuck became a fast friend, because of his vibrant personality and love of a great party. For those that knew him well, you know this to be true. If you take nothing more from your friendship with Chuck, our family hopes you carry on his legacy for living with a positive approach to life and that you remember what is most important...faith, family, friendship and love.

Memorials will be used for Litchfield Youth Sports, First Lutheran Church and the Big Sand Lake Association.

BIG SAND LAKE

CHARITABLE FUND

Update

Celebrate the Past



Prepare for the Future

The BSLA Charitable Fund Committee would like to gratefully acknowledge and thank the many lake home and cabin owners who responded to our 2024 joint spring appeal by both renewing their membership dues and by contributing to the Charitable Fund!

The Charitable Fund, which was established by the BSLA in 2009 and is managed by the Northwest Minnesota Foundation, is a special endowment fund to “preserve, protect and enhance Big Sand Lake and its environs.” This past year the fund was used to pay for a professional aquatic vegetative survey of Big Sand and to pay for critical DNR watercraft inspection at the public access.

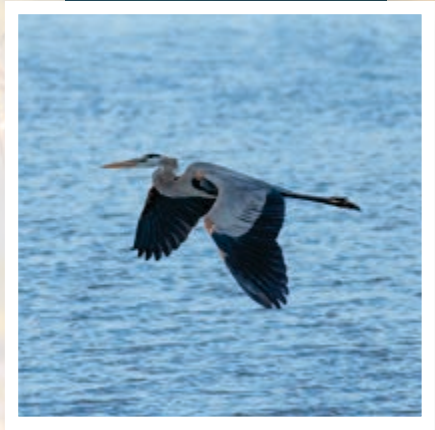
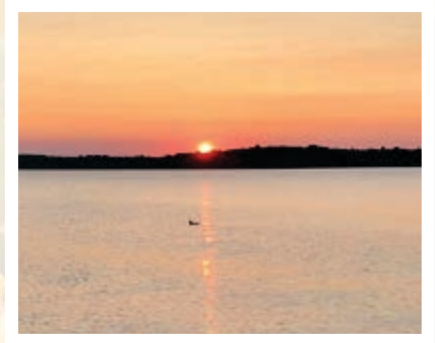
To date, Big Sand Lake remains aquatic invasive species infestation free, while other lakes in Minnesota are added to the state infested waters list one by one. Indeed, nearby Long Lake in Park Rapids is currently being treated for Starry Stonewort infestation. According to the Minnesota DNR website, Starry Stonewort grows “dense mats at the water’s surface that inhibit water recreationists, overtakes habitat and outcompetes native aquatic plants and provides unsuitable shelter, food and nesting habitat for native animals.” It is very expensive for a lake to treat. The BSLA and the Charitable Fund Committee want to grow the Fund to be prepared to address any potential lake emergency like this.

A record 103 BSLA Members generously made contributions to the Charitable Fund this past year to support our work to protect Big Sand! If you missed the campaign, donations are welcome and appreciated all year long at the bigsandlake.org website.

We heartily thank you for your participation and your care of Big Sand Lake!

With appreciation,

Your Charitable Fund Committee Chair
Ann Hilger, Chris Hilger, Linda Lee



DONORS TO THE CHARITABLE FUND

- | | | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Virginia Anderson | Tim Daugherty | Pete and Debbie Hilger | Charles A. Mausbach | Pat Ryan |
| Anonymous | Larry Durand | Peter and Linda Hilger | Butch McConn | Steven Schell |
| Robert Armstrong | Dan Dyre | Tim Hilger and Kathy Ebert | Patrick Mcgrath | Scott Schmidt |
| Russell L. Beernink | William Eichten | Tricia Hilger | Jon and Mary Monson | Thomas Scott |
| Eric Billing | William H. Ellis | Don Hoodecheck | Megan D. Mueller | Randall Seaver |
| Cathy Birkeland | Jim Emerson | Mark Hoodecheck | John P. Nelson | James Shandorf |
| Paul T. Birkeland | Chuck and Sue Fenton | Graham Johnson | Rolf Nelson | Jeffrey Shandorf |
| David Bergman | Tim H. Fischbach | Jill A. Johnson | Kay Netteberg | Steven Schell |
| Chris Billing | Gene Fladeboe | Michael J. Johnson | Carl L. Nippert | Mary Schrock |
| Eric Billing | Steven J. Fuglestad | Julie A. Kempin | James S. Nippert | Carol and Pat Sokol |
| Debra Bowers | Gary Garner | Don and Jo Kilander | Deanna J. Norman | John Steffen |
| Diana Brainard | Richard Gilbery | Thomas Kimer | Sandra Ondracek | Shari L. Sutor |
| John C. Brainard | Stanislaus D. Goltz | Kathryn H. Kimpton | David Paster | Thomas N. Tharaldson |
| Robert S. Bray | Katherine Gottsch | Pamela Kobriger | Charles Patterson | Thomas P. Van Bruggen |
| William J. Brock | Mark H. Gulbrandson | Wayne Krueger | Brian F. Peterson | Yvonne K. Waters |
| Gregory Bruggen | William Hanley | Constance Larson | James Pierson | Ken Wilcox |
| Kurt Carlson | Douglas R. Herman | Mark Larsen | Pinewoods LLC | Stan and Catharine Williamson |
| Tim S. Conely | Tim Hestness | Paul and Linda Lee | Paula Prael | Randau Wimmer |
| Hollis Corwin | Hilger Compound, LLC | Jeffrey Lewis | Richard J. Provinzino | |
| Bryce and Carrie Craig | Chris and Ann Hilger | Matt Lyons | Susan B. Quinn | |
| Mike G. Cziok | Dave and Joan Hilger | Peter Marrinan | Kyle Rasmussen | |

BIG SAND LAKE: WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE REPORT

We continue to closely monitor water quality on Big Sand Lake. The water clarity of Big Sand has improved this year and is back to the last 20-year averages of 20-30' depending on the time of year. A number of Zebra Mussel traps have been placed to enable early detection of any infestation on our lake. We have engaged RMD to give us an update report on our lakes' health which hasn't been done for over 7 years. Steve Kimpton has done a good job of keeping abreast of the COLA meetings as our representative and building Zebra Mussel traps as well as working with the MPCA helping monitor water clarity. We are applying to the DNR for signage at the Public Access and including a cleaning brush, tongs and boat drain wrench to encourage cleaning and draining boats at the public access.

Of interest the U of M has excellent information on AIS and the 2023 Mn DNR Fisheries Lake Survey Report is available for Big Sand at dnr.state.mn.us.

Bob Bray, Gene Fladeboe, Randy Seaver & Rich Provinzino will continue to help monitor lake clarity and deliver water samples to RMB labs for analysis.

Rich Provinzino
Committee Chair



Rain Garden Update

SPONSORED BY BIG SAND LAKE ASSOCIATION



2009

The BSLA Rain Garden grant project located at the Lake Emma Access was planted following a BSLA Minnesota Extension workshop in the Summer of 2009. This summer, a BSLA team led by Wick Corwin assessed the possibility of restoring the Rain Garden. The area has experienced significant vegetative growth over the years, and it was determined restoration was not feasible. Please see the photo comparison in foliage from 2009 to 2024.



2024



BIG SAND LAKE *4th of July* BOAT PARADE



The annual Big Sand Lake Boat parade went off on the 4th of July with the weather cooperating this year! We once again had a nice turn out and thank Bill Eichen for leading the way with his beautiful Chris Craft. Everyone enjoyed a delicious treat this year with a dock drive-by ice cream social hosted by the Williamson family! Everyone loved it, and we cannot thank them enough for adding to the fun festivities for the 4th of July.

Moments of Joy on Big Sand Lake



Erik Pederson (Fairchild) and his now fiancé, Hannah Edelen, made their marriage announcement official on July 5th, 2024, with an engagement on the beach of Big Sand Lake. Hannah, born and raised in Springfield, Kentucky, served as Miss Kentucky beginning in June of 2022 and ended her term one year later in June of 2023. Hannah and Erik met through their mutual professor and friend, Dr. Gaut Ragsdale, who taught both at their alma mater, NKU. Their journey together began in December of 2018, and they are excited to tie the knot officially on September 5th of 2025.

BIG SAND LAKE BUOY UPDATE

The BSLA Board has been working to improve Buoy placement. TJ Erickson (fishing guide), who spoke at our 2024 annual meeting, has agreed to place/remove the buoys for the upcoming 2025 season. Dan Dyer, who placed & removed the buoys for many years will help TJ get started. Dan has agreed to store the buoys at Evergreen Resort. The BSLA board intends to have the larger buoys, which are owned by the association, installed for the 2025 season.

BIG SAND LAKE ASSOCIATION: ANNUAL MEETING

The Big Sand Lake Annual Meeting was held at Pine Cone Lodge on Saturday, June 22. The weather did not cooperate, and we were very fortunate to be accommodated by Pine Cone Lodge inside the old lodge building, which was very comfortable and dry! T.J. Erickson of T.J.'s Guide Service was our guest speaker this year.



WELCOME BIG SAND LAKE ASSOCIATION NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Please extend a warm welcome our new Board Members, Barb Billing, Bryce Craig, Wick Corwin, and Justin Young. We always welcome volunteers and encourage you to reach out to our President, Catherine Williamson, if you have an interest in serving on our board or participating in one of the BSLA committees.

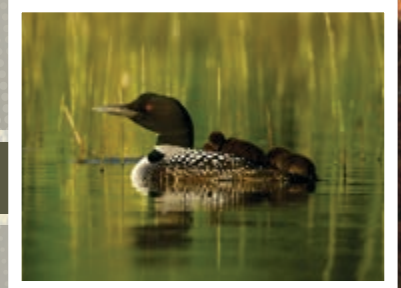
BARB BILLING

Barb and her husband Eric live on Big Sand, having moved full-time to the lake in 2021. Eric's family ran the Hurd's Acres resort for over 30 years. Eric and Barb purchased the Hurd's Acres Lodge and adjacent property from Eric's family in 2017 and rebuilt the lodge so it could be a year around home. Barb and Eric have two grown daughters (Dana and Laura) and two grandsons (Alan and Henry). Barb grew up in Wadena. Prior to retiring, Barb worked in the healthcare industry leading change efforts. Barb enjoys spending time with family and friends, paddle boarding, sailing, waterskiing and cruising around Big Sand



BRYCE CRAIG

Bryce and his wife (Carrie) and their boys Evan (12) and Oliver (11) love everything about the Big Sand Lake community. They live in Edina, MN and Bryce works for Holmes Murphy Insurance brokerage. He was introduced to Big Sand Lake 17 years ago and his family enjoys time and all the fun activities outdoors (boating, hiking, fishing, golfing, snowshoeing) when they are at the cabin. Bryce is excited to help with the longevity of our beautiful lake and looks forward to meeting more of the BSL community.



WICK CORWIN

Wick is a lawyer and former judge. He lives on the north side of the lake with his wife Holly. Their property is part of a homestead Wick's grandparents purchased in 1926.



JUSTIN YOUNG

Justin Young has been at Cool Ridge since 2019 but has been visiting Big Sand for several years prior. He is married to Jamie, and they have two boys, Isaak (13) and Parker (12).

Jamie is Vice President of Innovation and Product Strategy at BI WORLDWIDE. Justin was raised in Minnetonka, but currently resides in Hopkins. He attended the University of Minnesota. He has coached boys' varsity lacrosse for 13 years and been a wine buyer for almost 15 years at various establishments in the metro area. He is excited to bring his diverse background to the BSLA and support the greatest lake in Minnesota!



IN MEMORY

*Memories made of friends
forever in our hearts*



*Marcy
Berglund*

Marcy Berglund, long time Big Sand Lake summer resident, passed away on May 23, 2024. Marcy and her late husband Paul purchased their cabin on Big Sand in 1968. Marcy loved being at the lake, her most treasured times were spent with family and friends that came every summer, a tradition that started in 1968. She spent all her summers on Big Sand until 2014 when the family cabin was sold.

Marcy served on the BSLA board and was thrilled to design the logo for Big Sand, the lake she loved so much. An accomplished artist, her inspiration came from living at the lake and she strove to bring the beauty and peace of God's creation to the viewer through her paintings.

A memorial service was held at St. Philip the Deacon Lutheran Church in Plymouth Minnesota on September 20th, 2024. Interment at Riverside Cemetery, Fargo, North Dakota on Monday, October 7th, 2024, at 11:00 a.m.

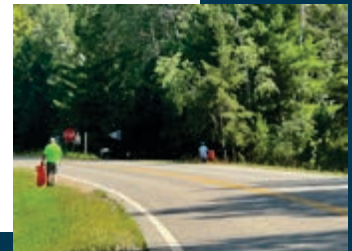
Full obituary can be found at:
<https://www.davidleefuneralhome.com/obituary/Marcia-Berglund>

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

If you wish, memorial donations may be made to the Big Sand Charitable Fund. A link for donating is on our website, www.bigsandlake.org.

BIG SAND LAKE CLEAN UP: COUNTY ROAD 40

Wick Corwin organized a group of BSLA volunteers for a County Road 40 clean up Aug 24th. The group split-up covering the area between County Road 7 and County Road 4. Several large trash bags of litter were collected. Thank You for a job well done!



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

Forwarding Service Requested

BIG SAND LAKE: SOCIAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Serving as Big Sand Social Chair for a few years has been such a rewarding experience for me! Being in this position has enabled me to get to know many of the most wonderful, caring people who make up our Big Sand extended family! One of the highlights for me this summer was getting to know Dana and James Phelps after they reached out saying that they'd love to share their historic Pointhouse on the Bay with our BSLA membership. Many of you were able to join us in August for the potluck social and tour the 1918 cabin and outbuildings, which included the original root cellar! Thank you, Dana and James!

The BSLA Ladies, always up for an opportunity to socialize, got together at Bella Café, 218 Ventures (thanks to Barb Billing), and Muskie Waters Co. (thanks to Sherry Preusse) for coffee and/or drinks. A final get-together at Wine Not? in Park Rapids is being planned for late September.

The weather was perfect for our recent Golf Scramble and Taco Bar Social at the Headwaters Golf Club. Mike Cziok led both golfers and non-golfers in an emotional toast honoring his best friend, Chuck Fenton, former BSLA President and longtime lake resident, who passed away earlier this summer. The annual event will now be called the Chuck Fenton Memorial Golf Scramble as a tribute to Chuck who organized the golf scramble for years. Thanks to Mike Cziok and Barb Kimer for helping to organize this well-attended event.

Please email or text me with your contact information if you want to be added to my "BSLA Ladies" distribution list for future ladies' events.

Jo Kilander • BSLA Social Chair
701-361-9871 • jolkilander@gmail.com

