



# *A View From the Lake*

*Little Sand Lake Area Association*  
22898 County 7      Park Rapids, MN 56470

*Spring 2015*

**PLEASE NOTE: The new LSLAA website mentioned in some articles in this newsletter will be available mid-June. More information will be available at our Annual Meeting.**

## **President's Report**

*Wayne Swanson, President, LSLAA*

### **Little Sand Lake Website**

At our annual meeting in June we will be announcing our new Little Sand Lake website. We are blessed to have Diane Smith and Karen Netland developing our website.

With the new website we will be better able to keep you, our LSLAA members and non-members, informed about our lake and our lake association. In addition to upcoming events, we want to have our board meeting minutes, treasurer's report, and vital lake information posted on the website.

### **AIS Boat Inspection Funding**

In 2014, the State of Minnesota provided \$10,000,000 per year to help counties around Minnesota stop the spread of AIS. This means that the major portion of funding for our lake inspectors will be paid from state funds. The state is also funding research at the University of Minnesota on the eradication of Zebra Mussels.

### **Lake Level**

With the lack of snow this winter, our lake level started out low. However, we have finally gotten some badly-needed rain in May, which thankfully also decreased our fire danger after being in drought condition earlier this spring.

### **Get Involved**

The lake association is always looking for volunteers. Opportunities include being on the lake association board (you do not have to live on

the lake year around to be a board member, as we often teleconference our board meetings), helping at the fishing contest, doing lake water monitoring and testing, joining one of the committees or just helping with roadside pick-up on County 50.

All are welcome and we will match you with an opportunity. New ideas and suggestions for Little Sand Lake are always welcome.

*I hope to see you at our LSLAA Annual Meeting in June.*

*Wayne*

## **County 50 Road Pickup**

A big **THANK YOU** to those who helped “pick the ditch” along County 50 this past year, and again this spring on Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>.

The next 2015 scheduled road pickup dates are **Wednesday, July 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 a.m. and Saturday, September 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.** We meet at the corner of Glacier Drive and County 50. Wear your gloves. Bags and brightly-colored visibility vests are provided.

## **LSLAA Annual Meeting**

**Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup>**

***Northwoods Bank Community Room***

***Park Rapids***

***8:30 a.m. Registration and coffee***

***9:00 a.m. Meeting, followed by  
door prize drawings.***

***Please plan to attend this important meeting.***

## **SOCIAL COMMITTEE** **2015 — The Year Ahead**

*by Denise Kisser, Social Committee Chair*

The LSLAA Social Committee welcomed Janet McMillen to our committee for 2015. We are so very grateful for her willingness to keep all of you informed of our many summer activities by posting email announcements and updating our new web page calendar. We will not be passing out paper event calendars this year. If you do not have access to a computer, please let us know and an activity agenda will be sent to you.

The LSLAA Social Committee welcomes **all of you** back to the lake with our traditional **“Welcome Back Snowbirds” breakfast at Emmaville on Thursday May 21 at 9:00 AM. Summer coffees will start on June 3 at 10:00AM at Dar and Wayne Swanson’s home** and will continue throughout the summer at various homes on the lake.

The ladies of Little Sand Lake are invited to **“Ladies Day Out” on June 24**. We will be attending the play *Almost Maine* at the Long Lake Theater at 3:00 followed by dinner at the Hilltop Restaurant (I am sure rain is scheduled for that day!)

**Family Day at Itasca State Park has been planned for Wednesday, July 21**. We will gather for a potluck picnic by the Douglas Lodge Shelter at 11:30 AM with an optional boat ride on Lake Itasca at 2:00 PM. A perfect outing for all those restless children gathered at your cabin!

It would not be summer on Little Sand without a **“Full Moon Pontoon Gathering.”** On Friday, July 31 at 8:30 PM, you are invited to join us in your pontoon or boat in the middle of the lake to watch the full “blue” moon rise over the lake!

Additional opportunities to meet new and old neighbors will continue by walking the Heartland Trail, joining the quilters or attending the planned dining events at our local restaurants. Please watch your email and web site calendars for all summer activities and **join us!**

*Your Social Committee,  
Denise Kisser, Chair – 732-9678  
Dar Swanson – 699-3447  
Janice Peters – 732-9507  
Janet McMillen – 699-3230*

## **SOCIAL COMMITTEE** **2014 — Last Year in Review**

*by Denise Kisser, Social Committee Chair*

*“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times” ...Charles Dickens*

Mr. Dickens could have been writing about the summer of 2014 on Little Sand Lake! Two of our favorite wonderful ladies, gracious hostesses, and grand supporters of lake life and social activities on Little Sand left us last summer! Dorothy Melby passed away in July, and June Thompson moved to Cambridge, Minnesota in August. Their presence here with us is greatly missed!

Despite the cool temperatures and days of rain, the sun seemed to shine on our social activities! *Thank you to Dar & Wayne Swanson, Mary Nelson, MaJeana and Dolly Hallstrom, and Punky and Don Catlin for hosting Wednesday morning coffees.*

The ladies of Little Sand started the summer with a *“Victorian Brunch”* at the Park Street Inn. There they enjoyed together the charm of the 1912 home, now a Nevis Bed & Breakfast, and delighted in the delicious food prepared by the owner.

One of our favorite activities, kayaking down the Fish Hook River was once again organized by our fearless leader, Larry Bexell. No experience was necessary...just ask Phyllis Trutna who entertained us with more water inside her kayak than outside of it!

The sun shone on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade and the fishing contest. Fun for all ages! Some of us did not let the unusually cool evenings deter us from attending the Full Moon Pontoon Gatherings! Many of us bundled up in jackets and blankets to watch the glorious full moon rise and sparkle on the lake.

Our August ladies luncheon included a *Garden Walk* this year. We shared a perfect day viewing the gardens of Char Westrum, Maggi Yerkes, Punky Catlin, Wannie Johnson and Janet McMillen! Each garden was spectacular and unique to its own environment. A special thank you to each of them, to everyone who contributed food and especially to Janet McMillen who hosted our luncheon *al fresco* with tables on the lawn spread with beautiful china and special linens (such fun!)

When we could not be outside (or were tired of cooking for company) we were dining at the Hilltop Inn, Blueberry Pines, Emmaville, Zorbaz, Bogeys, Dorset Café, LaPasta, Brauhaus and sadly for the last time at Companeros before it was consumed by fire. We closed the year with our annual Christmas Party at Necce's followed by an "After Party" at Tony and Maggie Yerkes' residence.

All of these activities including the Annual Meeting, End of Year Picnic, quilting, and walking together on the Heartland Trail were available to you as a resident of Little Sand Lake. If you missed them, we look forward to seeing you this summer. **Please watch your email and web page calendar for event dates and times.**

If you are interested in serving on the social committee please contact Denise Kissler at 732-9678.

Thank you to my great 2014 committee members, Dar Swanson and Janice Peters and to everyone who attended activities and offered kind words of support.

*Your 2014 Social Committee,*  
*Denise Kissler - 732-9678*  
*Dar Swanson - 732-4936*  
*Janice Peters - 732-9507*

## INTERESTED IN KAYAKING?

Larry Bexell would like again this summer. Last about three hours. All

Those who have gone and the beauty of the vehicles at the end (on starting point.



to lead a kayaking trip down the Fish Hook River year we had 12 kayakers for our trip, which takes levels of paddlers are welcome.

the past two summers have enjoyed the journey riverside. We paddle downstream and leave Hwy. 87) to return kayaks and people back to the

If you want to join us and don't have access to a kayak, let us know. We can locate some kayaks to borrow.

**Interested?** Contact the Bexells: 218-699-3876 or [larbex2@gmail.com](mailto:larbex2@gmail.com). A kayak venture is often planned on short notice, depending on the weather. If we know you would like to participate, we can email you once plans are made.

## ~ CONDOLENCES ~

**Our sincere sympathies are extended to  
the families and friends of**

**Dorothy Melby.** Long-time Little Sand resident Dorothy Melby, passed away July 20, 2014, just a week before her 88<sup>th</sup> birthday, as result of a fall while staying in Virginia near family for the winter months. Always an active part of our activities, Dorothy is deeply missed. She was an inspiration to all of us.

**Peggy Shotwell.** Also a long-time Little Sand resident, Peggy Shotwell, 81, passed away on September 14<sup>th</sup>. Peggy had recently moved to May Creek Lodge in Walker. Her daughter, Diane Vinge, is a seasonal resident on Little Sand.

**Marian Kohlmeyer.** Former Little Sand resident Marian Kohlmeyer, 88, passed away on October 11<sup>th</sup> in Fergus Falls. Marian was secretary of LSLAA for several years and moved to Fergus Falls after the death of her husband, Dr. Al Kohlmeyer, in 1992. Their son Charles (Joan) Kohlmeyer is a seasonal resident of Little Sand.

**Carlene Day.** Carlene Day, 75, wife of Tracy Day, passed away from ARDS on September 7<sup>th</sup>. Residents on Little Sand since 1965, they have enjoyed their last several winters in Branson, Missouri, attending shows and the warmer winters. Carlene and Tracy enjoyed their Minnesota summers on Little Sand.Lake.

**Wally Vokes.** Former long-time resident Wally Vokes, 90, passed away November 11<sup>th</sup>. He and his wife Katherine ran Shoreham Acres Resort for 15 years after the death of Katherine's parents, and enjoyed welcoming guests, fishing, rebuilding the boathouse and watching deer.

**Mary Linder.** Mary L. Linder, 79, of Park Rapids, passed away February 19, under the care and concern of the staff of the Heritage Cottages and Hospice of Park Rapids. Mary and husband Bob moved to Little Sand in 1992. Over the years, she played the organ in many churches and for countless weddings and funerals. Mary was pianist for the Upper Mississippians for several years.

**George J Ruberto,** 87, Robbinsdale, MN passed away October 28, 2014. George and Mary Ann (deceased) Ruberto built their cabin on Little Sand in 1962.and spent many wonderful summers with their children, grandchildren, family members, friends and many pets. Daughter Debi Ruberto-Solt, Minneapolis will continue the family tradition of maintaining the cabin and enjoying the summers on the lake with her children, grandchild, friends and pets. Next to the Minnesota Vikings....Little Sand Lake was the light of George's life.

## Little Sand 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Fishing Contest Saturday, August 1, 2015

### Meet at the Public Access

5:00-5:30 PM – Registration (\$1.00)

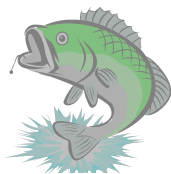
5:30 to 7:30 – Fishing

7:30 – Prizes Awarded

Categories: Under 10 years of age

10-18 years of age

Over 18 years of age



This is our 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Little Sand Fishing Contest. Have your families put this on their calendars NOW so they can plan to be here. Children and adults both have a great time! The last few years, the fishing contest has coincided with the Taste of Dorset weekend, since many families come to visit that weekend. Due to the fiery destruction of Companeros and Dorset House last fall, plans for Taste of Dorset, which would normally be August 2<sup>nd</sup>, are now tentative.

**Fun for all!** Prizes are awarded in each age group for the largest Northern, Walleye, Crappie, Bass, Sunfish and Rock Bass. We also have drawings for door prizes donated by area merchants.

**Volunteers are needed to help with the fishing contest. Please call Jerry Swedger (732-4609).**



## Little Sand's Loons, Eagles and Osprey

**The first loons were sighted on Little Sand around April 8<sup>th</sup>, about a week before the ice went off the lake.** That's always a reassuring sign of spring being right around the corner. (Seems that spring has come and gone around the corner a few times since then, doesn't it?)

**Dick Peters asks that everyone be respectful of our loons as they nest. PLEASE, stay away from nests!** Do not use loon calls during the time when the loons are on the nests as this may cause them to abandon the eggs.

There are currently three platforms on Little Sand. Dick has been the DNR's official observer for many years, with Roger Hochsprung now assisting him. **If you see a loon nest or baby loons, please call Dick (732-9507) or Roger (218-639-9591) to report them. If you see anyone harassing the loons, report it to the DNR or the Sheriff.**



## Dock Name Signs

Summer Little Sand residents Larry and Karen Odegard are again making name signs to be mounted on the lakeside end of your dock. Names are routed into composite decking material preventing any water rotting issues. There are already over 25 signs on our Little Sand Lake.

Sign panels are 5½" high, and have letters 4½" in height for easy reading from the water, with the length depending on the number of letters in your name. The signs have a Little Sand Lake logo in lighter blue color and your name can be done in any of several standard colors. Cost is \$45.00 for the first seven letters and \$5.00 additional per letter after seven. Five dollars (\$5.00) of that price is donated to Little Sand AIS Fund. These are high-quality signs and a real value for the price.

**Samples for will be available at our Annual Meeting** and orders will be taken there, or contact Larry or Karen: 218-732-7310, cell 303-709-8635, or [karlar2670@gmail.com](mailto:karlar2670@gmail.com), **Custom road signs are also available.**

## "Ice Over" and "Ice Out"

This is the 24th year Little Sand Lake has participated in the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Volunteer Monitoring Program. Thanks to Mary Groehler and the late Vern Thompson for helping with these records.

**Ice Over: Ice over occurred on November 21, 2014**, the earliest date since 1997, which was November 17. The earliest recorded dates that Little Sand iced over are both November 14, 1995 and 1996.

**Ice Out: This "spring" ice went off the lake on April 15<sup>th</sup>.** In 2012, the ice went out on March 27<sup>th</sup>, which was the earliest ice out in 19 years, due to the "non-winter" of 2011-2012.

A new record for low snowfall during the winter quite possibly was set this past winter, when many or most of us never had to have our driveways plowed! *(Editor's Note: At least that's a first for us in our almost 29 years as property owners on Little Sand.)*

## Upper Mississippians Zorbaz Summer Schedule

We will miss Denny and Gwen Block on Little Sand, but are happy the great band Denny organized and led will play on! Denny and Gwen have recently moved to California to be closer to family.

The Upper Mississippians will continue under the direction of Deane Johnson, with their full complement of instrumentalists. They will begin their 2015 summer run at Zorbaz on Sunday afternoon, June 28<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-5:00. Other Sunday afternoons scheduled this summer are:

**July 12 and July 26 -- 2:00-5:00**

**August 9 and August 23 -- 2:00-5:00**

Enjoy an afternoon of dancing and listening to great music when this talented group of local musicians entertains at Zorbaz.

### ARE YOU NEW TO LITTLE SAND? OR HAVE A NEW NEIGHBOR?

If so, contact Maggi Yerkes (699-3193). She has a Little Sand Welcome Packet and a Park Rapids Residents' Guide filled with valuable information and other items very helpful to new residents on Little Sand Lake.

### PLEASE REMEMBER:

Before leaving and before launching...  
**inspect everything!**



## LSLAA Aquatic Invasive Species Committee Update

*by Marshall Howe, AIS Committee Chair*

For 2015, the Minnesota legislature has appropriated \$10 million to Minnesota local government bodies for AIS (aquatic invasive species) prevention. Little Sand Lake, which has previously relied totally on member support and grants from Lake Emma Township for such efforts, is a beneficiary of this important new program. This year the State's allocation translates to \$4,896 (!) to Little Sand Lake to cover 288 hours of watercraft inspections by trained summer employees of the Hubbard County Soil and Water Conservation District at the public access.

The Little Sand Lake Board has discussed our goals for 2015 inspections and is proposing upping the State's coverage by an additional 222 inspection hours, with the additional hours funded by our own AIS budget supplemented by another Lake Emma Township grant. This will give us many more inspection hours than in the past with significantly less financial contribution from our members. At the time of this writing, we have requested \$2,500 from the Township's Healthy Lakes Partnership Program. If awarded,

**LSLAA will allocate a match of \$1,274 from its AIS budget.** The timing of inspections proposed is partly based on last year's summary of car entrances and exits recorded by the car counter that we purchased and that was installed at the access. These data reveal the most likely time for boat launches and exits. Therefore, this year's inspection schedule should result in a more efficient deployment of inspectors for intercepting watercraft launches.

This summer we will continue our surveys of aquatic vegetation and zebra mussels and then re-evaluate whether these surveys are the best use of our volunteer effort.

**As always, we hope for more volunteers from the membership to help us prevent introduction of invasive species into our lake chain.**

## **Sandhill Crane Observations Needed!**

In recent years, an Minnesota have overlapping in birds migrate to Southwest.



eastern and a western population of sandhill cranes in expanded their breeding ranges and now may be Hubbard and adjacent counties. The easternmost Florida and the western ones to Texas and the

A graduate student at where cranes are

(parents with young) of cranes between now and the end July, please make a note of the precise location (including whether on public or private land) and let me know right away at 699-3230 or [howe.mcmillen@gmail.com](mailto:howe.mcmillen@gmail.com).

the U of M is studying this and would like to know nesting in our area. **If you see a pair or family**

I will pass the information on to the student, who hopes to radio-track their migration routes. Thanks much!  
-- Marshall Howe

### **Stay Informed...Keep Us Informed**

If you have news or other information of importance and/or interest to our Little Sand Board and/or property owners—or a change in address or email for our directory—email or phone that information to Renee Bexell: [larbex2@gmail.com](mailto:larbex2@gmail.com) or 218-699-3876. It can be forwarded to those for whom we have email addresses, put on our website, or included in our spring or fall newsletters.

**If you aren't receiving our newsletters and/or other Little Sand information by email throughout the year and you have an email address, please send it to Janet McMillen, [howe.mcmillen@gmail.com](mailto:howe.mcmillen@gmail.com), our LSLAA email coordinator.**

### **LSLAA PIZZA NIGHTS**

**Zhateau Zorbaz on Little Sand**

**5:00 P.M. the last Monday every month.**

*(See 2-for-1 beverage coupon below.)*

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Other LSLAA social events include in-home coffees, dinner at area restaurants, full moon pontoon connections, and a large variety of other fun get-togethers. These gatherings are a great way to get acquainted. Watch for your emails and on our new website. **Come and join the fun!**



ZORBAZ COUPON - ZORBAZ COUPON - ZORBAZ COUPON

Buy one beverage  
get a second beverage  
of equal or lesser value  
**F R E E**  
(one free beverage per coupon)

N

zorbaz  
ON THE LAKE

Name

**Zhateau Zorbaz**

22036 County 7 Park Rapids, MN 218-732-1969

## Your Membership in LSLAA

For current members, we thank you for your membership and encourage your continued participation.

If you are not currently a member of Little Sand Lake Area Association (only \$30/year), we ask you to join. **ALL LAKE RESIDENTS ARE BENEFITED by the workings and financial support of Little Sand's dues-paying lake association members.**

Included in this newsletter is a membership form to complete and mail with your check.

**Please complete and enclose this form with your 2015 annual dues of \$30 per family membership.** Checks are to be made payable to LSLAA and mailed to *Charlotta "Punky" Catlin, 22898 County 7, Park Rapids, MN 56470* or paid at our Annual Meeting.

\_\_\_\_\_ **ENCLOSED IS OUR ANNUAL DUES** in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ family membership(s).

\_\_\_\_\_ **In addition to our dues**, we are voluntarily donating \$\_\_\_\_\_ to be used for prevention and control of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) into Little Sand Lake. *(All donations to LSLAA are tax deductible.)*

Name(s):

Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Lake: \_\_\_\_\_ Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell:

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

***If different from above:***

Winter (or home) address:

Winter phone:

Winter E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

***If any of the above information is a change from or addition to our 2014 LSLAA Directory, please let us know by attaching a separate sheet of paper or sending an email to Renee Bexell, larbex2@gmail.com. Our 2015 directory information will be available on our new website.***

\_\_\_\_\_ ***(Please note my attached changes/additions.)***

The fun has begun! This was May 5<sup>th</sup>, Cinco de Mayo, our first pontoon gathering for 2015, Just two pontoons that evening: Swansons and Kissers, with Bexells, Nelsons, and Janet McMillen as passengers. The photo shows Larry Bexell reaching out, extending a paddle to John Kissler so they can hitch together and enjoy the beautiful evening. Luckily, neither of them got pulled into the lake. Fun time! However, it hasn't been warm or dry enough to get out there ever since! C'mon Spring!!