



# *A View From the Lake*

Little Sand Lake Area Association, Park Rapids, Minnesota

Spring 2019

## **President's Report**

*MaJeana Hallstrom, LSLAA President*

### **PREPARING FOR "LAKE SEASON"**

The LSLAA extends a hearty "welcome!" to "lake season!"

Some of us stay on the lake year around, but I think most of us agree that "lake season" really begins sometime in May and ends in September. Boating, fishing, swimming, meeting friends out in the middle of the lake...all things we enjoy and look forward to each year. With this newsletter, we encourage you to not only have fun on the lake, we also encourage you take seriously maintaining the pristine character of Little Sand Lake.

### **LSLAA MISSION STATEMENT**

*The Little Sand Lake Area Association  
Mission is to promote a sense of  
community among Little Sand Lake  
residents through social events,  
information-sharing, and collective action  
on issues important to all of us.*

Throughout this newsletter, at our Annual Meeting, at social events, and in our email communications, you will find that we are committed to and actively practice those objectives.

### **WORKING TO MAINTAIN A HEALTHY LAKE**

We can be proud that Little Sand Lake is one of the cleanest and clearest lakes in Minnesota. Keeping our lake free of aquatic invasive species (AIS) and making sure our lake remains so is probably the most important "collective action on issues important to all of us" that LSLAA undertakes.

Below are just a few of the actions and activities that our members/volunteers do to protect this precious resource:

- We are an active member of COLA (Coalition of Lake Associations) and the MN Lakes & Rivers Advocates.
- We provide funding for extra hours (above and beyond the hours the township/county/state provide) to do AIS monitoring at the public launch.
- We provide educational information to our residents and guests regarding AIS.
- We have developed a Rapid Response Plan in case we find any AIS on our lake.
- Volunteers monitor the lake regularly for zebra mussels and AIS vegetation.
- Volunteers also routinely monitor our lake for clarity and DO/H<sub>2</sub>O (which is important for our fish population) and check and maintain stormceptors located near the bridge.

We also support and provide resources for restoring the shore to make sure the lake stays clean and clear and do roadside pickup several times each summer on CR50.

**Note change of venue and time for the  
LSLAA Annual Meeting  
Zorbaz**

**Saturday, June 8, 2019  
8:00 a.m. Registration and coffee  
8:30 a.m. Meeting, followed by  
door prize drawings.**

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

**ICE OUT**

I am writing this on April 23. This past winter was long and very cold! We received our last 6" of fresh snow on April 11. Being the adventuresome type, Rob took a quick spin on the lake on his snowmobile on April 13. (Yes! I did share my thoughts with him about seeing the snowmobile tracks leaving the yard and going onto the lake!)



In 2017, ice out was on April 7. In 2018, ice out was on May 2. I saw a few folks on the Little Sand Facebook page making guesses about when the ice will go out this year. One person guessed as late as May 9!

Here's a photo of the lake in front of our house today. I'm thinking the ice will be gone soon. (Editor's Note: In fact, the DNR declared ice out on Little Sand April 24.)

**LOONS**

We are always eager to see the loons return to the lake in the spring. Last year, the first loon was seen and heard flying over Little Sand Lake on Sunday, April 22. The date for loon return this spring was not too far off from last year; we saw a couple of them on April 20.



Our lake has three nesting platforms set in place each spring by Roger Hochsprung, and one natural nesting platform. Please slow down (NO WAKE!) and avoid these areas while the loons are still on the nest. A large wake/wave can cause the platform to rock and the eggs to fall off. Also, give them plenty of room on the lake when the young first hatch and cannot yet dive. The loon parents have enough to worry about

with eagles and hawks. If you see a natural loon nest or baby loons, please call Roger (218-639-9591) to report them. If you see anyone harassing the loons, report it to the DNR or the Sheriff.

**WILDLIFE**

This winter we upgraded our bird feeder. It's really nice. The pretty piebald deer with its snowy-white face and mottled body visited it again this year. Rob and I often grumble about the deer and the squirrels who get into the bird feeder, but the truth is, we love watching them and all the birds. Rob calls our picture window facing the lake his "big TV."



**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 usually teleconference our board meetings), helping at the fishing contest, doing lake water monitoring and testing, joining one of the committees, or helping with roadside pickup 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.

**ANNUAL MEETING, SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES**

Please note that the venue for the annual meeting has changed. This year we will meet at Zorbaz. We hope to see you on June 8, on the lake this summer, and at some of the fun activities and events planned by our social committee. Join in and get acquainted with your lake neighbors.

**Enjoy your time at the lake!**

*MaJeana*

# Little Sand Neighbors Now Own Aunt Belle's Confectionary



Website: [www.auntbelles.com](http://www.auntbelles.com)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Aunt-Belles-Confectionary-222216101162296/>

## Little Sand 17th Annual Fishing Contest Saturday, Aug. 4, 2019

This will be our 17th Annual Little Sand Fishing Contest. Have your families put this on their calendars NOW so they can plan to be here.

Children and adults alike have a great time!

Our fishing contest is always the Saturday before the Taste of Dorset (always the first Sunday in August), since

many families come to enjoy that annual event.

Fun for all! Prizes are awarded in each age group for the largest fish in each category. We also have drawings for door prizes for those who register but don't fish, donated by area merchants.

*Volunteers are needed to help with the fishing contest. If you're interested, please contact Mark Doda to let him know you are willing to help.*

When you need something sweet or you need a special gift – or both, think of Aunt Belle's Confectionary and Gift Store! Our lake neighbors, Karen and Ray Carlson, purchased the stores, located in Park Rapids and Walker this spring.

They are working hard to "make the stores their own," but still offer all the goodies Aunt Belle's has come to be known for over the years.

***Congratulations Ray and Karen!***

## County Rd. 50 Road Pickup

**Thank you to those who helped "pick the ditch" along County 50 last year and in years**

**past.** Our first road pickup for 2019 is Tuesday, May 14, with others scheduled for June 27 and September 10. Meet at Glacier Drive at 9:30 a.m. Please mark your calendars now!

Bags and bright vests are provided.  
*The more people we*



*have, the less time it takes, so we'll see you there!*

### ***LSLAA Extends Our Condolences to the Families of:***

**Dorothy (Dottie) Fennell**, who died on April 11, 2019. She was a 30-year resident of Little Sand Lake with her husband Donald, who died Dec. 17, 2017.

**James (Jim) Thomsen**, who died on Feb. 29, 2019. He and his wife Catherine, who died in 2013, were long-time Little Sand residents.

**Craig Wurm**, husband of Denise Wurm, who died on Feb. 2, 2019. He and Denise have been seasonal residents on Little Sand.

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# Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) News

by Wayne Swanson, COLA Representative and LSLAA Past President

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## AIS Inspections

We will have inspectors at the public access starting with the fishing opener (May 11). In total, this year we will have over 450 hours of inspections. The state/county



pays the cost of 288 hours, Lake Emma township pays for 62 hours, and *LSLAA uses your dues and donations to pay for 130 hours.*

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## Cinder Blocks and Plastic Settlement Samplers

If you have a cinder block or a plastic settlement sampler, please remember to attach it to your dock. It should be checked twice a year for any signs of Zebra mussels - late August and mid-September (or when you remove your dock).

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## Zebra Mussels and Other AIS

Unfortunately, zebra mussels (ZM) and veligers (ZM larvae) continue to be found in area lakes, so it is important to always properly clean your boat. Baby

Zebra mussels have now been found in Red Lake. As noted in last year's newsletter, Leech Lake, Cass Lake, and Garfield Lake are among infested lakes. Eurasian milfoil was found in Bad Axe Lake.

New AIS threats are the Spiny Water flea and Starry Stonewort. You can Google them for more information. At this time they are only found in a few lakes in the state.

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## Guests

If you have guests visiting that have been in infested waters, please remember there is a free decontamination (hot water pressure washer) station at the entrance to the the Hubbard County Transfer Station in Park Rapids. It is free of charge.

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## COLA Meetings: You're Invited

COLA meets the last Thursday of the month in the Northwoods Bank Community Room (in the basement). The meetings start at 6:00 pm with a guest speaker. Topics have included fish stocking reports, how to improve wildlife habitat, and trout fishing in Straight River. Check the Park Rapids Enterprise for a notice on the upcoming meeting. **Remember, all LSLAA members can attend.**

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## LSLAA Website

The website [littlesandlakemn.com](http://littlesandlakemn.com), is a great place to find current information and stay informed on things such as: social events, meeting notes, ways to keep our lake clean, and the hours and phone number for the boat decontamination station. If you have any other suggested items to be added to the website, contact Diane Smith, webmaster, to discuss.

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## LSLAA Homeowners Directory

LSLAA online directory has been updated as of June 2019. It is accessible on our website, [littlesandlakemn.com](http://littlesandlakemn.com). This is password protected information and should only be used by property owners of Little Sand Lake. If you don't have the

password, check with a board member (listed elsewhere in this newsletter).

The online version is printable on a standard 8.5 x 11 sheet, not a booklet style as provided at the annual meeting. If you see any incorrect information, please email revisions to: [karenanddi@comcast.net](mailto:karenanddi@comcast.net).

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## Facebook Page

If you are a Facebook user and haven't joined our Facebook page, you should! Posting on the Little Sand Lake Facebook page is a good way to communicate with lake neighbors, share your photos and memories of the lake, and advertise items for sale and rummage/estate sales.

You can join Little Sand Lake, Park Rapids MN; the link to it is: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1521137878193219/>.

# Restore the Shore:

## Septic Mound Plantings Help Prevent Erosion, Excess Moisture

by Christine Hobrough, LSLAA Email Coordinator

### **Can I plant on or around the septic mound?**

The answer is yes, you can. Growing plants with shallow root systems is advised over leaving the ground bare. Plants prevent erosion and help with excess moisture from the drain field.



Perennials and grasses work best because they require little maintenance. Avoid trees, shrubs and other water seeking plants that could damage the system.

Always wear gloves to protect yourself, do as little digging as possible and never dig deeply to avoid damaging the system.

Avoid adding soil to the area, heavy mulch and plants that need watering unless you absolutely have to. Low maintenance, draught tolerant plants are an excellent choice to not harm the natural septic process.

Minimize traffic on the site to not compact the soil.

The easiest plants to grow are tall fescue grass, Kentucky Blue Grass or other lawn grasses. Small, non-woody ground covers are a good choice too. If the area is sunny, a perennial would be a good choice. If the spot doesn't get much sun, you could choose a shade garden plant. Keep in mind the growing zone

when selecting plants. Northern Minnesota tends to be Zone 3 for plant hardiness.

The soil around the septic tank drain fields often is wetter and saltier than average. Plants like bee balm, hollyhocks and wild violets often tolerate these conditions better than other plants. Spring bulbs and ornamental grasses work well as deer resistant options.

Wildflower seeds are an option as well as some annuals. Sow the seeds early so they enjoy spring rain without additional watering. Colorful annuals like Scarlet Flax can be used too. Remember to avoid additional watering whenever possible.

Resources are abundant including Flying W Gardens located on Little Mantrap Drive in Park Rapids and Prairie Nursery in Westfield, Wisconsin. Below are reference articles for more information.

<https://www.post-gazette.com/life/garden/2014/02/22/Groundcovers-suitable-for-a-septic-mound/stories/201402220026>

<https://homeguides.sfgate.com/landscape-plants-mound-systems-61897.htm>

<https://www.thespruce.com/safe-plants-to-grow-over-septic-tanks-and-drainfields-2132661>

### **Are you new to Little Sand...or do you have a new neighbor?**

If so, please contact Amy Tronsgard at 701-367-9423 or [amytro@aol.com](mailto:amytro@aol.com). She has a Little Sand Welcome Packet and a Park Rapids Resident's Guide filled with valuable information and other items very helpful to new property owners on Little Sand Lake.

## Kayaking Anyone?

Are you interested in a group kayaking adventure? All levels of paddlers are welcome. If you want to join us and don't have access to a kayak, let us know. We can locate some kayaks to borrow. Hopefully we'll get a kayak trip in sometime in June or July. Let Larry Bexell know if



you're interested and an email will be sent out when it is arranged. Call Larry at 218-699-3876, or email him at [larbex2@gmail.com](mailto:larbex2@gmail.com)

# Hubbard County COLA Shoutout

LSLAA is an active member of the Hubbard County Coalition of Lakes. We are very fortunate to have dedicated leaders in Hubbard County who have a passion for all of our lakes and work to keep them clean and healthy. With HC COLA's permission, we are excerpting and sharing important information and links from the HC COLA website. You may explore <http://hubbardcolamn.org> for many more resources and details.

When you have a chance, be sure to thank the HC COLA Board for their service to our community and lakes!

Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations (HC COLA) is encouraging all lakeshore owners to be our lake's "Eyes on the Water". You could be a "first responder" in locating an aquatic invasive species (AIS) on your lake. This early detection has proven to be an effective way of stemming the subsequent spread of AIS to other lakes. Early detection can also allow for more effective treatment options in your lake.



In the fall of each year we will send a link to an on-line survey to past participants (our "Citizen Watch Volunteers") to help us evaluate our "Eyes on the Water" efforts. We are always looking for more volunteers so if you would like to be included in this mailing of the survey, send a request to:

[jlmosner@gmail.com](mailto:jlmosner@gmail.com). You can also complete the survey by using the link below and you will be included in future mailings. All of us at HC

COLA thank you for your efforts to keep our lakes AIS-free.

This link provides a copy of HC COLA's 2019 community-based social marketing flyer for AIS Prevention: [http://hubbardcolamn.org/uploads/3/4/5/6/34563649/ais\\_flyer\\_2019\\_-\\_final.pdf](http://hubbardcolamn.org/uploads/3/4/5/6/34563649/ais_flyer_2019_-_final.pdf)

This link addresses the Identification, Facts, Monitoring & Pictures of AIS: <http://hubbardcolamn.org/identification.html>

This link presents a PowerPoint training session, developed in 2016, titled Informal AIS Learning Session "In the Field": [http://hubbardcolamn.org/uploads/3/4/5/6/34563649/field\\_sessions\\_-](http://hubbardcolamn.org/uploads/3/4/5/6/34563649/field_sessions_-)

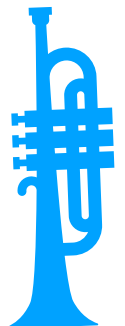
## LSLAA Board of Directors

**MaJeana Hallstrom, President**  
**Punky Catlin, Treasurer**  
**Mark Doda, Director at Large**  
**Wayne Swanson, Past President /COLA Representative**  
**Steve Trutna, Vice President**  
**Larry Odegard, Director at Large**  
**Cindy Nollette, Director at Large, Interim Secretary**  
**Karen Carlson, Director at Large**

## Upper Mississippians Zorbaz Summer Schedule

Dance to the Upper Mississippians big band on select Sunday summer afternoons at Zorbaz. They will be bringing in some big-band music, vocals, and a sampler of music from the Roaring 20's — get your Charleston moves on!

**Mark your calendar with these dates: June 23, July 21, August 11 and 18, from 2 to 5 p.m. at Zorbaz.**



# Social Committee 2019

by Phyllis Trutna, Social Committee Chair

The Social Committee met in April to plan for this fast approaching summer. We hope to see you at many or all of these upcoming events!

The Summer Coffees hosted by lake residents are a great way to meet our neighbors on the lake. We would like to again thank our gracious hosts and hostesses from the 2018 season: Ben and Julie McKee, Larry and

Karen Odegard co-hosted by Tony and Maggi Yerkes, David and Angela Albee, and Dennis and Carol Winskowski. Mark your calendars now for these 2019 coffees:



**May 14 – 10:00 a.m., Tony and Maggi Yerkes, 22682 Greenwood Loop**

**June 26 – 10:00 a.m., Louise Calhoun, 21016 Glacier Drive**

**July 13 – 10:00 a.m., ????? (Please let us know if you're interested in hosting this coffee)**

**August 7 – 10:00 a.m., Ben and Julie McKee, 23679 Glider Drive**

**August 31 – 10:00 a.m., David and Christine Hobrough, 21502 Goldenrod Drive**

*We hope to see all of our lake friends at the Annual Meeting on June 8, which will be held at Zorbaz this year.*

Other special activities planned for this summer include the Boat Parade on July 4, the Fishing Contest on the first Saturday of August, and the Annual Picnic, which will be a potluck at Rob and MaJeana Hallstrom's on August 17.

A Full Moon Pontoon Party has been scheduled for July, August, and September. Come in your pontoon or

boat and join us in the middle of the lake to watch the full moon rise over the lake!

The restaurants chosen for dining outings include LaPasta for the "Welcome Back Breakfast," the Chick'n Coop, the Men's Breakfast at the West Forty, Ladies' Appetizers at Necce's, Foxy's Bar and Grill, the Dorset House followed by mini golf and ice cream at the Heartland Trailside in Dorset, the Hilltop Inn followed by Sondheim's Side by Side Musical at the Long Lake Theater, and Emmaville Cafe for the "End of Season Breakfast."

Additional monthly events include eating at Zorbaz on the last Monday of each month, walking on the Heartland Trail on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, quilting to be determined, and the Upper Mississippians on select Sunday afternoons. There are also Roadside Pickup opportunities in May, June, and September. All are welcome to attend these activities.

Our email coordinator, Christine Hobrough, emails a Social Event Calendar every month. Please refer to these monthly calendars and/or the LSLAA website for the exact dates, times, and locations for all of the events listed above. When requested, please RSVP in a timely manner.

**We hope you will be able to join us for another rewarding summer on the lake!**

Your Social Committee:  
*Phyllis Trutna, Chair 218-699-3320*  
*Dar Swanson 218-699-3447*  
*Janet McMillen 218-699-3230*  
*Karen Odegard 218-732-7310*

## Your Membership in LSLAA Helps Protect Little Sand Lake

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

If you are not now a member of Little Sand Lake Area Association (only \$35/year per family), we ask you to join. Dues are used toward the protection of our beautiful lake. *All lake residents benefit from the workings and financial support of Little Sand's dues-paying lake association members.*

**At the end of this newsletter is a membership form to complete and mail with your check to our Treasurer, Punky Catlin.**

# Want to Show Your Little Sand Pride?

## ADWEAR SPECIALTIES

Again this year, our lake neighbor Angela Albee is offering logoed items made to order for sale to all lake residents through her company, Adwear Specialties.

The logo she created is below. As a way to give back to the community, Angela will donate 10 percent of the profit from every order to our Little Sand AIS Fund. Embroidery is available with a small (2.75") and large (6") version of the logo. One (1) piece minimum. Price breaks at 12/24/72/144...mix



and match items for the price breaks as long as the same logo file is used.

Pricing is provided upon request as there are many styles of apparel to choose from. Apparel options can be found at [www.companycasuals.com](http://www.companycasuals.com) and [www.sportswearcollection.com](http://www.sportswearcollection.com). Other logoed items

(trinkets and such) are also available (minimum quantities apply). Check out the website at [www.adwearpromo.com](http://www.adwearpromo.com). Samples will be available at the annual meeting.

Contact Angela Albee at 651-263-6145 or [angela@adwearpromo.com](mailto:angela@adwearpromo.com) for more information, to place an order or to request a quote.

## UNKNOWN LEGENDS DESIGN

Unknown Legends, another local company, has generously supported our lake association with door prize donations over the years. Unknown Legends created the Little Sand logo at left.



For more information, you can check them out at [unknownlegendsdesigns.com](http://unknownlegendsdesigns.com) or call Andi Radneicki at 218-732-3314.



**Please complete and enclose this form with your 2019 annual dues of \$35 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(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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 previous LSLAA Directory, please let us know by attaching a separate sheet of paper or sending an email to Christine Hobrough, our Email Coordinator, at [LittleSandLakeAA@outlook.com](mailto:LittleSandLakeAA@outlook.com).

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