



A View From the Lake

Little Sand Lake Area Association, Park Rapids, Minnesota

Spring 2021

President's Report

MaJeana Hallstrom, LSLAA President

My Last Newsletter

Thank you! This will be my last newsletter as LSLAA President. Over the past four years, I have become increasingly proud of Little Sand Lake, and I am so grateful to those who commit—and have committed—time and money to keep our beautiful lake clean and clear.

Thank you to LSLAA members and donors who faithfully contribute toward funding our efforts such as paying for part of the AIS inspector hours at our boat launch. Thank you to the lake monitoring volunteers who regularly do water testing for clarity, for aquatic invasive species (AIS), and for changes in vegetation. Thank you to those of you who organize County Road 50 ditch clean up and those who help with the clean-up. Thank you to those who maintain the kiosk at the boat launch, coordinate the Fishing Tournament, update our Residents' Directory, arrange for social opportunities, keep our residents informed through regular email, and welcome new residents with information about the lake and the area.

And, of course, many thanks to the LSLAA Board members, who provide input and make decisions about issues that affect our lake and its residents. I also want to especially thank Wayne Swanson, who, as past president of LSLAA, not only served as my mentor and taught me the ropes; he was an active member of the Board. Wayne has been a member of the LSLAA Board for more than nine years!

The Year of COVID

As I reflect on this past year, for me, it has been one of learning to adapt, getting to know oneself better, and appreciating the freedom Americans love so much. Our church services were delivered online; our children and grandchildren received much of their

education online and at home; and meetings were held on Zoom. With limited visiting with family and socializing with friends, many of us became more introspective. We are free to define what “American freedom” means to us—and I do not intend for this to be political—but suffice it to say many of us questioned decisions being made by various institutions, businesses, groups, and even friends. My hope for all of us is that we learn from what 2020 has taught us and that we use those lessons to move in positive directions. Now, back to lake stuff!

Annual Meeting

The LSLAA Annual Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, June 12. The meeting will be held in dual mode (in person and online). For those who attend in person, we will be meeting at Zorbaz, and for folks who are not able to be at the lake that weekend, or who are uncomfortable meeting in person, we will be meeting online via Zoom. Whether you are at Zorbaz or in front of your computer, we will start with social time and registration at 8:00 a.m. and commence with the business portion of the meeting at 8:30. More details will be provided in an upcoming e-mail.

Fourth of July Boat Parade

Do not forget to join us for our Annual Fourth of July Boat Parade! We will meet at 9:00 a.m., near Zorbaz to begin the parade. Decorate your watercraft in stars and stripes or go for something even more creative! (Rumor has it, some of your lake neighbors are planning a boat decorating competition, so be sure to get in on the fun!) Last year we had a record turnout of 50 boats in the parade. Do you think we will break that record in 2021?

PRESIDENT'S REPORT CONTINUES ON P. 2



Loons and Bears

Little Sand Lake has three nesting platforms set in place each spring by Roger Hochsprung and one natural nesting platform. Little Sand Lake usually has four loon couples. 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. Our friendly neighborhood bears have been out and about Little Sand Lake, too! We have photos, videos, and busted up bird feeders to

prove it! While they are cute and always fun to report, we know they can be dangerous, especially in the case of a Mama Bear thinking she must protect her babies. Be aware and make noise when you are out walking!

Get Involved

Our lake association is always looking for volunteers. Opportunities include serving on the lake association board (you do not have to live on the lake year around to be a board member, as we usually meet via Zoom), 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.

Enjoy your time at the lake!

MaJeana

LSLAA Board and Elections

The Board: A key part of our Annual Meeting is to elect officers and board members to the LSLAA Board of Directors. Except for the Treasurer's office, which does not have a term limit, terms for Officers and Directors are two years, and offices are limited to two terms. The following leaders make up the Board. Some will be leaving office in June due to term limits. Many thanks to the following members of the Board:

MaJeana Hallstrom – President. Has served two terms and will be staying on in the role of past president.

Wayne Swanson – Past President—has served two terms and will be leaving the Board.

Cindy Nollette – Secretary—has completed one term and is up for re-election.

Mark Doda – Director at Large—has served two terms and will be leaving the Board.

Glenn Gapp – Director at Large—has completed one term and is up for re-election.

Steve Trutna, Vice President – will be serving 2nd year of 2nd term.

Larry Odegard, Director at Large – will be serving 2nd year of 2nd term.

Christine Hobrough, Director at Large – has completed one year of 1st term.

Punky Catlin, Treasurer—no term limits.

Elections 2021—New folks on the docket:

Mark Doda will be leaving the Board due to term limits, and Christine Hobrough has agreed to run for LSLAA president. We are fortunate that we have two individuals who will be running for Director at Large to fill the positions being vacated by Mark and Christine: Jane Amble and Karen Netland. These folks and officers who are up for re-election, Cindy Nollette and Glenn Gapp, will be on our slate of candidates on June 12, but that does not preclude additional nominations, should you like to do so.

Looking ahead to 2022: As you will note, several more Board Members will be “termed out” in 2022, so we need some new people to join the Board next year. PLEASE CONSIDER DOING SO AND LET US KNOW!

We Need Your Membership!

Your membership is greatly needed! Current members, we thank you for your membership and encourage your continued participation. Memberships are especially important to the work we do here on Little Sand Lake. As most of you know, a majority of your dues go toward maintaining our healthy lake, which includes Little Sand Lake's membership in Hubbard County Coalition of Lakes (HCCOLA), support of Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates (MLR), water quality monitoring, and paying for a good portion of AIS Inspection hours at the public lake access.

We have about 150 properties on Little Sand Lake. As of this writing, we have about 75 paid memberships for the current year. (Our "membership year" runs from September 1 - August 31.) Our budget needs require 110 memberships. If you have not paid your dues, there is still time!!

Dues and Donations. As noted above, most of your dues go toward preserving our healthy lake; in addition, a portion of dues goes toward administrative fees such as site fees for our website. For those of you concerned that LSLAA dues go toward social events; they do not – all social events are self-paid by participants, except for a nominal amount spent on the Annual Picnic. Because not all properties join LSLAA, we are very grateful to those of you who have made donations above and beyond the dues amount; LSLAA could not accomplish what it does without those extra funds!

Tax Deductible. LSLAA is a 501(c)3 charitable organization, so your contributions—dues and donations—are tax deductible!

Dues. Dues are \$35 per property. Here are how dues are allocated/used:

- \$15 for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Fund
- \$4 for COLA membership dues
- \$16 for General Fund (Administration, Directories, Memberships, Water test meters, Website, meetings). Dollars from this fund have, upon occasion, been moved to cover shortages in our AIS Fund.

Memorial Donations. Make a memorial donation to Little Sand Lake as a tribute to your loved one. We have a kiosk at the boat launch where we will place a name plate in that person's honor. We recommend a minimum donation of \$50 for a memorial, but a donation of less will not preclude our remembering someone special.

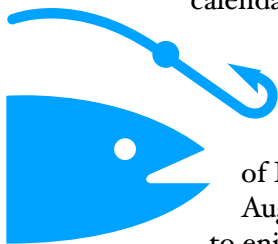
Pay Your Dues Now! To encourage you to get your dues in, all households who have paid dues before our Annual Meeting will be included in and eligible for prize drawings during the meeting.

How to Pay Dues and Make Donations. LSLAA has set up a credit card payment option on our website, and we would prefer payments be made electronically. Here is the link to our website and payment information: Annual Dues - Little Sand (littlesandlakemn.com). However, if you would prefer to pay by check you may do so by sending them to:

LSLAA
c/o Charlotta (Punky) Catlin
22898 County Rd 7
Park Rapids, MN 56470

Little Sand 19th Annual Fishing Contest: Saturday July 31, 2021

This will be our 19th 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, donated by area merchants.

Volunteers are needed to help with the fishing contest. Please call Mark Doda if you are willing to help.

Meet at the Public Access

5:00-5:15 PM – Registration (\$1.00)

5:15 to 7:15 – Fishing

7:30 – Prizes Awarded

Categories:

- Under 10 years of age
- 10-18 years of age
- Over 18 years of age

Local Business Owners on Little Sand Lake

Did you know we have several business owners on Little Sand Lake?

- Adwear Specialties: Angela Albee (See article.)
- Artistic Photography by Barbra Jo: Barbra Jo Wicks (See article.)
- Aunt Belle's Confectionary: Ray and Karen Carlson-- stores in Park Rapids and Walker.
- Dorset Liquor: Craig and Melissa Rossman – Dorset Corner
- Signs by Larry & Karen: Larry & Karen Odegard. (See article.)
- Zorbaz on Little Sand: Robb Swanson -- We all know where Zorbaz is!
Be sure to support them!

Custom Dock, Road and Lake Signs

Summer residents Larry and Karen Odegard are again making custom road, lake, and dock signs to your specifications. You most certainly have seen their signs around Little Sand and on the end of docks! Names or your custom information is routed into composite decking material preventing any water-rotting issues.

Sign panels are 5½” high; lettering is 4½” in height and can be painted in any of several standard colors. The Little Sand Lake logo is also available on signs. 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, great-value signs. Contact Larry and Karen at (303)709-8635 or at karlar2670@gmail.com



Artistic Photography by Barbra Jo

If you are a member of the Little Sand Facebook page, you have most certainly seen the spectacular photos posted by Barbra Jo. She is an exceptionally talented professional photographer who has been photographing the Heartland area for the past eight years. We have certainly enjoyed her lakescapes and northern lights photos!

Barbra specializes in landscape photography from our area and makes her art available for sale. She has generously offered to donate 20 percent of all sales conducted through the LSLAA to the LSLAA, so when you purchase a print from her, you are not only going to be able to enjoy her stunning work, but you will also be contributing to our lake!

Here is contact information and pricing:

Barbrawicks@gmail.com

Phone is 720-448-4806

Pricing is: Framed 11x14 (frame is 11x14) 75.00

Matted 8x10 45.00

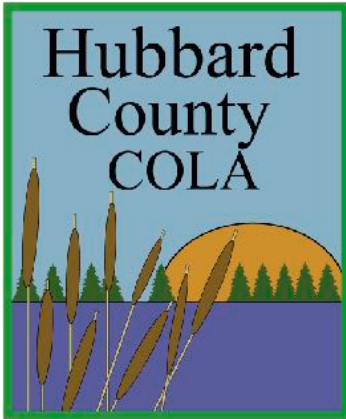
Little Sand Lake Apparel/Logoed Items

One of our lake property owners, Angela Albee and her company, Adwear Specialties, offers logoed items made to

order for sale to all residents of the lake and beyond. To give back to the community, Angela will donate 10% of the profit from every order to the Little Sand AIS Fund. Embroidery is available with a small (2.75”) and large (6”) version of the logo. One (1) piece

minimum. Screen printing is also available; contact Angela Albee for details at 651-263-6145 or angela@adwearpromo.com





Working to Maintain a Healthy Lake

LSLAA is a member of the Hubbard County Coalition of Lakes (HCCOLA). To be part of this important organization, we pay \$4.00/member. Wayne Swanson has served as Little Sand's HCCOLA representative for the past four years. Below is advice and the status of key issues from HCCOLA:

- HCCOLA holds meetings the last Thursday of every month, except for four months during the winter. Meetings for 2021 started again on April 29th via ZOOM.
- Our public access inspection program is set to go again for 2021. The number of boat inspection hours will be the same as 2020. This is a total of 475 hours inspection hours; LSLAA has paid for 187 of those hours.
- Our lake water testing process starts on May 16, and we will also do two Zebra

Mussel tests this year. Speaking of Zebra Mussels, the MN DNR has found Zebra Mussels in Aquarium Moss Balls sold in pet stores in Minnesota. If you have a Moss Ball DO NOT put it down the drain or throw it into the lake and since ZM will be in the water, boil the wastewater before disposal.

- Also, never toss your aquarium fish into a lake since they are usually not native to our lakes.

Protecting Little Sand Lake

LSLAA undertakes many activities to keep our lake free of AIS and making sure our lake remains one of the cleanest and clearest lakes in Minnesota. These actions address one of the most important goals in LSLAA's mission statement: to provide for "collective action on issues important to all of us."

Below are just a few of the 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 watercraft inspections for AIS at the public launch.
- We provide educational information to our residents and guests regarding AIS.
- We have developed a Rapid Response Plan in the event of finding any AIS on our lake.
- Volunteers monitor the lake regularly for lake clarity, zebra mussels, AIS vegetation, and DO/H₂O (which is important for our fish population); they also 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.

Healthy Lakes Produce Healthy Fish



CHRIS SORENSEN AND HIS 28-IN. WALLEYE

New Sign at Public Launch

Last season, our residents observed some unpleasant activities on our lake, including someone who cleaned their fish at the public launch and threw the remains into our lake. Because it is difficult to catch such culprits in the act, the LSLAA Board decided to add a sign — in a very "Minnesota nice" way — to ask our visitors to respect our lake. Thanks to Larry Odegard for getting this sign made up.

Healthy Lakes: Resources for Shoreland Management

Hubbard County COLA Tree Orders Due in October

by Christine Hobrough, LSLAA Board Director

Concerned about your eroding shoreline? The [Minnesota Department of Natural Resources \(DNR\)](#) has an extensive shoreland management program. One topic landowners can learn about is the “[buffer zone.](#)”



This is an unmowed strip of shoreline that has native vegetation both in the lake and on the land. Many buffer zones extend 25-50 feet onto land, but even 10-15 feet can be very beneficial.

According to the DNR, landowners can improve their buffer zone and [enhance their shoreline](#) by planting grasses and flowering plants that are [native to the area](#) to diversify the vegetation, provide food and shelter for animals and even offer a seasonal show of color.

The *Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations (HC COLA)* supports three key programs for landowners. *Score Your Shore*; *Restore Your Shore* and *Restore The Shore*:

- [Score Your Shore](#) offers a tool to assess the current situation for your shore.
- [Restore Your Shore](#) offers resources to enhance the habitat, reduce runoff and protect the quality of water in and around your property.
- [Restore The Shore](#) allows HC COLA members to place orders for high quality, low cost tree, berry, and shrub plants. **The order form will be available in September and can be submitted to the LSLAA Restore the Shore coordinator in October with**



plants ready for pick up around the first week in May of 2022.

The Hubbard County Soil and Water Conservation District has a [Cost-Share Program](#) that enables homeowners to apply to for a grant to share the cost of systems or practices in land management. The [Cost-Share Program](#) provides these funds to protect and improve soil and water resources, help reduce erosion, control sediment and improve water quality. Funds can be requested for technical and/or financial assistance for a project. Forestry conversion, shoreland and roadside protection are just some of the projects that may be eligible for the program. Contact the [Hubbard County Soil and Conservation Office](#) at 218-732-0121 for more information.

Finally, the *Hubbard County Shoreland Guide to Lake Stewardship* provides helpful information to landowners and visitors.

State Funding Reduced by 20% for AIS Launch Inspections in 2021

Funding for AIS launch inspections was reduced by about 20 percent in 2021 due to COVID impacting state tax revenues. Little Sand Lake has typically had about 475 hours of inspections each season, with the state/county paying for 288 hours; Lake Emma Township paying for 57 hours; and LSLAA paying for 130 hours. The state paid for 57 fewer hours this year.

The LSLAA Board felt it was important to maintain our level of inspections and increased the number of hours paid by LSLAA to 187 hours. This affected our planned budget, as we had to pay about \$1,000 more this year than we have in the past.

Social Committee 2021: Activities are Back!

by Phyllis Trutna, Social Committee Chair

The Social Committee is glad to say goodbye to 2020, and we are looking forward to resuming activities for our 2021 social calendar. CDC Guidelines related to the coronavirus have been changing over the past month, and we will be following CDC and Minnesota-recommended guidelines at the time of each of our social activities. As of May 13, fully vaccinated people no longer need to wear a mask or physically distance in any settings except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance. It is still recommended that unvaccinated people continue to wear a mask and maintain social distancing at small outdoor gatherings. Please check out this online link to a CDC chart for "Choosing Safer Activities" as it will present the latest guidelines: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/participate-in-activities.html>

The Social Committee met in mid-May to plan the summer social calendar. The E-mail Coordinator will e-mail a social event calendar every month. Also,

coming soon you will be able to find these monthly calendars on the LSLAA website. We are excited to have coffees again this summer at some new locations! We will try to focus on outdoor activities as much as possible.

Your Social Committee:

Phyllis Trutna, Chair	719-440-1330
Dar Swanson	612-819-0242
Janet McMillen	218-616-0001
Karen Odegard	303-709-2120

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.



**NEIGHBOR AND NURSE MAGGI YERKES (RET.)
ENCOURAGES EVERYONE TO GET VACCINATED!**

County 50 Ditch Cleanup

Dates have been established for County Road 50 Clean-up:

- Saturday, May 8 at 9:00 a.m. (*Thanks to those who came out!*)
- Thursday, July 1 at 9:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, September 1 at 9:30 a.m.

Volunteers should meet at Highway 50 and Glacier Drive. Bright vests and bags will be provided. It takes maybe an hour as long as we have enough people. Please mark these dates and times on your calendar now, and we hope to see you there!

Big thanks to Larry and Renee Bexell for coordinating these efforts!

Lake Etiquette

Be considerate of your lake neighbors and visitors. This is an excellent article regarding lake etiquette: Lake Etiquette | Madawaska Valley Current madvalleycurrent.com Sections of this article were used to prepare the informational packets referenced in the article, “Investment Property Owners/Short-Term Rental Properties”. And, while the informational packet is intended for Investment Property Owners, the guidelines presented are helpful to ALL property owners and their guests.

You can find the informational packet on the Little Sand website: **Investment Property—Rental Guidelines—Little Sand** (littlesandlakemn.com)

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

If so, please contact Amy Tronsgard at 701-306-8100 or 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.

LSLAA Website

Be sure to visit littlesandlakemn.com for the latest information and our updated lake directory. The website is available to the public; however, the directory is password protected. Contact a neighbor, an LSLAA officer or board member, or our email coordinator for the password. Many thanks to Jacob Nollette, who took over the maintenance of the LSLAA website in 2020.

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, 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/> Please avoid politics, negative conversations, and non-lake related information. Administrators will delete inappropriate content.

Stay Informed...and Keep Us Updated

If you have news or information to share with our Little Sand Board or property owners, a change of address or new email for our directory, or if you have not been receiving LSLAA information by email throughout the year, please email Christine Hobrough, our email coordinator at LittleSandLakeAA@outlook.com. Your information will be shared with Membership/Welcome Chair Amy Tronsgard, and Directory Coordinator Karen Netland.

Investment Property Owners/Short-Term Rental Properties

Little Sand Lake property owners who rent out their lake homes as short-term rentals (STR), such as VRBO and Airbnb, should be aware of discussions happening at Hubbard County’s Environmental Services. Many counties across the state are amending their lakeshore ordinance with special considerations for STRs.

(See Hubbard County’s proposed amendments here: Environmental Services (co.hubbard.mn.us). LSLAA has created a packet of materials to help owners communicate guidelines to STR guests. You can find the informational packet on the Little Sand website: **Investment Property—Rental Guidelines—Little Sand** (littlesandlakemn.com)