



# A View From the Lake

Little Sand Lake Area Association, Park Rapids, Minnesota

Summer 2020

## President's Report

MaJeana Hallstrom, LSLAA President

### 2020—What a Year!

It has been a strange year with the COVID-19 pandemic and all! I hope this newsletter finds you healthy and enjoying Little Sand Lake. And speaking of COVID, it has affected a few things we have done as a lake association — or perhaps I should say things we have not done. One example of something “different” for 2020 is the fact that this newsletter is coming out in July, instead of in May, as we typically provide it. Our social activities schedule is drastically different from past years, and our Annual Meeting was held online, instead of in person.

### Annual Meeting

The LSLAA Annual Meeting was held online via Zoom on June 13. While we missed being able to meet at Zorbaz and see everyone in person, we had a good turnout. We are attaching the PowerPoint presentation in the accompanying email, so you can see the topics that were addressed. (Note: I copied many photos from the Little Sand Facebook page. Many thanks to our talented LSL photographers!) The meeting was recorded. No promises, but we may put that up on YouTube, so you can see it if you wish. If we do, we will notify you by email as to how to access.

**Board Elections:** A key part of our meeting is to elect officers and board members to the LSLAA Board of Directors. Terms for officers and directors are two years, and we have term limits of two terms. The exception to that is the office of Treasurer; that role does not have a term limit. The following officers and board members were up for election and were unanimously voted to the Board:

- Steve Trutna, Vice President – elected to serve 2nd term

- Larry Odegard, Director at Large – elected to serve 2nd term
- Christine Hobrough, Director at Large – new to the Board, elected to 1st term

The following LSLAA Board members were not up for re-election at this time and will continue to serve:

- MaJeana Hallstrom – serving 2nd year of 2nd term. Term limits; may no longer serve as president after June 2021, but will serve in the role of Past President starting in 2021.
- Wayne Swanson – serving 2nd year of 2nd term as Past President.
- Cindy Nollette – serving 2nd year of 1st term as Secretary.
- Mark Doda – serving 2nd year of 2nd term as Director at Large.
- Glenn Gapp – serving 2nd year of 1st term as Director at Large.
- Karen Carlson left the LSLAA Board as Director at Large effective June 13. Thank you, Karen, for your service!

As you will note, three of the above Board Members are “termed out” in 2021, so we need some new folks to join the Board. PLEASE CONSIDER DOING SO!

**Annual Meeting Prizes:** Every year we receive many generous donations from our local business people to offer as door prizes at our Annual Meeting. Having the online meeting made door prizes a challenge, so instead, we requested that folks get their LSLAA dues in before the meeting, and we would enter their names for prize drawings. Because of the COVID situation we limited our requests for donations. Nonetheless, prize donations were provided by Dorset Liquor Store, Aunt Belle's Confectionary, and Angela Albee, Adwear Specialties.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT CONTINUES ON P. 2

## **Fourth of July Weekend and Boat Parade**

It was obvious that many of us were truly enjoying Little Sand Lake! The lake was full of activity with pontooners, fisherpeople, water skiers, tubers, and swimmers. We had a record turnout for our Annual Boat Parade: My daughter, our semi-official boat counter, counted 50 boats! It was a great time, with boats decorated to show our American pride – and in one case, we had a boat decorated to a Gilligan's Island theme (love it!).



## **Ice In/Ice Out**

Ice in for Little Sand Lake this past winter was reported to be November 12, 2019. Ice out this spring was April 24. Thanks to Wayne Swanson for tracking this for us. If you are ever interested in learning more about Ice In/Ice Out dates, the DNR posts the information here:

Ice In = [https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/ice\\_in/index.html](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/ice_in/index.html)

Ice Out = [https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/ice\\_out/index.html](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/ice_out/index.html)

## **Loons and Bears**

Little Sand Lake has three nesting platforms set in place each spring by Roger Hochsprung and one natural nesting platform. From our ventures out on the lake, it looks like we have our usual four couples, with three of the couples having two chicks and one couple with one chick. 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.

Bears! Yes! They are all around us. We have had many reports of bear sightings this spring/summer. We know of at least one Mama Bear with two cubs and another with three cubs. They are cute until they knock down your bird feeder – or worse yet, if you get between Mama Bear and her cubs. Be aware and make noise when you are out walking!

## **More on EWM in Big Mantrap**

Because we are downstream from Big Mantrap Lake, we notified our Little Sand Lake residents in an email dated July 7, 2020, about the Eurasian

Watermilfoil infestation in that lake. As noted, we do not have to be greatly concerned about EWM reaching us via waterflow. The Big Mantrap Lake Association, the DNR, and Hubbard County Environmental Services have been working diligently to contain that infestation.

Below is additional information received from Sharon Natzel, HC COLA President:

Nick Macklem, Hubbard County Environmental Services Specialist and Sharon Natzel discussed Big Mantrap Lake on 7/7/20. Nick is working with the lake association regarding the one-acre treatment permitted by the DNR for Eurasian Watermilfoil. In late June, Nicole Kovar, DNR Northwest Region AIS Specialist (see <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais/contacts.html>) hand-

pulled the EWM found near the public access in the west bay (see [https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/water\\_access/site.html?id=WAS00767](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/water_access/site.html?id=WAS00767)) by scuba diving. The cattails and brush on the stream between the BML east basin and Upper Bottle are important as they will help keep the EWM contained to Big Mantrap if it were to spread beyond the west bay into the east bay (see <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/lake.html?id=29015100>). HC COLA will provide updates as they become available.

*What Big Mantrap Lake is currently experiencing is why LSLAA pays for important services such as Boat Launch Inspections every year. It is also why we request extra donations — so we can keep an emergency fund to help fight an AIS infestation should one occur in our beautiful lake.*

## **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.

**Enjoy your time at the lake!**

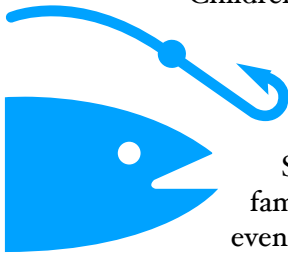
**MaJeana**

# Little Sand 18th Annual Fishing Contest

## Saturday, Aug. 1, 2020

This will be our 18th 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. 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**

## Surveys for Invasive Aquatic Vegetation

by Marshall Howe, AIS Task Force

The surveys for aquatic invasive plants normally conducted several times in the summer by our AIS Task Force have been suspended temporarily because of the coronavirus. The team may try toward the end of summer if the situation improves significantly. Vigilance is especially important now that the invasive Eurasian milfoil has been detected in Big Mantrap Lake at the head of our lake chain.

## Little Sand Wildlife Lore: Loon vs. Grebe

by Marshall Howe and Janet McMillen



**RED-NECKED GREBE**

One of our most memorable encounters with Little Sand's great wildlife occurred while fishing out of a small boat up near what is now the Odegard's place, maybe 15 years ago. At that time red-necked grebes nested in dense reeds on Little Sand Lake (they have been absent now for at least five years). Red-necked grebes are the largest of the grebe family likely to be found in this area. They dive for fish much in the manner of loons. As we fished, suddenly a large bird erupted from the water into the air like a Polaris missile just a few feet from the boat. Janet, in the bow, nearly went overboard. It was a red-necked grebe, and this behavior was certainly not typical!

Immediately after, a common loon surfaced at the spot of the grebe launch. It was apparent to us that the two species encountered each other beneath the surface and the larger loon was not pleased, as they were likely competing for the same foods. The grebe lost this encounter. Did we detect a smirk on the loon's beak? Perhaps....

*We don't know why this species has disappeared, at least for now, from Little Sand.* The same seems to be true for the north end of Fish Hook Lake on County 18, where they had been regular for a long time. The nearest substantial population we know of is on Upper and Lower Rice Lakes northeast of Itasca in Clearwater County. The DNR considers the red-necked grebe a "Species of Greatest Conservation Concern." Central Minnesota is on the very eastern edge of this grebe's normal breeding range, so an ebb and flow of populations may simply be normal for the area.

## Local Business Owners on Little Sand Lake

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

Adwear Specialties: Angela Albee

Artistic Photography by Barbra Jo: Barbra Jo Wicks

Aunt Belle's Confectionary: Ray and Karen Carlson—Stores in Park Rapids and Walker.

Dorset Liquor: Craig and Melissa Rossman – Dorset Corner.

Personalized Signs by Larry & Karen — 2053 Ginger Rd., Park Rapids

Zorbaz on Little Sand: Robb Swanson — we all know where Zorbaz is!

Be sure to support them.

If we have other business owners on the lake that we have missed here, please let us know.

### Adwear Specialties by Angela Albee

Angela Albee is offering logoed items made to order for sale to all lake residents through her company, Adwear Specialties. 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. Screen printing is also available; however, the production time is a bit longer as there's a 12-piece minimum for printing. To get the best price, orders will be gathered and then held until they can be printed in

bulk. Again, price breaks at 12/24/48/72/144; mix and match items as long as the same logo 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).

Contact Angela Albee at 651-263-6145 or [angela@adwearpromo.com](mailto:angela@adwearpromo.com) for more information.

### Personalized Dock Name Signs: You Know You Want One!

Larry and Karen Odegard are again making signs to be mounted on the lakeside end of your dock, or your driveway. Names are routed into composite decking material preventing any water rotting issues.

Sign panels are 5½" high, 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. Custom road signs are also available.

Contact Odegards at 218-732-7310, cell: 303-709-8635, or [karlar2670@gmail.com](mailto:karlar2670@gmail.com).



### Artistic Photography by Barbra Jo

Barbra Jo Wicks has shared some of her beautiful work on the Little Sand Lake Facebook page

According to Barbra, "I've been photographing the Heartland Lakes area for the past seven years. I feel truly blessed to live in this great state and witness the beauty the heartland lakes area has to offer. There is nothing more beautiful to me than our Minnesota sunrises and sunsets and being able to capture those sunrises and sunsets is one of my absolute greatest joys!"

Barbra specializes in landscape photography from our area. Framed and matted prints are available in various sizes, and she will do special orders upon request. Barbra has generously offered to donate 20 percent of all sales conducted through the LSLAA to the LSLAA.

Here is contact information and pricing: [barbrawicks@gmail.com](mailto:barbrawicks@gmail.com); phone 720-448-4806

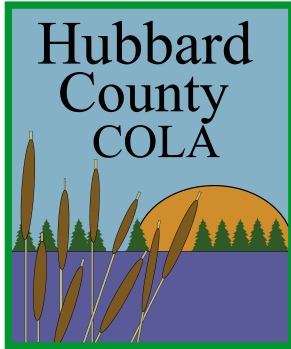
Pricing: Framed 11x14 (frame is 11x14) 75.00

Matted 8x10 45.00

Matted 11x14 60.00

# Hubbard County COLA Update

by Wayne Swanson, Past President and COLA Representative



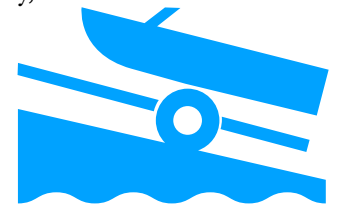
The decontamination station is up and running. The entrance is across from the Park Rapids Transfer Station. If you have had your boat in infested water (lake or river), let it dry for at least a week; that is the amount of time needed for invasive species to die. If you have not dried your watercraft for at least a week, please have it pressure washed at the decontamination station. Most standard pressure washers do not have hot enough water to do the job — you need both high pressure spray and hot water!

## **Boat Inspections**

Two lakes in our chain of lakes now have AIS: Upper Bottle has Faucet Snails and they can kill waterfowl. They can travel both up and down the chain of lakes.

Big Mantrap has Eurasian Watermilfoil. They are trying to control it and the MN DNR had a diver pull out as much as they could see. Fortunately, the river between Big Mantrap and Upper Bottle is really clogged so it will be difficult for it to travel down the river toward Little

Sand. Unfortunately, Big Mantrap got it despite having one of the most frequently open boat inspection stations. Remember, it takes a piece only an inch or two long on a boat or trailer to transport it to a new home, so please inspect your equipment carefully. CLEAN! DRAIN! DRY!



## **Water Depth Clarity**

The latest test showed you can see down into the water 23 feet. Unfortunately, it was a little windy on the day the test was done which can have an impact on clarity. Little Sand has had clear-water tests showing clarity of water to more than 30 feet!

## 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 Hubbard County 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,

- 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.

## **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.

# 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 soon and can be submitted to the LSLAA coordinator in October with plants ready for pick up around the first week in May of 2021.**

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 218-723-0121 for more information.

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

## We Need Your Membership!

For current members, we thank you for your membership and encourage your continued participation. We also thank the many LSLAA members who go above and beyond with additional donations towards our AIS funds. These funds help to keep our lake healthy.

**Dues:** LSLAA memberships were down in 2019. They have picked up for 2020, but as of this writing we are at 77 memberships—and we need 110 memberships to cover our costs. If you are new to the lake or you forgot to join last year, please join; \$35/property is not very much considering the benefits every property owner receives from LSLAA.

Here is 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.

**Budget:** If you'd like to see exactly how LSLAA spends its money, you can find the budget on the PowerPoint presentation from the annual meeting. We like to point out that social events, except for very nominal amounts that go toward our Annual Meeting and our Annual Picnic, are self-paid by those who participate in the events. LSLAA does not use dues funds for any other social events.

**Donations:** Always welcome! We strive to have extra funds available for an emergency — most likely the introduction of an invasive species to our lake — such as Big Mantrap Lake Association is now fighting.

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

# Social Committee 2020: Activities on Hold

by Phyllis Trutna, Social Committee Chair

Social Committee activities have been put on hold this year due to COVID-19. Some individuals are having small gatherings on their own and we had one pontoon party in June that was not well attended. An email will be sent out when we plan another pontoon party. We encourage social distancing and staying on your own pontoon. The boat parade had excellent attendance this year!

We are disappointed to say that we will not be arranging monthly coffees this year. We would again like to thank the previous hosts from 2019: Tony and Maggi Yerkes, Louise Calhoun, and Dave & Christine Hobrough. We have a few people that had graciously offered to have a coffee this year and we hope that they will be able to host next year. If anyone is interested in hosting a coffee in 2021, please email Phyllis Trutna at [ptrutna@comcast.net](mailto:ptrutna@comcast.net).

We would also like to give a special thank you to Rob and Majeana Hallstrom for hosting the 2019 Annual Potluck Picnic. The theme was a 50's party and a fun time was had by all! We are sorry to say that the annual picnic for 2020 has been cancelled due to the coronavirus concerns. We will miss all of our scheduled restaurant outings such as Zorbaz on the



**THE 2019 ANNUAL PICNIC SENT EVERYONE BACK TO THE FIFTIES. NOTE LACK OF SOCIAL DISTANCING!**

last Monday of each month, the Welcome Back and End of Year breakfasts, the Men's Breakfast, and the Ladies' Appetizers Night to name a few.

Please stay safe and be ready to hopefully celebrate next year!

Phyllis Trutna, Chair, 218-699-3320; Dar Swanson, 218-699-3447; Janet McMillen, 218-699-3230; Karen Odegard, 218-732-7310

## ***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](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.

## **County 50 Ditch Cleanup**

by Larry Bexell

Thank you to our volunteers this spring and summer and in the past! It's helpful to have a number of people so we can finish in an hour or less.

Sometimes there's lots to pick up and sometimes not so much, but it always looks great when it's done. Some "gems" picked during past pickups: a \$2,600 check, Menards rebate cash cards, pizza boxes, car parts from deer hits, beer cans and miniatures liquor bottles, cigarette packs, styrofoam coolers, shoes...and more.

The next scheduled pickup is Tuesday, September 1 at 1:00 p.m. Meet at the corner of CR50 and Glacier. Safety vests and bags are provided.

Thanks everyone!

## 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 Diane Smith and Karen Netland, who designed and maintained our website since its inception. We are delighted to have Jacob Nollette taking over the maintenance of the website..

## 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 Informed

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.



### **Please complete and enclose this form with your 2020 annual dues of \$35 per family membership.**

We occasionally print an updated directory. If you are a member, we will provide one to you when they are printed. 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*.

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