



A View From the Lake

Little Sand Lake Area Association, Park Rapids, Minnesota

Spring 2023

President's Letter

Christine Hobrough, LSLAA President

Hello, Lake Friends:

The snow is gone, and warm weather has arrived. I hope this newsletter finds you excited for the possibilities of the new season. And a Little Sand Lake hello to our new members!

Our lake covers 409 acres and has 6.4 miles of shoreline. The Little Sand Lake Area Association (LSLAA) Board has spent a great deal of time discussing our natural resources and how to maintain our reputation as one of the cleanest and clearest lakes in Minnesota. The Board has been working on AIS prevention and thanks MaJeana Hallstrom for leading the vegetation sampling study of our lake in 2022. MaJeana will share a summary of the study at the annual member meeting on June 10.

We are an all-volunteer non-profit organization; we always need more volunteers. A few ways to be involved include the lake monitoring team that completes water testing throughout the summer months. Big thanks to Larry Odegard for his work leading these efforts for many years and to Chris Sorensen for volunteering to step into the role this year.

We have an outstanding Social Committee that meets throughout the year to plan activities that bring us together in social settings. All events are paid by the participants and are lots of fun! The Christmas event had more than two dozen lake members who enjoyed a wonderful dinner and socializing on a snowy night in December.

Please keep an eye out for email messages and the social calendar announcing these activities. Our email coordinator can connect you if interested in volunteering. Simply send an email to:
LittleSandLakeAA@outlook.com

And while you are at it, please add our email address to your email address book to be sure you receive our communications:

LittleSandLakeAA@outlook.com

A few important dates for you to save are below. Be sure to bring your family and guests:

- June 10 - Annual Meeting at Zorbaz: Registration at 8:00; Meeting at 8:30a.m.
- July 1 - Annual Boat Parade – Meet near Zorbaz
- TBD - Annual Picnic/Party, Sports theme – wear your favorite team!
- August 5 - Annual Fishing Contest at the Public Launch



The LSLAA Board committed to maintain the 475 inspection hours at the public launch. These hours are funded by the state and county, the township, and LSLAA. Thanks to Lake Emma Township for a \$1300 grant supporting this important work to prevent AIS. Thanks to our members who generously donated more than \$2,700 in December to support the special appeal to help fund increased inspection costs.

Please be diligent with your own boating and lake equipment and that of your guests by encouraging use of the free Hubbard County Decontamination Station before any boat/motor enters Little Sand Lake. And, if you purchase used watercraft, docks, or boatlifts, please keep them out of the water for a minimum of two weeks to ensure any aquatic hitchhikers die before you put the equipment into Little Sand Lake. AIS can enter the lake not only by watercraft, but also by things like paddle boards, life jackets, and even water shoes!

PRESIDENT'S LETTER CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE

If you use a service provider to launch your watercraft and/or set up your dock or boat lift, and the service provider goes from lake to lake, please ask them how they ensure their equipment is free from AIS before they put your boat, lift and/or dock in for the year and take it out in the fall. Having everyone participate in ensuring our lake stays free of AIS is important. Invasive species were found in Mantrap Lake and Long Lake in recent years. And last summer Chinese Mystery Snails were observed in Little Sand!

Before I close this letter, the three “asks” we have for you are:

1. Check in with your neighbors and invite them to join the LSLAA. Our membership has continued to grow. With neighbors moving off and on to the lake, there is always an opportunity to share the good news about the quality of care and leadership of Little Sand Lake. Please pay your dues on time and online to save our volunteer Treasurer time and effort.

2. Attend at least one activity each month. We'd love to meet more of our lake friends and help introduce you to others. Invite your family and guests too!

3. Be diligent about AIS prevention and the care of our lake. Keep an eye out for all the wildlife on and around our lake. Observe regulations at the launch and in the water including how far motorized crafts need to stay from shorelines, especially Little Sand Lake's beloved “Christmas Tree Point.” Be sure to report any concerns to the DNR.

Thank you for being a member of the Little Sand Lake Area Association. Your annual dues and additional donations are put to excellent use in supporting AIS prevention and managing our precious natural resource. Most of all, we hope you have a joyful summer. Hope to see you on the lake!

Sincerely,
Christine



Thank You to LSLAA Board and Volunteers

My thanks to our volunteer Board of Directors including:

- MaJeana Hallstrom, Past President and COLA Representative
- Karen Netland, Vice President and Member Directory
- Jane Amble, Treasurer
- Cindy Nollette, Secretary
- Greg Dravis, Director at Large
- Glenn Gapp, Director at Large & Restore the Shore Coordinator
- Gerry Kaluzny, Director at Large
- Sandy Younger, Director at Large

Special thanks to Jacob Nollette for his technical expertise and advice with our website, Board meetings and the annual member meeting. Jacob's volunteer service is priceless!

We thank Glenn Gapp for many years on the Board of Directors as he has reached his term limit and is revolving off the Board.

We also thank Sandy Younger for his service on the Board; he is stepping off due to other priorities. In addition to replacing Glenn and Sandy, we are adding one more Director at Large to ensure we meet the requirements of our Bylaws to have at least one Director for every 25 member households.

The Board meets four times each year, once in person in the summer and three times via Zoom. We were excited to have Wade Masure, Park Rapids Area Fisheries Supervisor, join our meeting in August, 2022.

We are grateful for our volunteers! Just to name a few: Mark and Nancy Doda manage the launch kiosk, as well as the fishing contest; the Social Committee chaired by Phyllis Trutna who put together a terrific calendar of events; and Larry Odegard who has managed the water quality testing for more than six years. Larry is retiring from the role and passing the torch to Chris Sorensen. Thanks to Chris for wading into this volunteer role.

We are also grateful for the efforts of Marshall Howe, who has led the AIS survey team for countless years. Thanks to Luanne O'Neill for her time and talents in putting our annual newsletter together. We have several more volunteers not mentioned here that we are thankful for as well. It is a lot of fun supporting our lake and we invite you to volunteer with us!

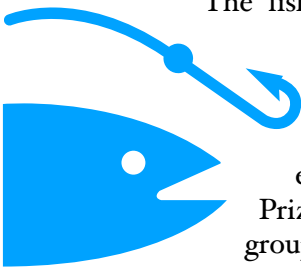
LSLAA Mission Statement

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.

LSLAA 21st Annual Fishing Contest: Saturday, Aug. 5



Hope you can join the fun at our 21st Annual Little Sand Fishing Contest for property owners and their guests.



The 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.

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! Please call Mark Doda if you are willing to help.



LEFT: FISHERPEOPLE, THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS, AS WELL AS INTERESTED ONLOOKERS, MAKE UP A BIG CROWD. RIGHT: MEASURING AND PHOTOGRAPHING A WINNING FISH.

Meet at the Public Water Access

5:00-5:15 PM – Registration (\$1.00/ person)

5:30 to 7:15 – Fishing on Little Sand Lake

7:30 – Prizes awarded

Categories:

Children - 10 and younger

Youth - 11 to 17

Adults - 18 and over

We Need Your Membership!

Current members, we thank you! 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.

Dues and Donations. 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. Because not all properties join LSLAA, we are very grateful to those who have made donations above and beyond the dues amount.

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.

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.

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.*

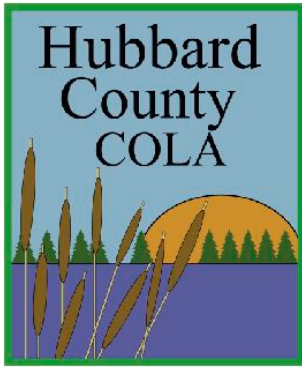
How to Pay Dues and Make Donations. LSLAA has set up a credit card payment option on our website, and we would prefer payments be made electronically. Here is the link to our website and payment information:
littlesandlakemn.com

Working to Maintain a Healthy Lake

by MaJeana Hallstrom, LSLAA COLA Rep

Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations (HC COLA)

Most of you know what we are talking about when we refer to “HC COLA” or “COLA,” but new residents may not know, so I thought I would share a quick overview. HC COLA’s mission is to protect and



enhance the quality of our lakes and rivers, preserve the economic, recreational and natural environmental values of our shorelands and promote the responsible use of our waters and related habitats. Hubbard County COLA’s mission enhances, promotes and protects the interests of lakeshore property owners, lake

associations, local government, the general public and future generations.

HC COLA provides collaboration among member lakes in Hubbard County. The organization meets the last Thursday of the month during the months of April to November. They develop and/or communicate educational materials and provide opportunities for information sharing across lakes. As a member of HC COLA, Little Sand Lake Area Association (LSLAA) is one of 31 lake associations representing 43 lakes with more than 2,770 members. Your LSLAA dues include \$4.00 towards our lake’s membership in HC COLA. MaJeana Hallstrom is LSLAA’s COLA representative.

For more information, go to the HC COLA website: *Hubbard COLA - Hubbard COLA* (hubbardcolamn.org).

Chinese Mystery Snails – and Clean, Drain, Dry

During the summer of 2022, large snails started showing up around our lake. While these snails are an invasive species, they generally do not garner the same level of concern that other aquatic invasive species (AIS)—such as zebra mussels or Eurasian milfoil—do. According to the Minnesota DNR, Chinese mystery snail (CMS) impacts include:

- They can die off in large numbers, fouling beaches and shoreland.
- In Asia, they can transmit human intestinal flukes; however, no cases have been documented in the United States. They are also carriers of trematode parasites found in native mussels.
- When waterfowl eat them, they can die from the parasites carried by the CMS.

To protect our lake from CMS and other invasive species, we need to make sure boats coming and going practice “CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY.”

The following videos provide information about keeping our boats free of AIS:: (20) Eurasian Watermilfoil: Chokes Lakes - YouTube, (20) Zebra Mussels: Shells Cut Feet - YouTube



CHINESE MYSTERY SNAIL

Working to Maintain a Healthy Lake

Launch Inspections—Weighing Cost vs. Benefit

LSLAA participates in the Boat Launch Inspection program coordinated by Hubbard County Environmental Services. This is our largest expense each year. The county apportions state-funded amounts to lakes in Hubbard County. Lakes most vulnerable to AIS, based on data



collected in previous years' inspections, are targeted for greater funding. We are fortunate in that Emma Township also provides grants to township lakes where public launches are located. Nonetheless, in 2023,

both Hubbard County and Emma Township reduced funding (and thus, hours) for Little Sand launch inspectors.

With funding from the state (administered by Hubbard County), Lake Emma Township, and LSLAA, we have been able to maintain an inspection level of 475 hours each summer. In 2022, we paid about \$2700 for 119 hours of inspection, which was our portion of the 475 hours. For 2023, state funding for Little Sand has been reduced; we received a grant

from Lake Emma Township for \$1300 (\$200 less than 2022). The 2023 per-hour inspector rate has gone from \$22/hour in 2022 to \$25/hour in 2023, so our dollars pay for fewer hours. In order to maintain the 475 of launch inspections in 2023, LSLAA paid \$5,575 for 223 hours—more than double the amount paid the previous year.

The Board reached out to our members late 2022 asking for extra donations to cover this unanticipated expense. So many of you were generous in your support. Thank you!

Having said that, \$5,500 is a large expense for LSLAA. At our 2023 Annual Meeting in June, MaJeana will present information about what lakes similar to ours pay for launch inspections. Little Sand generally pays more than lakes comparable to ours do. The Board would like the broader LSLAA membership to help decide if we should consider reducing the number of inspections we pay for.

Outdoor News recently reported on a study: "What's the Best Bang for AIS Bucks." You can read it here: *from Little Sand 07-01,08,28,40-Front,ALM.indd (t) rad, ps.pdf - Google Drive*

Who Has Zebra Mussel (ZM) Settlement Samplers?

LSLAA needs an update as to who has ZM detectors on their docks, is inspecting them over the summer, and is participating in the "Eyes on the Water" survey. If you have one, please email MaJeana at m_hallstrom@yahoo.com, so we can update our records. We may be seeking additional folks to do this. It is a small commitment for a potentially large problem.



ABOVE: ZEBRA MUSSELS
LEFT: ZM SETTLEMENT SAMPLER

County Rd. 50 Road Pickup

Our first road pickup for 2023 is Saturday, May 27, with others to be scheduled later. Please mark your calendars now!

Meet at the west end of Glacier Dr. at 9 a.m. Wear boots, a bright top, and gloves. Bring a plastic garbage bag and a "reacher" if you have one.

Thanks to Larry and Renee Bexell, who have coordinated this effort for many years!

Working to Maintain a Healthy Lake

Save Our Loons

Lead fishing tackle is harmful to our loon population. Please consider recycling your lead tackle and replacing it with lead-free tackle. (Lead is poison, so dispose of it properly. Take it to the Hubbard County Solid Waste Center and place it with hazardous waste.)

According to the HC COLA website, the report, "Lead Fishing Tackle Is Still a Problem for Common Loons," takes a long look at the

problem of poisoning in loons caused by lead fishing tackle. In Minnesota, we don't have the same extent of lead poisoning as in the northeastern states, but current statistics from necropsy of Minnesota

loons shows a lead poisoning rate of 14.4 percent. This is an

avoidable loss, just like the loss of bald eagles from use of lead ammo for deer hunting. There are nontoxic jigs and sinkers available from Minnesota manufacturers, but the problem needs more awareness among anglers, and the solutions need much more advocacy. (June 2018)"



Aquatic Vegetation Survey (AVS)

In 2005-06, volunteers from our lake developed an aquatic vegetation map for Little Sand Lake. That was a time-consuming undertaking. Given the amount of work invested 16 years ago, the Board decided it would be worthwhile to have another one done in 2022 to compare how aquatic vegetation has changed in terms of species and density. To help fund this project, LSLAA applied for and received a grant from HC COLA to do an Aquatic Vegetation Survey (AVS). LSLAA contracted the work with RMB Labs of Detroit Lakes. The total cost of the study was \$2,283; the grant paid for half of this amount, and LSLAA paid the other half.

We will share highlights of this study at our Annual Meeting; the full report will also be posted on our website in June.

AIS Monthly Surveys Continue

Marshall Howe will continue to coordinate the monthly AIS surveys. This group samples aquatic vegetation via a pontoon at several sites around the lake; looking for the appearance of any invasive plants. (They've not found any so far!) The group is looking for volunteers to help out — no experience necessary. They can provide training in species identification. A crew of four works best. Each survey takes only about 1 1/4 hours, so it's not a huge time commitment. Please contact Marshall if you want to help.

Water Quality Monitoring: Little Sand is Looking Good!

by Larry Odegard

The water quality monitoring team for last year (2022) included Mark Doda, Tom Linge, Rich Soderberg, Wayne Swanson, and me. At any one testing we had from 2 to 3 of us on the water, so not all of us were ever out there in mass. Good to have more qualified persons than needed, however, as summertimes are busy and can find some of our members busy on testing day(s). Tom Linge was next in line for leadership of this group; however, he has moved off the lake. Taking Tom's place starting this year will be Chris Sorensen; we wholeheartedly welcome Chris to head this group.

Spring 2022 started with high water on Little Sand. That plus perpetual winds kept the water quality about 2-5 ft. less than I have seen it the last 4-5 years.

This plus more boats in 2022 than what was past normal, added additional traffic, thus more water agitation. Not to worry, however, as our water clarity typically is one of the clearest in the state. Our dissolved oxygen testing was totally normal as was veliger (zebra mussel larva) testing and the water sampling sent in for analysis to R&B Labs in Detroit Lakes. All in all, I feel we are in very good shape and live on an enviable body of water.

We start our water testing in May and continue monthly through September. You may see us 200-250 yards out from the boat landing, as that is our 85' sweet spot for testing. Thank you for keeping your distance while we are conducting our testing.



Coming Soon to Little Sand Lake: Summer!

by Darlene Swanson

The Social Committee has been busy organizing events and gatherings to promote a community of neighbors that love Little Sand Lake.

We began our summer lake season with the celebration of Cinco de Mayo at Companeros on May 5. Opportunities to socialize and enjoy each other continue with :

- Welcome back breakfast - we love you Snowbirds and summer people!
- Coffees (Thanks to Albees and Hobroughs for volunteering to host this year) If you are interested in hosting a coffee, please contact Phyllis.
- Social time at the Annual Meeting
- A gathering for the men
- A gathering for the women
- Pontoon party to celebrate the rising of the full moon.
- Walking the Heartland Trail
- Road pick up on "50"
- A gathering the last Monday of the month at Zorbaz

- How about a round of Putt-Putt golf?

Any suggestions from you regarding other ideas for socializing? Let the committee know. We appreciate your input.

We cannot forget the two major events of the year.

1. The 4th of July Boat Parade. This year the event moves to July 1, by popular request. It's not too early to start planning your decorating scheme!

2. The Annual Picnic. Always a favorite, and this year the theme will be sports. Wear your favorite sports attire and join in the fun.

The May/ June Events are on the Calendar on the website. July through September will be coming soon. There is something for everyone! Come! Join in! Get to know your neighbors!

Your Social Committee:

Phyllis Trutna, Chair	719-440-1330
ptrutna2comcast.net	
Dar Swanson	612-819-0242
djrswanson@gmail.com	
Karen Odegard	303-709-2120
karen.odegard44@gmail.com	
Vicki Johnson	701-741-3935
johnson.vic61@gmail.com	



THE FOURTH OF JULY BOAT PARADE



LADIES' VICTORIAN BRUNCH AT THE PARK STREET INN, 2022

Personalized Signs for Your Lake Property Still Available



The Odegards will once more be making lake signs, road signs, dock signs, etc., June through August in 2023.

We, however, will cease operation at the end of August. The sign equipment we utilize will be available for sale at that time. It is a fun hobby and one which we have really enjoyed and made many new acquaintances. Let Larry know if you have any interest. We are selling at a very reasonable price, plus you will be trained and have a listing of current customers to get you started. Reach Larry at 303-709-8635

2022 Annual Picnic: Western Fun at the Hallstrom Ranch



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.



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Angela Albee (Along with her husband, Dave, have 2 of the cabins from the old Albee's Little Sand Resort which ran from 1968-1993) is excited to offer logoed items made to order for sale to all residents of the lake and beyond. As a way to give back to the community, Angela will donate 10% of the profit from every order to the Little Sand AIS Fund. The (unofficial) Little Sand Lake logo is available for Embroidery (small 2.75", large 6"). Screenprinting is also available. (pricing best at 12 pieces, mix and match). Pricing is provided upon request as there are many styles of apparel to choose from. Apparel options can be found at www.companycasuals.com and www.sportswearcollection.com. Have a family reunion? Fun Event? Happy to help with any logoed apparel/items.

Angela Albee
Call/Text 651-263-6145
angela@adwearpromo.com

