



A View From the Lake

Little Sand Lake Area Association, Park Rapids, Minnesota

Spring 2022

President's Letter

Christine Hobrough, LSLAA President

Hello, Lake Friends:

Last summer was warm, hot, and dry for much of the season. We saw our lake level drop and the fire danger increase. We all learned about water cycles (be patient, the lake level will come back naturally), and thanks to a quick-thinking lake friend, a potential fire was averted.

According to our own website, our lake covers 409 acres and has 6.4 miles of shoreline. The Little Sand Lake Area Association (LSLAA) Board 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. We rolled out a new website, updated the directory, and shared a great deal of new information including the updated Hubbard County Shoreland Management Ordinance (HCSMO). The HCSMO includes the New Short-Term Rental Regulations that took effect May 1, 2022, requiring all short-term rentals to be licensed and limit occupancy according to septic capacity guidelines.

We also put out a call for more volunteers. Little Sand Lake Area Association is an all-volunteer non-profit organization. In addition to Board roles, we have many other ways to be involved and enhance your time at the lake. This includes regular lake testing to support water quality and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) prevention; the annual fishing contest, hosting coffee events and planning social outings. Please consider volunteering to support your lake association.

A few important dates for you to save and bring your family and guests:

- *June 11 - Annual Meeting at Zorbaz: Registration at 8:00 a.m.; meeting at 8:30 a.m.*
- *July 4 - Annual Boat Parade— meet near Zorbaz*
- *July 30 - Annual Picnic/Party – Western style – at the Hallstrom's*
- *August 6 - Annual Fishing Contest— at the Public Launch*

The LSLAA Board committed to a total of 475 inspection hours at the launch. These hours are funded by the state and county, the township, and LSLAA. Thanks to Lake Emma Township for a \$1500 grant supporting this important work to prevent AIS. Please be diligent with your own 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 boat lifts, please be sure they are 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. Remember, AIS can enter the lake not only by watercraft, but also by things like paddle boards, life jackets, and even water shoes!

If you use a service provider to launch your watercraft and/or set up your dock or boat lift, don't forget, these service providers go from lake to lake. Please ask your service provider 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 in 2021.



PRESIDENT'S LETTER CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE

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

1. **Check in with your neighbors and invite them to join 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 for Little Sand Lake. Please pay your dues on time and on-line 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 \$35 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

Annual Meeting: June 11, 2022

The LSLAA Annual Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, June 11. We plan to do a hybrid meeting so that people can meet in person if they wish or online if they are not able to be at the lake that weekend.

For those who attend in person, we will be meeting at Zorbaz. Whether online or in person, social time and registration will start at 8:00 a.m., and the business meeting will follow at 8:30 a.m. More details will be provided in an email prior to June 11.

Remember, to be eligible for door prizes your dues must be paid by June 9!

LSLAA Board and Elections

The Board: A key part of our Annual Meeting is to elect Officers and Directors to the LSLAA Board. 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 LSLAA Board through June 11, 2022. Some will be leaving office in June due to term limits. Many thanks to our Board:

- Christine Hobrough, President—has served first year of first term
- MaJeana Hallstrom, Past President
- Cindy Nollette, Secretary—has completed one year of second term
- Karen Netland, Director at Large—has served first year of first term
- Glenn Gapp, Director at Large—has completed first year of second term
- Steve Trutna, Vice President – has completed two terms as VP and will be leaving the Board
- Larry Odegard, Director at Large – has completed two terms and will be leaving the Board
- Jane Amble, Director at Large – has served first year of first term.
- Punky Catlin, Treasurer—no term limits.

Elections 2022—New Folks on the Docket:

Karen Netland, who has served one year as a Director, will run for VP. We are fortunate that we have three additional individuals who will be running for Board positions: Greg Dravis, Sandy Younger, and Gerry Kaluzny. Many thanks to these Little Sand Lake stewards.

As of this writing, we are also seeking a candidate for Treasurer. Punky Catlin has served on the Board as Director, Secretary, and at least ten years as Treasurer; we think she deserves to “retire” from the LSLAA Board! We hope to have a nominee lined up for Treasurer by the Annual Meeting.

Looking ahead to 2023: As you will note, several Board Members will be “termed out” in 2023, so we will need some new folks to join the Board next year. *Please consider doing so!* If you would like to run for a Board office in the future or have other nominees, please let Christine know at littleandslakeaa@outlook.com.

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 68 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: littlesandlakemn.com However, if you would prefer to pay by check, you will find directions for doing so on the website.

Little Sand 20th Annual Fishing Contest: Sat., Aug. 6, 2022

This will be our 20th Annual Little Sand Fishing Contest for property owners and their guests. Last year we had a fantastic turnout, with more than 30 kids and adults participating.



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.

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 each 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

Muskies in Little Sand Lake: *A Look at the Past*

by Dan Kittilson

The article below was taken from the archives of the Sebeka Review (Sebeka, Minn.). Thanks to Doug Kirkham who owns property on Lake Ida for finding this article. Doug sent this to Bob Berdahl in August, 2017. Bob, who lives on Potato Lake, shared this with me at that time. I recently found this article in one of my many Little Sand Lake folders and thought this is something that should be shared with the Little Sand Lake community.

Some of you probably don't know me as we sold our home on Little Sand and moved to Perham, Minn. I am a past president of Little Sand Lake and Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations.

Thanks to the Sebeka Review for sharing this article. As noted above it was printed on August 15, 1947.

THE SEBEKA REVIEW

August 15, 1947

Recalls Landing 85 Muskies In 2 Days

Ed Thomas and Burt H. Pettit, Verndale fishermen, caught 85 muskies in two days at Little Sand Lake near Park Rapids. They retained about half and returned the other. Some of these were taken by rod and reel and the remainder by night spearing.

Whoops, my dear, do not blow your top, this was in 1889 some 58 years ago when muskies, mammoth great northerns, big walleyes, bass, both large and small mouth were abundant in Minnesota lakes and streams and there were no limits.

Pettit, now 89 years of age but still active has been entered in The Morning Tribune's Search for Minnesota's Ancient Angler-Conservationist.

He was born at Charles City, Iowa, in 1858 and came to Verndale in 1880 and has resided there ever since.

Pettit commenced muskie angling in 1883, some 64 years in the past. His best lakes were Belle Taine, Sand and the Man Trap Chain and he writes "there were no other fish in those lakes but muskies and you had a muskie on nearly every cast."

His first fishing trips into that magnificent scenic and angling area was by horse and buggy as the railroad did not extend from Eagle Bend to Park Rapids until 1891.

In one morning, he caught and released 21 muskies weighing from 10 pounds to over 30 pounds.



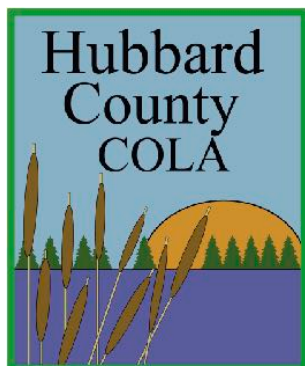
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Working to Maintain a Healthy Lake

Ice-Out!

Spring 2022 was a long time coming! All of us eagerly awaited ice-out, which arrived on May 07 — after days when we had finally reached temperatures in the 60s. May 7 is actually not the latest ice-out Little Sand has experienced. The latest recorded was May 18, 2013. In 2021, we already had our boats in the water, as the lake opened up on April 5.

Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations (HC COLA)



LSLAA is a member of the Hubbard County Coalition of Lakes. To be part of this important organization, we pay \$4.00/member. Below is advice and the status of key issues from HCCOLA:

HC COLA holds meetings the last Thursday of every month, except for four months during the winter. Meetings for 2022 started again on April 28 via hybrid mode (virtual and in person). MaJeana Hallstrom is acting as Little Sand's HC COLA representative, and Cindy Nolette serves as back-up when MaJeana cannot attend.

HC COLA provides training and education, coordinates with Environmental Services to schedule AIS launch inspections, gets involved with and provides support to lakes with AIS infestation, and makes many resources available to lake property owners and lake lovers. Check out the HC COLA

website for information: www.hubbardcolamn.org

The HC COLA Charitable Fund provides grants up to \$2,000 for charitable and educational programs, projects and activities that facilitate cooperation among member lake associations and to assist in encouraging environmentally sustainable use of lakes and watersheds that protect, preserve and enhance the quality of area lakes and environs. LSLAA is a beneficiary of a grant this year...more on that later.

Our lake water testing process starts on May 23, and we will also do two Zebra Mussels tests this year. Speaking of Zebra Mussels, this is a reminder that 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, 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.**

Aquatic Vegetation Mapping: Coming This Summer

Part of maintaining our healthy lake is to monitor the aquatic vegetation in Little Sand Lake. Currently, we have a group of volunteers led by Marshall Howe who, several times each summer, do vegetation sampling in six locations on the lake to check for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS).

In 2005-06 Dan Kittilson, Jim Thomsen, and Vern Thompson developed a detailed plan for and conducted many hours of aquatic vegetation mapping on our lake. Given the length of time that has passed since the last vegetation mapping, the LSLAA Board has decided to have another vegetation mapping done as a follow-up to the 2006 one.

We asked for a proposal from RMB Labs in Detroit Lakes. Their proposal specified a plan — which will tie back to the vegetation mapping done in 2006 — and they provided a bid of \$2,333. To help fund part of this, the LSLAA Board submitted a grant request to HC COLA; we have been awarded the amount of \$1,167, or half of the total amount to have RMB Labs conduct this study. RMB Labs will conduct this work on our lake sometime in June or July. They will provide a report to us early fall, and we will share those results with you. One of the conditions of receiving the grant is to follow up over five years on the work RMB labs; *we will be looking for volunteers to help with this effort.*

Working to Maintain a Healthy Lake

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.

State Funding Restored for AIS Launch Inspections

Funding for AIS launch inspections was reduced by about 20 percent in 2021 due to COVID's impacting state tax revenues, but the LSLAA Board and members felt it was important to maintain the level of inspections we have had over the past years — a total of about 475 hours.



LSLAA paid for 187 hours in 2021.

For 2022, we will continue to maintain the same number of hours. The hourly rate for inspectors increased from \$21/hr last to \$22/hr this year. Because of a generous grant from Emma Township and the restored state fundings, Little Sand has paid \$2,618 for 119 hours.

County 50 Road Pickup Dates: Can You Help Us ?

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

- Wednesday, May 25 at 9:00 a.m. (*Thanks to those who came out!*)
- Wednesday, June 29 at 9:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, August 31 at 9:00 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!

Social Committee 2022: Off to a Great Start!

by Phyllis Trutna, Social Committee Chair

The May – September, 2022 social activities have begun! The season has gotten off to a great start with a Cinco de Mayo celebration at Companeros. A good time was had by all! Thanks to Dar Swanson for the great pictures.

We are happy to announce that Rob and MaJeana Hallstrom will be hosting yet another Annual Picnic! It appeared that everyone had a great time at the 50s and the Hawaiian parties! The Annual Picnic this year will be on Saturday, July 30. at 5:00 p.m. The theme is Western, so please wear your Western attire. More information will follow.

We are excited about the upcoming monthly coffees that have been scheduled for this summer! We really appreciate the following volunteers that have accepted to host a coffee:

June 25 – 10:00 a.m., Paul and Laurie Isakson

July 20 – 10:00 a.m., Jerry and Jan Swedberg

August 13 – 10:00 a.m., Dave and Amy Saviage

September 3 – 10:00 a.m., Vicki Johnson

We would like to acknowledge and again thank those who so graciously hosted coffees last summer in 2021: Ben and Julie McKee, Dick and Linda Gohn cohosted by Tony and Maggi Yerkes, and Dave and Christine Hobrough.

All LSLAA Members will be receiving an email including the new social calendar. Coming soon, you will also be able to find these monthly calendars on the LSLAA website. Be sure to check out all of the upcoming activities. Please let us know if you have any questions, suggestions, or just want to volunteer!!

Your Social Committee:

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



Summer Picnic 2021 at the Hallstrom's: Hawaii Vibes at Little Sand Lake



Investment Property Owners/ Short-Term Rental Properties

If you rent your property for any amount of time, please be aware that Hubbard County has new short-term rental regulations including new permit rules. We also have information for you to share with any renters located on our website:

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 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 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.