

A View From the Lake

Little Sand Lake Area Association
22898 County 7 Park Rapids, MN 56470

Spring 2017

President's Report

Wayne R. Swanson, President, LSLAA

News from the Lake...

Docks In? Cinder Blocks To Detect Zebra Mussels Should Also Be In

After you install your dock for the season, please remember to attach your cinder block to your dock. It should be hung about a foot off the bottom of the lake. If you don't have a cinder block, please let me know and I will get you one free of charge.

Remember to check it in mid-July, again in mid-August, plus at the end of the season.

Other AIS News

Unfortunately, Zebra Mussels are being found closer to Hubbard County. Leech Lake and Cass Lake are now infested; so if you use those lakes please remember to have your boat pressure washed. It is free of charge and the decontamination station is located next to the Hubbard County Transfer Station.

New threats are the Spiny Waterflea and Starry Stonewort. To see examples of them, just Google them on line. At this time they are only found in a couple of lakes in the state.

Still Clean and Clear

Our lake is still one of the cleanest and clearest lakes in Minnesota. Let's make sure we keep it that way!

Ice Out and Loons Return:

The good news is the ice went out in **early April** and the loons returned by **mid-April**. It has been great to hear their calls again day and night.

Speaking of loons, our lake has three nesting platforms and one natural nesting platform. **Please slow down (NO WAKE!) and avoid these areas**

while the loons are still on the nest. A large wake can cause the platform to rock and the eggs to fall off. Also, give them plenty of room on the lake, especially when the young first hatch and cannot yet dive. The loon parents have enough to worry about with eagles and hawks.

Wildlife

Two pair of bald eagles frequent the lake and often land on a limb in front of our house—much to the chagrin of the loons. A mother bear and her three cubs have visited bird feeders and porches on both sides of the lake—and Dan Kittilson has photos of one of the bears.

Dorset

The entire Metropolis of Dorset is now open, some with limited hours/days in May, and the 2017 Dorset Bugle newspaper is hot off the press!

LSLAA Website www.littlesandlakemn.com

Remember to visit our website for the latest information.

We hope to see you at our annual meeting on June 10th, on the lake this summer, and at many of the activities and events planned by our social committee. Join in and get acquainted with your lake neighbors! Enjoy your time **at** the lake and **on** the lake! Let's have a fun and safe lake season.

LSLAA Annual Meeting
Saturday, June 10th

Northwoods Bank Community Room

Park Rapids

8:30 a.m. Registration and coffee

*9:00 a.m. Meeting, followed by
door prize drawings.*

Please plan to attend this important meeting.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE 2017

by Denise Kisser, Social Committee Chair

Spring has arrived and the Little Sand Lake social committee invites all lake and area residents to attend the many events planned to meet and greet new and old lake friends in the months ahead. Below are a few 2017 Summer highlights to entice you to join us!

MAY – **Companeros** opened for the season on Cinco de Mayo, and LSLAA members gathered to dine and welcome the warmer weather. Speaking of warmer weather, our less hardy friends (i.e., “snowbirds” 😊) are coming back to Little Sand Lake, and we will greet them at our traditional “**Welcome Back Breakfast**” held at the **Emmaville Café** on May 31st.

JUNE - Our **Annual Meeting** kicks off our summer. The meeting will be held on June 10th at 8:30am in the Community Room at the Northwoods Bank in Park Rapids. On Tuesday, June 20, a **Men’s Breakfast** will be held at the **Logging Camp**, and on Wednesday, June 21, the ladies will enjoy a **Ladies Social Hour** at **Necce’s**.

JULY – Start your **Independence Day** activities by participating in our Fourth of July boat parade! An evening of **Full Moon Merrymaking** will be on Saturday, July 8th. Join your neighbors in the middle of the lake, where we will form a floating party island.

AUGUST – Last year’s Theater and Dinner event was such a success, we decided to do it again! On August 9, we will be attending a matinee of the play, **Souvenir**, which will be followed by dinner at the **Hilltop Inn**.

Shiver me timbers! The Catlin’s have been hosting their very fun Pirate’s Party for the past several years; the LSLAA decided to hijack their ship and make the Pirate Party our **Annual Picnic** on August 19th. (Thanks Punky and Don for surrendering so willingly!)

SEPTEMBER – On Thursday, September 21, we will hold our “**End of Season Breakfast**” at the **Emmaville Café**.

Our **Monthly Coffee Get-togethers** will continue to provide us with a way to meet our neighbors around the lake and enjoy the view from an entirely different vista. The **June Coffee** will be held on Saturday, June 17, at the home of **Janet McMillen & Marshall Howe**, with **Diane Johnson** co-

hostessing. The **July Coffee** will be held at **Maggi & Tony Yerkes’** home on Tuesday, July 11, with **Denise Kisser** as co-hostess. **Jone & Wayne Classon** will be hosting on Wednesday, August 16 and **Renee & Larry Bexell** will host on Wednesday, September 13. Many thanks to our gracious coffee hosts from the 2016 season: *Mary & Mike Nelson, Jan & Jerry Swedberg, Dar & Wayne Swanson, and Jean & Rich Soderberg.*

All summer, together with your Little Sand Lake friends, you can quilt on Tuesday mornings, walk the Heartland Trail on Tuesday & Thursday mornings, help with roadside pick-up, have a canoeing/kayaking adventure, and as always, meet for dinner at **Zorbaz** the last Monday of the month.

Janet McMillen emails a monthly Social Event Calendar. Please watch your email for that, and check our website for all event dates, times, and locations. When requested, please RSVP in a timely manner and join us for another rewarding summer on the lake.

Your Social Committee,
MaJeana Hallstrom, 2017 Chair
732-2770 or 763-350-2388
Dar Swanson - 699-3447
Phyllis Trutna -719-528-5067
Janet McMillen - 699-3230

INTERESTED IN KAYAKING or CANOEING?

Larry Bexell would like to lead a kayak or canoe adventure this summer.

Several kayakers joined our trip down the Fish Hook River two summers ago. This year we plan to choose an easier location—or organize a time just on Little Sand. All levels of paddlers are welcome.

If you want to join us and don’t have access to a kayak or canoe, let us know. We can locate some kayaks and canoes to borrow.

Interested? Contact Larry at 218-699-3876 or larbex2@gmail.com. A venture is often planned on short notice, depending on the weather, so if we know you would like to participate, we can email you once plans are made.



Little Sand 15th Annual Fishing Contest Saturday, August 5, 2017

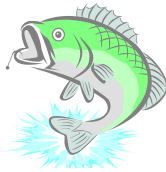
Meet at the Public Access

5:00-5:30 PM – Registration (\$1.00)

5:30 to 7:30 – Fishing

7:30 – Prizes Awarded

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



This is our 15th 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! The fishing contest coincides with the Taste of Dorset weekend, always the first Sunday in August, since many families come to enjoy that event.

Fun for all! Prizes are awarded in each age group for the largest fish in several categories. We also have drawings for door prizes donated by area merchants.

Volunteers are needed to help with the fishing contest. Please call Larry Bexell (699-3876) to let him know you are willing to help.

Little Sand Fishing Contest 2016

by Jan and Jerry Swedberg

The Little Sand Lake Fishing Contest is again a good memory from the 2016 summer events of our Little Sand Lake Area Association. Forty-five adults and ten children/youth registered or participated in bringing in their catch. Some were small, some medium, none gigantic. All categories of fish were caught with the exception of walleye. Families participated and brought in their catch at 7:15 to be weighed and measured.

Winners of each category were:

Crappie - *Matthew McLaughlin* – 6 7/8” – Child

Karen Netland – 10” – Adult

Sunfish - *Chelsea Sparks* – 8 ½” – Child

Teddy Walsh – 8 ¼” – Youth

Bass - *Josh Bauer* – 14 5/8” – Youth

Katie Tronsgard – small mouth – 12 1/8” – Adult

Sandy Younger – large mouth – 16¼” – Adult

Rock Bass - *Josh Bauer* 9 5/8” – Youth

Ben Doda – 10 7/8’ – Adult

Our generous local sponsors donated gift certificates, tee shirts and hats, fishing equipment, treats at McDonald’s, Pizza Hut and Burger King, ice cream from BP, mini-

golf rounds, and visits to Park Avenue School of Cosmetology. Please remember to thank them when you visit their businesses:

Beagle and Wolf Books & Bindery, Book World of Park Rapids, Citizens National Bank, Coldwell Banker, Companeros, Delaney’s, Dorset Corner Liquor, Heartland Trail Mini Golf, Holiday Station, Johnson’s on the Water, LaPasta Italian Eatery, L&M Fleet, McDonald’s, Park Avenue School of Cosmetology, Park Rapids BP gas station, Pizza Hut, Stained Glass Workshop of Dorset, Wolff & Simon Real Estate, Zhateau Zorbaz on Little Sand.

Volunteer helpers on the grounds were:

Wayne Swanson – fish measurer par excellence

John Kissler - recorder of same and judge of winners

Jerry Swedberg – runner between dock and official measuring station

Denise Kissler – registration and prizes

Jan Swedberg – registration and prizes

Larry and Renee Bexell – for guidance and support

Many thanks to all who participated! (See next article on our 2017 Fishing Contest on Saturday, August 5, and please volunteer to help out in any way you are able.)

Little Sand’s Loons



The first loons were sighted on Little Sand in mid-April, shortly after the ice went off the lake. That’s always a reassuring sign of spring being right around the corner. Spring has come and gone a few times since then, with some above average high temps, but then even a few snow flurries in May—a typical Minnesota spring!

We ask that everyone be respectful of our loons as they nest, and throughout the open lake season. PLEASE STAY AWAY FROM THE NESTS! Do not use loon calls during this time when the loons are on the nests as this may cause them to abandon the eggs.

There are three nesting platforms on Little Sand, with all three presently having loons nesting. Dick Peters has been the DNR’s official observer for many years, with Roger Hochsprung assisting him. A big THANK YOU, Dick! Roger will now be our main observer and in charge of placing the platforms. 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.

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

If so, please contact Maggi Yerkes (699-3193). She has a Little Sand Welcome Packet and a Park Rapids Residents' Guide filled with valuable information and other items very helpful to new residents on Little Sand Lake.

Personalized Dock Name Signs



Summer Little Sand residents Larry and Karen Odegard are again making signs to be mounted on the lakeside end of your dock. Names are routed into composite decking material preventing any water rotting issues. There are already over 25 signs on our Little Sand Lake.

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. These are high-quality signs and a real value for the price. Custom road signs are also available.

Samples will be available at our Annual Meeting. Orders can be taken there, or contact Odegards at 218-732-7310 or cell 303-709-8635.

**Upper Mississippians
Zorbaz Summer Schedule**

The Upper Mississippians will continue under the direction of Deane Johnson, with their full complement of 13 instrumentalists. **They will begin their 2016 summer run at Zorbaz on Sunday afternoon, June 25th from 2:00-5:00.** Other Sunday afternoons scheduled this summer are:

July 9 and July 23 -- 2:00-5:00

August 13 and August 20 -- 2:00-5:00

Bring your friends and enjoy an afternoon of dancing and listening to great music when this talented group of local musicians entertains at Zorbaz.

**PLEASE REMEMBER:
Make certain your watercraft
and trailer are free of all vegetation
before entering and
leaving the lake.**

**Stay Informed...and
Keep Us Informed**

If you have news or information of interest to our Little Sand Board or property owners—or a change of address or email for our directory—email or phone that information to Renee Bexell: *larbex2@gmail.com* or 218-699-3876. It can be forwarded to those for whom we have email addresses, and put on our website.

If you aren't receiving our newsletter and other LSLAA information by email throughout the year and you have an email address, please send it to our LSLAA email coordinator, Janet McMillen, *howe.mcmillen@gmail.com*.

Your Membership in LSLAA

is Greatly Needed
and So Helpful

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

If you are not currently a member of Little Sand Lake Area Association (only \$30/year per family), we ask you to join. ALL LAKE RESIDENTS ARE BENEFITED by the workings and financial support of Little Sand's dues-paying lake association members.

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

LSLAA PIZZA NIGHTS

Zhateau Zorbaz on Little Sand

5:00 P.M. the last Monday every month.
(See 2-for-1 beverage coupon below.)

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Other LSLAA social events include in-home coffees, dinner at other area restaurants, full moon pontoon connections, and a large variety of other fun get-togethers.

These gatherings are a great way to get acquainted. Watch for your emails and on our new website. **Come and join the fun!**

ZORBAZ COUPON - ZORBAZ COUPON - ZORBAZ COUPON



Buy one beverage
get a second beverage
of equal or lesser value
FREE
(one free beverage per coupon)

zorbaz
ON THE LAKE

(Spring 2017)

Name _____

Zhateau Zorbaz

22036 County 7 Park Rapids, MN 218-732-1969

Please protect our loons.



County 50 Road Pickup

THANK YOU to those who helped “pick the ditch” along County 50 last season. Our first road pickup for 2017 was May 9 with volunteers *Janet McMillen & Marshall Howe, John & Denise Kisser, Jim & Sharon Mead, Rob Hallstrom, Wayne Swanson, and Larry & Renee Bexell.*

The next scheduled road pickup dates are **Thursday, July 1 at 9:00 a.m. and Saturday, September 7 at 9:00 a.m.** We meet at the corner of Glacier Drive and County 50. Wear your gloves. Bags and brightly-colored visibility vests are provided. Mark your calendars now!

DNR Firewise program helps rural homeowners reduce wildland fire risks

by Dan Carroll, DNR northwest region Firewise specialist, Park Rapids, MN

Seven out of 10 structures destroyed by wildfire are ignited by the embers that land on the property and start small fires that find a suitable fuel bed (woodpile under deck, pine needles in gutters, tall grass in yard) that ignites a portion of a home or cabin.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' Firewise program provides tips to rural homeowners to reduce the risks of wildfires to their homes and cabins. Property owners who reduce the likelihood that an ember finds a suitable fuel bed, can significantly reduce the likelihood that their home or cabin will ignite.

The Firewise program identifies four factors homeowners can control that affect whether a home will survive a wildfire - access, site, structure and burning practices.

Access

Access affects how easily firefighters and emergency vehicles can find and access a home. Without good access and escape routes, firefighters will not endanger themselves to save a home.

Defensible zone

Creating a 100-foot "defensible zone" around your home or cabin, especially the 30 feet surrounding it, is critical to its chance of surviving a wildfire.

Anything flammable, including firewood piles and accumulated leaf and needle fall around foundations and decks should be removed.

Firewood or other combustible materials should not be stored in the zone. Decks within 5 feet of the ground should be enclosed with metal screening or sheeting. The area under decks, unless completely enclosed with metal screening, should not be used for storage.

A 10-foot minimum space should be maintained between evergreen tree crowns, and the tree crowns and home. This prevents fire from jumping tree to tree and tree to home.

Grass, leaves and branches provide a ladder for fuel to climb from ground to tree crown. These fuels can be eliminated by mowing tall grass, trimming shrubs and pruning the lower tree branches up 6 to 10 feet, or one-third of the tree height. Lawns should be kept green and mowed short to prevent fire from carrying to other areas.

Reducing fuels in the wooded area within the 100-foot zone and beyond will reduce the intensity of an approaching wildfire. Trees should be thinned/removed to increase their spacing, underbrush reduced and remaining trees pruned up 6 to 10 feet or one-third of the tree height. This will reduce the fuels and lessen the wildfire intensity.

Structure

Home modifications that further reduce wildfire risk include re-siding with brick, stone, stucco or steel, replacing shake roofing with class A shingles or steel, and enclosing foundations, decks and overhangs with steel, masonry or less expensive flame-resistant sheeting.

Burning Practices

The number one cause of wildfires in Minnesota is escaped debris burning fires. If you burn leaves and debris, consider alternatives like composting. Recreational fires should be located in a fire-safe pit or container and completely extinguished before left unattended.

Please complete and enclose this form with your 2017 annual dues of \$30 per family membership. Checks are to be made payable to LSLAA and mailed to *Charlotta "Punky" Catlin, 22898 County 7, Park Rapids, MN 56470* or paid at our Annual Meeting.

___ **ENCLOSED IS OUR ANNUAL DUES** in the amount of \$_____ for ___ family membership(s).

___ **In addition to our dues**, we are voluntarily donating \$_____ to be used for prevention and control of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) into Little Sand Lake. *(All donations to LSLAA are tax deductible.)*

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: Lake: _____ Home: _____ Cell: _____

E-Mail: _____

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 Renee Bexell, lrbex2@gmail.com. Our 2017 directory book will be available at the annual meeting and is also available on our new website www.littlesandlakemn.com

___ ***(Please note my attached changes/additions.)***