



A View From the Lake

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

Spring 2016

President's Report

Wayne R. Swanson, President, LSLAA

News from the Lake...

Water Level:

Very little snow this winter, we only had our driveway plowed twice, and modest rain this spring means the lake level is lower,

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 them 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 when the young first hatch and cannot yet dive. The 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.

Bears have visited bird feeders and porches on both sides of the lake—and we have photos to prove it.

Great News:

On May 5th, the newly-built Companeros had their grand opening and about 24 people from Little Sand Lake were there to celebrate. The food, drinks, and service were great! Dorset House opened the following weekend serving ice cream and will also be having pizza, sandwiches and salads.

The entire Metropolis of Dorset is now open with limited hours/days in May.

Still Clean and Clear:

Our lake is still one of the cleanest and clearest lakes in Minnesota. On May 8th the secchi disc was visible to 30 feet.

LSLAA Website: www.littlesandlakemn.com

Remember to visit our website for the latest information and our updated lake directory.

We hope to see you at our annual meeting on June 11th, on the lake this summer, and at some of the fun activities and events planned by our social committee. Join in and get acquainted with your lake neighbors!

Enjoy your time at the lake!

Wayne

County 50 Road Pickup

A big **THANK YOU** to those who helped “pick the ditch” along County 50 last spring, summer and fall.

The next scheduled road pickup dates are **Thursday, June 30th at 9:00 a.m.** and **Saturday, August 27th 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.

LSLAA Annual Meeting Saturday, June 11th

*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 2016

by Denise Kisser, Social Committee Chair

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

MAY - On May 5th we gathered to dine and welcome back Companeros to their newly completed restaurant in Dorset. Just as the loons return, so do our "snowbirds" who will be greeted at our traditional "**Welcome Back Breakfast**" held at the Emmaville Café on May 26th.

JUNE - Summer kicks off with our **Annual Meeting** on June 11th at 8:30. **Morning coffees** will continue throughout the summer providing us with a way to meet our neighbors around the lake and enjoy the view from an entirely different vista. We would like to thank our gracious coffee hosts from last season; *Dar & Wayne Swanson, Maggi & Tony Yerkes, Phyllis & Steve Trutna, Renee & Larry Bexell, Amy Saviage and Jan & Jerry Swedberg.*

Last June, we ladies enjoyed an afternoon at the **Long Lake Theater** and this year decided to invite the men to join us on June 22 for the musical comedy *Guys on Ice*, after which they can treat us to dinner at the **Hilltop Inn**.

JULY - Of course you will want to attend the Fourth of July boat parade! Tired of the relatives? Please join us on July 7th at **Arthur's** on their outside patio viewing Ten Mile Lake. On July 19th we will be gathering in our pontoons/boats in the middle of the lake to glory the splendor of a full moon.

AUGUST - The Ladies Luncheon has been replaced this year by a **Ladies Social Hour** with appetizers and conversation at **Neece's** (both of which we never tire of) scheduled for August 18th. Our **Annual Picnic** on August 25th will be held right here on Little Sand Lake on the beautiful lawn of MaJeana and Rob Hallstrom. The Hallstroms have retired to the lake and are a great asset to our lake association.

All summer, together with your Little Sand Lake friends, you can quilt on Tuesday mornings, walk the Heartland Trail on Wednesday & Friday mornings, help with road pick-up, have a canoeing adventure or enjoy various eating opportunities including **Zorbaz** the last Monday of each month.

Please watch your email and check the web site calendars for all event dates and times. When requested, please RSVP in a timely manner and join us for another rewarding summer on the lake.

Your Social Committee,
Denise Kisser, Chair - 732-9678
Dar Swanson - 699-3447
Janice Peters - 732-9507
Janet McMillen - 699-3230
Majeana Hallstrom - 732-2770

INTERESTED IN KAYAKING or CANOEING?

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



Last year we had several kayakers for our trip down the Fish Hook River. This year we plan to choose an easier location. 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.

~ CONDOLENCES ~

Our sincere sympathies are extended to the families and friends of

LeeAnn Norgaard. Seasonal resident LeeAnn Nordgaard, who lived in Barnesville, MN, passed away on March 10, 2015, at the age of 77.

Bob Craig, 86, who enjoyed his summers living next to our public access, and lived in Park Rapids during the colder months, passed away on September 14, 2015. A Celebration of Life was held on October 8 at the American Legion and was well attended by Little Sand friends.

Jane Flaherty, long-time Little Sand resident, passed away in Lindstrom, MN on January 14, 2016. Dick and Jane were active in our activities for many years before moving to Lindstrom a few years ago. Dick passed away in June 2011.

Roger Cole, 77, passed away at Heritage Cottages, Park Rapids on February 20th, 2016, of complications from neurodegenerative dementia.

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 on May 12—a typical Minnesota spring!

Dick Peters asks that everyone be respectful of our loons as they nest. PLEASE, stay away from 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, and all three presently have loons nesting. Dick has been the DNR's official observer for many years, now with Roger Hochsprung assisting him. **If you see a natural loon nest or baby loons, please call Dick (732-9507) or Roger (218-639-9591) to report them.** If you see anyone harassing the loons, report it to the DNR or the Sheriff.

Little Sand 14th Annual Fishing Contest Saturday, August 6, 2016

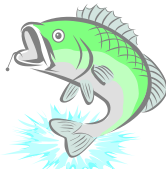
Meet at the Public Access

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 **14th Annual Little Sand Fishing Contest.** Have your families put this on their calendars NOW so they can plan to be here. Children and adults both 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 Jerry Swedberg (732-4609) to let him know you are willing to help.

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 and orders will be taken there, or contact Larry or Karen: 218-732-7310, cell 303-709-8635 or karlar2670@gmail.com,

"Ice Over" and "Ice Out"

This is the 25th year Little Sand Lake has participated in the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Volunteer Monitoring Program. Thanks to the late Vern Thompson, Mary Groehler and Maggi Yerkes for helping with these records.

Ice Over: I do not have record of the date of ice over this year. The earliest recorded dates that Little Sand iced over are November 14, 1995 and 1996.

Ice Out: This "spring" ice went off the lake on April 6th. March 27th, 2012 was the earliest ice out in 19 years, due to the "non-winter" of 2011-2012.

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 26th from 2:00-5:00.** Other Sunday afternoons scheduled this summer are:

July 10 and July 24 -- 2:00-5:00

August 14 and August 28 -- 2:00-5:00

Enjoy an afternoon of dancing and listening to great music when this talented group of local musicians entertains at Zorbaz.

ARE YOU NEW TO LITTLE SAND ...OR HAVE A NEW NEIGHBOR?

If so, 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.

LSLAA Aquatic Invasive Species Update and Related News

*by Marshall Howe, Chair
LSLAA Healthy Lakes Committee.*

Once again our surveys have shown Little Sand Lake to be free of zebra mussels and other noxious invasive species. Although primary responsibility for Hubbard County's watercraft inspection program has transferred from the Soil and Water Conservation District to the county itself, we expect the program to continue as in the past. This year, pooling state, township (yet to be formally approved), and LSLAA AIS funds, we will be funding 464 hours of inspections at our public access. **"Clean, Drain, and Dry"** are the operative words for responsible boat inspection, as emphasized by Governor Dayton at this year's fishing opener.

In related news, we are in need of a new LSLAA representative to Hubbard COLA. Please consider this possibility as a great way to become actively involved in preserving our natural lake heritage locally and countywide.

Finally, I have agreed to put together a task force next year to attempt to repeat a complete survey of Little Sand Lake's aquatic vegetation conducted by LSLAA volunteers in 2005. This will involve fairly intensive sampling of vegetation at various depths and plotting information using GPS technology. Volunteers are needed to help with this. If you are interested, it would be helpful (though not required) to take one of the training courses offered by the U of M Extension Service. There should be some offered locally this year. They're enjoyable and very useful for learning to distinguish native from exotic species of aquatic plants. Look for announcements of these courses in LSL emails and in local newspapers.

PLEASE REMEMBER:

"Clean, Drain, and Dry" are the operative words for responsible boat inspection.

Stay Informed... 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 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), 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.

Following in 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



zorbaz
ON THE LAKE

(Spring 2016)

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

Name _____

Zhateau Zorbaz

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

Please complete and enclose this form with your 2016 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 2015 LSLAA Directory, please let us know by attaching a separate sheet of paper or sending an email to Renee Bexell, larbex2@gmail.com. Our 2016 directory information is available on our new website.

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