



News From the Lake

Spring 2025 • Little Sand Lake Area Association • Park Rapids, Minnesota

Website: littlesandlakemn.com | **Facebook:** Little Sand Lake, Park Rapids, MN | **Email:** LittleSandLakeAA@outlook.com

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.



PRESIDENT'S LETTER • Christine Hobrough, LSLAA President

Hello, Lake Friends,

I hope you had a great winter and are ready for another season at the lake! This is my fourth year as your Board President, it's been a pleasure getting to know many of you.

As I write this, we're having a cool May weekend following record-high temps—typical Minnesota weather! Whether it's too hot, too cold, too wet, or too dry, it always gives us something to talk about.

A big thank you to our local businesses, especially those owned by lake residents. Robb and the Zorbaz team deserve a special shoutout for generously hosting events like BINGO nights, dinners, and **our annual meeting on June 28**.

Little Sand Lake spans 409 acres with 6.4 miles of shoreline. Our public launch is staffed by inspectors hired by Hubbard County Environmental Services for 475 hours/summer on peak usage days, such as holidays and weekends. The LSLAA Board and the Healthy Lake Committee (HLC) work hard to keep our lake one of the cleanest in Minnesota. Special thanks to MaJeana Hallstrom for recruiting new water testing volunteers, including a new committee chair, Bill Douglas, who will take on this role starting this summer. Bill and his wife, Lori, joined the existing HLC last year. This group is always open to adding new volunteers. They handle the regular water and aquatic vegetation duties so be sure to say hello and thank them when you see them on the lake taking samples.

Our Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) donor fund with the Northwest Minnesota Foundation continues to grow and accept additional donations. The LSLAA Board was able to maintain its goal of about 475 inspection hours at the public launch through your generous dues and donations along with funding from the state (administered by Hubbard County), and a grant from Lake Emma Township. Thanks to board member, Abbi Schwartz, for working with Lake Emma Township to secure the grant. We appreciate all of these funds to help prevent AIS in Little Sand Lake.

Please help prevent AIS by using the free Hubbard County Decontamination Station before entering the lake. If purchasing used watercraft or gear, keep it out of the lake for 21 days before use to ensure it's safe.



You may see more about "owning your wake." Boaters are encouraged to stay 200 feet from shore and 100 feet from loons or nests to reduce damage to shorelines and wildlife. Concerns can be reported to the DNR. Thanks to the Little Sand Lake Loon Watchers including Steve and Phyllis Trutna, Roger Hochsprung and Dick Peters for providing nests in the lake for the loons to grow their families. Last summer, we were lucky to see them training their little ones as we were on the pontoon one evening. It was an amazing sight to see!

LSLAA is a volunteer-run 501(c)(3). We need your help—whether it's water testing, event planning, or hosting a gathering. Our social committee includes Phyllis Trutna, Committee Chair, and Vicki Johnson, Karen Odegard and Dar Swanson.

A huge thanks to our dedicated Board: MaJeana Hallstrom, Past President • Cindy Nollette, VP and COLA Rep • Karen Netland, Secretary • Jane Amble, Treasurer • Mary Bradley, Ben Doda, Gerry Kaluzny, Abbi Schwartz, Steve Trutna, Directors-at-Large • Jacob Nollette, Website Manager who keeps our information secure and up-to-date

Thanks for adapting to our new online directory and payment system. If you haven't paid your dues yet, please do so by June 28 to maintain your voting rights.

We also appreciate the Doda family for managing the launch kiosk and fishing contest, Randi Herda and Adam Goebel for organizing the Boat Parade, Larry and Renee Bexell for leading the cleaning of County 50, and Amy Sorensen for assembling this newsletter.

Thank you for supporting the Little Sand Lake Area Association. Please consider a tax-deductible donation to support launch inspections and lake protection. If you have new neighbors, *let us know so we can welcome them!*

Wishing you and your guests a safe and joyful summer at the lake!

Warm regards,

Christine Hobrough, LSLAA Board President

2025 LITTLE SAND SOCIAL EVENTS

Spring is here and the Social Committee is back in action! We kicked things off with a Cinco de Mayo gathering at Zorbaz.

WEEKLY EVENTS

Weekly Walking Group - Tuesdays and Thursdays. Meet at Heartland Trailhead in Dorset: 9 am in May, June, and September | 8 am in July and August

EVENTS:

Neighborhood Coffee - We're still looking for a host for the June coffee—*interested?* Call/text Phyllis Trutna at 719-440-1330. Thank you to all of our wonderful coffee hosts!

Zorbaz LSLAA Dinners

Full Moon Boat/Pontoon Parties

Roadside Pickup

Meet at the south drive of Glacier Dr. (Public Access Road) Wear boots, a bright top, gloves. Bright Vests and Bags will be available. Bring a "reacher" if available.

NEW EVENTS:

Hubbard County COLA Social Hour

June 12, 5-6 pm at 2nd Street Stage, Park Rapids. Bring a lawn chair and wear Little Sand gear.

Ladies' Bunco Night

July 4th Ice Cream Social

Movie Night (Info to come)

Please check your email, or email LittleSandLakeAA@outlook.com, for event confirmation and details.

JUNE 2025

WELCOME BACK BREAKFAST AT WEST FORTY

June 9 - Monday, 9 am
RSVP by June 4th Text/Call Karen: 303-709-2120

LADIES BUNCO AT TRUTNA'S

June 24 - Tuesday, 4 pm
Bring your favorite wine or appetizer
RSVP by June 18 Text/Call Phyllis: 719-440-1330

MEN'S BREAKFAST AT LAPASTA

June 24 - Tuesday, 9 am
RSVP by June 18 Text/Phone Phyllis: 719-440-1330

ANNUAL LSLAA MEETING AT ZORBAZ

June 28 - Saturday, 8 am
8:00 am Registration Coffee/Social
8:30 am Meeting Starts
Doughnuts and coffee will be served

PIZZA NIGHT AT ZORBAZ

June 30 - Monday, 5 pm

JULY 2025

NEIGHBORHOOD COFFEE

July 2 - Wednesday, 10 am
Hosts Lee & MaryJo Macklem

ROADSIDE PICKUP

July 3 - Thursday, 9:30 am

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

July 4 - Friday, 6:30 pm
Hosted by Chris & Amy Sorensen
Bring your favorite toppings

JULY 4TH BOAT PARADE

July 5 - Saturday, 11 am
Details on page 8

FULL MOON BOAT PARTY

July 10 - Thursday, 7:30 pm
Meet near the Public Access

DINNER AND MINI GOLF

July 22 - Tuesday, 5 pm
Silver Star Saloon and Eatery - Birdies Mini Golf after Dinner
RSVP by July 16
Text/Call Vicki: 701-741-3935



PIZZA NIGHT AT ZORBAZ

July 28 - Monday, 5 pm

AUGUST 2025

FISHING TOURNAMENT

August 2 - Saturday, 5 pm
Details on page 8

NEIGHBORHOOD COFFEE

August 6 - Wednesday, 10 am
Hosts Greg and Traci Dravis

FULL MOON BOAT PARTY

August 9 - Saturday, 7:30 pm
Meet near the Public Access

LSLAA ANNUAL PICNIC BBQ COOK OFF!



August 16 - Saturday, 5 pm
Wear your favorite Chef Apron! Hosted by Paul & Laurie Isakson
RSVP August 2nd
Text/Call Amy:

952-913-8067

PIZZA NIGHT AT ZORBAZ

August 25 - Monday, 5 pm

ROADSIDE PICKUP

August 29 - Friday, 9:30 am

NEIGHBORHOOD COFFEE

August 30 - Saturday, 10 am
Hosts Christine & Dave Hobrough

SEPTEMBER 2025

NEIGHBORHOOD COFFEE

September 13 - Saturday, 10 am
Hosts Amy & Chris Sorensen

END OF SEASON BREAKFAST

September 16 - Tuesday, 9 am
Emmaville Inn & Cafe
RSVP by September 10 Text/Call Dar: 612-819-0242

PIZZA NIGHT AT ZORBAZ

September 29, 5 pm

Questions or suggestions? Contact us:

Phyllis Trutna (Chair): 719-440-1330

Dar Swanson: 612-819-0242

Karen Odegard: 303-709-2120

Vicki Johnson: 701-741-3935

Amy Sorensen: 952-913-8067

(Welcome Amy, our newest member)

Details/updates: littlesandlakemn.com

BOAT CAUTION, CARE, & CHANGES

Most of us cannot wait to get our boats out and go for a cruise around the lake. One of the things



we need to be highly aware of to help protect the waters and shoreline of Little Sand Lake is the impact of our wakes. Almost every watercraft creates a wake.

Being aware of the wake your boat creates is critical for safety of lives and land.

The University of Minnesota is conducting extensive studies to better understand the impact of wakes on our lakes. They are looking at such things as the impact on water quality, how the wakes disrupt vegetation, erosion etc. It is hoped that the findings from this study will offer more guidance on how to manage wake control on our lakes. Other studies throughout the country are showing that the size and depth of the lake matters. Vermont for example recently restricted the use of wake boats to the size of certain lakes only.

At this point, personal watercraft (PWC) must stay at least 150 feet from shore. There is no required distance for boats, but by staying at least 200 feet from shore or other structures boaters can reduce the likelihood their wakes will cause damage. If you're engaged in an activity that creates artificially enhanced wakes, a greater distance from shore is necessary to prevent damage. There are parts of Little Sand Lake that get narrower than the larger bays. It is very important that we slow down and minimize wakes in those areas. Boaters must be aware that their actions directly impact the environment and should take steps to reduce their wake when operating near shore or when water levels are high.

CAUTION

Hubbard County COLA is staying up to date on current state guidelines and will offer us recommendations for our lake safety and wake awareness as we learn more from the study at the U of M and the recommendations from the DNR.

CLEAN.DRAIN.DRY.

CLEAN

- Boats, trailers, and gear
- Remove all weeds, mud, and hitchhiking contaminants from axels, wheels, undercarriage, motor, prop, nets, and gear before leaving boat landing

DRAIN

- Water from boat, bilge, motor, and live well
- Remove drain plug and open all water draining devices
- Trash unused bait

DRY

- Everything at least five days before going to other waters
- (Or) Decontaminate with high pressure water (120°F or warmer)

STOP INVASIVE SPECIES! LEARN MORE AT CLEANDRAINDRY.ORG

Great Lakes RESTORATION

CLEAN DRAIN DRY INITIATIVE

STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

CHANGES



Getting ready for summer? Be aware that as of July 1, 2025 a new law will go into effect that will require boat operators 21 years and younger to hold a valid watercraft operator's permit. **Anyone born on or after July 1, 2004 must take the online boating course to receive the permit.** Anyone that has taken the course does not need to repeat it. For reference on the new law and other information for boating and state regulations you can get the 2025 Minnesota Guide, in print at license outlets and online at the DNR website (<https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/r/p/regulations/boatwater/boatingguide.pdf>).

HEALTHY LAKE COMMITTEE

Why Should We Care About Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)?

We've said it before, and it's worth repeating: Invasive species threaten our economy, environment, and way of life.

Why is it important to monitor, monitor, monitor?

Because, once an AIS infests a lake, it cannot be eradicated; however, with early detection, it can be managed and controlled.

The Little Sand Lake Area Association (LSLAA) and many volunteers are dedicated to protecting our lake from Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). As your representatives, we take this responsibility seriously. Our efforts include:

- Monitoring water quality
- Surveying aquatic and shoreline vegetation
- Participating in the Boat Launch Inspection Program
- Maintaining active memberships in two key advocacy organizations:
 - [Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations \(HC COLA\)](#)
 - [Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates \(MLR\)](#)

Our membership fees—\$4 per LSLAA member to HC COLA and \$150 annually to MLR—are well worth the investment. These organizations are powerful allies in protecting Minnesota lakes. MLR, in particular, plays a vital statewide role by advocating with legislators and the governor on behalf of lake property owners and lake enthusiasts alike. Their work helps ensure both ecological preservation and sustainable recreation for future generations.

Action Needed: Help Protect Our Lakes

As state support for AIS prevention continues to decline, we need your help. Jeff Forester, Executive Director of Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates, has issued an urgent call to action. He urges all of us to contact Governor Walz and our state legislators to voice support for AIS prevention funding. (See his letter below.) **THIS MUST BE DONE BEFORE THE CURRENT LEGISLATION SESSION ENDS!**

You can find details and tools to take action here:

 <https://www.congressweb.com/MLRA/>

Together, we can ensure that our beautiful lakes stay healthy and vibrant for generations to come.

ACT NOW to Protect Aquatic Invasive Species Funding

The following article was provided by Jeff Forester of Minnesota Lakes & Rivers Advocates.

In the FY2028/FY2029 biennium forecasters are predicting a deficit of almost \$6 billion. In the push to reduce spending, legislators are considering cutting its investment in Aquatic Invasive Species prevention by 50%. See [Minnesota's AIS Prevention Aid: A Decade of Success at Risk – Minnesota Lakes & Rivers Advocates](#).

MN Lakes and Rivers has been working to get the message out to our partners and the media that County AIS Prevention Aid is working and is a better investment than trying to control AIS following an AIS infestation.



Proposed cut in local aid to prevent aquatic invasive species sparks fears of more infested lakes - Kirsti Mahron, MPR News.

Loss of State AIS Prevention Aid funding will increase the spread of AIS,

drive property tax increases, and require greater investment from local lake associations. You can go to the article here: [Minnesota considers a cut to aquatic invasive species prevention | MPR News](#)

In the next few weeks Legislators will be finalizing their budget bills. Now is the time to act and raise your voices in support of this important program:

- Go to MLR's Citizen Action Network and let Legislators know that you support AIS Prevention Aid and that they should not cut the program by 50%.
- Forward this email to your friends, lake association members and friends, and urge them to sign up for MLR's Citizens Action Network and take action.
- Go to the media tab on MLR's Citizen's Action Network, and write a letter to the editor of your local paper.

Go to MLR's Citizen's Action Network Take Action to Protect Local AIS Funding Take Action | Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates

If you want to know more about the County AIS Prevention Aid Formula go to The Minnesota Lakes and Rivers AIS Prevention Aid Resources Page: Minnesota's AIS Prevention Aid: A Decade of Success at Risk – Minnesota Lakes & Rivers Advocates

All of us here at MLR are working every day to promote Minnesota's Lakes and Rivers. Please support this important work with a donation to MLR.

Thank you for your support, Jeff

HEALTHY LAKE COMMITTEE



Public Boat Launch Inspection Program

Since the inception of the Public Launch Inspection Program, LSLAA has committed to funding about 475 hours of launch inspections annually to prevent the spread of AIS into Little Sand Lake.

This program is funded in part through:

- State funding, administered by Hubbard County Environmental Services
- Grants from Lake Emma Township
- Direct contributions from LSLAA (through member dues and donations)

While these partnerships have allowed us to maintain this crucial program, costs are rising—and state funding is decreasing. This means LSLAA has had to cover more of the cost each year. The table below outlines the financial contributions from each source for three example years.

AIS/Launch Inspection Hours				
	County / State	Lake Emma Grant	LSLAA	Total Hours
2020				
Hours	192	86	195	473
Dollars	\$ 2,880	\$ 1,290.00	\$ 2,925.00	
2024				
Hours	172	52	247	471
Dollars	\$ 4,300	\$ 1,300	\$ 6,175	
2025				
Hours	160	58	257	475
Dollars	\$ 4,160	\$ 1,508	\$ 6,682	

Healthy Lake Committee Chair Announcement

We are pleased to share that Bill Douglas has graciously accepted the role of Chair for the Little Sand Lake Healthy Lake Committee. In this leadership position, Bill will oversee and coordinate the committee's efforts to protect and enhance the health of our lake. His responsibilities will include bringing team members together periodically to set goals, monitor timelines, and ensure alignment across initiatives. Importantly, Bill will also serve as a key liaison—keeping all

property owners informed and involved reviewed as the committee's work progresses.

Water Quality Monitoring Team: Chris Sorensen, Larry Odegard, Mark Doda, Rich Soderberg, Wayne Swanson

From May - September, this group conducts 1-2 monthly tests at the lake's deepest point. Monitoring includes:

- Dissolved Oxygen and; Temperature
- Secchi Disc Readings (including MPCA/CLMP reporting)
- Chemical Testing
- Veliger (zebra mussel larvae) Sampling Aquatic Vegetation Monitoring

Team: Marshall Howe, John Lund, Luanne O'Neill, Wayne Swanson, Greg & Tracy Dravis

Vegetation is sampled 3-4 times each season at six lake locations using rake samplers. The goal is to detect invasive species such as Eurasian milfoil, starry stonewort, and curly-leaf pondweed. This year, the team will work with Steve Henry, a consulting expert, to design a more robust—yet feasible—vegetation monitoring plan.

Zebra Mussel Monitoring



In addition to the veliger testing by the water quality team, many residents help monitor zebra mussels using dock-mounted settlement samplers—simple, low-maintenance devices placed about 12 inches above the lake bottom.

Thanks to volunteers, we've increased monitoring at five new sites this year. Special thanks to Rob Hallstrom for building the additional samplers, and to John Lund for providing the hardware.

Current volunteers include: Wayne Swanson, Rod & Char Westrum, Tony & Maggie Yerkes, Rob & MaJeana Hallstrom, Cindy Nollette, Karen Netland & Diane Smith, Punky & Don Catlin, Bill & Lori Douglas, Greg & Tracy Dravis, Marshall Howe, Lee & MaryJo Macklem, Marsha & Jerry Fischer, Mark Doda, and Steve Trutna.

Due to new zebra mussel infestations in several lakes last year, we are looking to add even more volunteers around the lake to do this monitoring. We will bring settlement samplers to the Annual Meeting, so you can pick one up there.

If you are volunteering for any of these activities and don't see your name listed, please let MaJeana know at m_hallstrom@yahoo.com.

HEALTHY LAKE COMMITTEE

Settlement Samplers Aren't Foolproof — Stay Vigilant for Zebra Mussels!

Even when used consistently, settlement samplers may not detect the early presence of zebra mussels. For example, on nearby Potato Lake, diligent monitoring failed to catch an early infestation—zebra mussels were only discovered last fall during dock removal, despite clean sampler results.



The takeaway: keep an eye out. Inspect docks, lifts, and equipment closely, especially at the end of the season. Your vigilance is a critical line of defense.

This is an example of what a DIY sampler looks like and what Rob Hallstrom made last year. They are easy to make if you do not receive one at the Annual Meeting.

Example of what you might see at the end of the summer if zebra mussels are present. Learn more:



- [Lake Monitoring Tasks: Microsoft Word - Lake Monitoring - Healthy Lake Tasks 7-5-21.docx \(littlesandlakemn.com\)](#)
- [Zebra Mussel Info: DNR Zebra Mussel Monitoring: Monitoring for zebra mussels \(state.mn.us\)](#)

Want to help? We're always looking for more volunteers—low effort, high impact!

Be sure to thank these volunteers, as they are working to protect our lake—and your property values!

A Greener Lawn... A Greener Lake?



Recently, Little Sand Lake residents have noticed two things:

1. More weeds in the water
2. More perfectly green lawns

Coincidence? Not exactly.

While lakes naturally change over time (just like us!), an explosion of weeds might also mean something's up—like an overload of nutrients sneaking into the water.

And where do those extra nutrients often come from? You guessed it: lawn fertilizer.

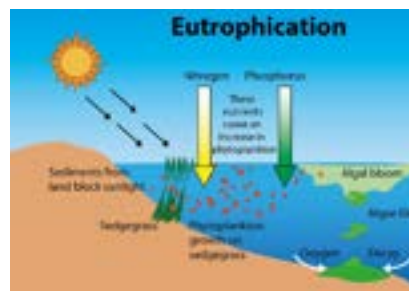
So... What Can We Do? We're glad you asked!

The Little Sand Lake Area Association supports lake-friendly lawn care and the Restore the Shore Program. Here's how you can help:

- Avoid using chemical fertilizers near the lake
- Plant a buffer strip of shrubs, grasses, and trees along your shoreline
- Take part in RTS—we offer native shrubs and trees every spring!

Shout-out to our RTS Coordinator, Wayne Swanson, for making it all happen!

Let's Keep Our Lake Healthy



It's easy to overlook how our yards affect our lake—but a little care goes a long way.

So next time you're admiring your green grass, ask: is it lake-friendly too?

For more info on shoreline planting

and the RTS program, visit: [Restore Your Shore \(RYS\) | Minnesota DNR](#)

Want to nerd out more? We pulled info from: [How Does Fertilizer Affect Aquatic Ecosystems?](#), [How Can Fertilizers Used On Lawns And Fields Affect A Lake?](#) | [Storables](#), [Environmental Implications of Excess Fertilizer and Manure on Water Quality](#) | [NDSU Agriculture](#)

The Problem with Too Much of a Good Thing

Fertilizer makes your grass look amazing—but when it runs off into the lake, it feeds algae and weeds, not just your lawn.

This process, called eutrophication, can:

- Trigger algae blooms
- Decrease oxygen levels in the water
- Harm fish and aquatic life
- Release toxins like ammonia and nitrite

Basically, it turns our beautiful lake into a murky, smelly mess. **No thanks!**

COLA UPDATES

Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations (COLA) is an organization that is vital to the ongoing health of Little Sand Lake. The mission of COLA is to protect and enhance the quality of our lakes and rivers, while preserving the economic, recreational and environmental core values.

One of the most significant aspects of COLA is to educate and inform our shoreland owners about the responsible preservation of our wonderful land.

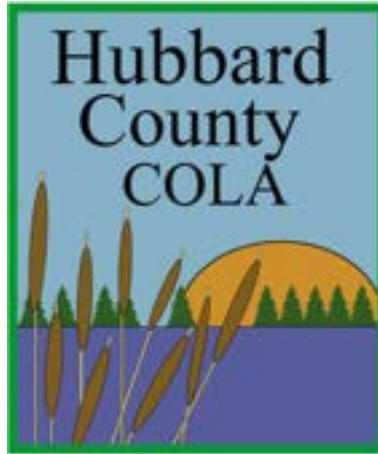
We want to keep Little Sand Lake a healthy lake. Unfortunately AIS is spreading closer to Little Sand Lake. There were findings of Zebra Mussels in both Potato Lake and Fish Hook Lake, discovered in the fall of 2024 and winter 2025. The infestation at Potato Lake was widespread.

None of the veliger or adults found were on the PVC tubes scattered throughout Potato Lake.

The Zebra Mussels were found by visual and tactile inspection of docks and lifts. Most of the Zebra Mussels were very tiny (feeling rough like sand paper). These findings are alarming and cause for further evaluation of what we can do to prevent the spread.

At this point, Potato Lake and Fish Hook are on the list of infested waters. By a measure of caution, surrounding lakes and waterways are also noted to be infested, although there are no known reports of Zebra Mussels in these areas. Again, it is a matter of caution.

Little Sand Lake representatives to COLA will work closely with other members of our local lake associations to better understand what we can do to prevent the spread. At this point, there is no known treatment for Zebra Mussels.



With our state budget cuts, we are leaning on every lakeshore member to use precautions to prevent the spread. This includes such things as decontamination of your watercraft if you move it off of Little Sand Lake. There are clear decontamination protocols that

have been put in place in Hubbard County. We have a decontamination station at 812 S Henrietta Ave, Park Rapids, MN 56470 Phone: (218) 616-1631

Please be aware that it is not solely motorized vehicles that we are concerned about. Other parts of our state are seeing the spread with non-motorized watercraft including kayaks, canoes, and water toys.

If you are having guests to the lake, please inquire about when and where their boat was previously launched. We want to make sure that it was out of the water for a minimum of five days or has been properly decontaminated.

Little Sand Lake Association will be making a large effort to ask that you add a PVC pipe device or something as simple as a hanging brick or cinder block off your dock or lift to help monitor that our lake is free of AIS.

We have reached out to a few of our lake and dock service providers to inquire about their protocols for AIS prevention and what is done when they remove our docks. This is a busy time of year for them but we hope to hear back from more of them in the coming weeks. Do not hesitate to inquire with your service provider about what they do to mitigate risk. The findings in our neighboring lakes may be changing some of their protocols as well.

HCCOLA meets monthly. Cindy Nollette and Abbi Schwartz are our current COLA representatives. Please reach out to them if you have any questions or concerns.



2025 LITTLE SAND LAKE CONTESTS

23rd Annual Fishing Contest

Hope you will join the fun at our 23rd Annual Little Sand Fishing Contest for Property Owners and their guests. The fishing contest is always the Saturday before the Taste of Dorset (which is held the first Sunday in August). 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 contact Mark Doda if you can help.

When: Saturday, August 3, 2025

Where: Meet at the Public Water Access

Time: 5:00-5:15 PM – Registration - \$1.00 per 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

2025 Photo Contest



Our first annual Photo Contest of 2024 was a success! We had so many positive comments about the pictures that lake residents captured. All proceeds from the photo submissions were added to our AIS funding. In addition, those that submitted had an opportunity to donate additional funds to AIS.

We are kicking off the 2025 Photo Contest! The cost for EACH submission is \$5.00. Again, all entry fees will be directed to our AIS fund.

We will have 3 categories again:

Under 18 • Over 18 • People's choice

We will have a team of judges vote on the under and over 18 categories. We will open up the voting to ALL for the People's Choice Award. Prizes will be given for each winning photo.

In order to register your photo, complete the online form on our website.

<https://littlesandlakemn.com/2025-photo-contest/>

We are excited to see the beauty and fun of Little Sand Lake captured through your pictures!

Photo Shown was taken by Traci Dravis, 2024 1st place winner in over 18 category, titled "Northern Lights Summer"

3rd Annual Little Sand Lake Boat Parade Contest!

Saturday, July 5th 2025, 11am
(Rain or Shine)

1st Place = Trophy AND \$150 Cash!
2nd Place = \$100 Cash!
3rd Place = \$50 Cash!

Sponsored by: **MINNAPOLIS CENTRAL**

Details

- Must register by scanning the QR Code or on the Little Sand Facebook Page or by email: littlesandlakeaa@outlook.com
- Meet in front of Zorbax at 11am
- Rotation will be Counter-Clockwise this year
- Judging will be at the Boat Launch
- Winners will be announced on Facebook and Email
- Your boat can have any theme you wish as long as it is family friendly

The Best Decorated Boat Wins!

Join the Fun!

Every year the Boat-Decorating Contest is a huge success, and we're excited to do it again! Many thanks to NAPA Central (Adam Goebel and Randi Herda) for sponsoring this year's contest for Little Sand Lake's 2025 Independence Day Boat Parade! The parade will take place on Saturday, July 5.

A Few Details:

- Participants must register by Wednesday, July 3rd on Facebook or via email at littlesandlakeaa@outlook.com.
- Meet in front of Zorbax at 11 am on July 5.
- The parade will run clockwise this year.

We Need Judges! Prizes can't be awarded without judges. We are seeking volunteers to help judge the boats. If interested, please contact Randi at erandilynn@hotmail.com or comment on the pinned Facebook post on our group page. Randi will follow up with further details.

Note: You don't have to decorate your boat to join the Boat Parade. Everyone is welcome to participate! The more, the merrier!

LITTLE SAND LAKE MEMBERSHIP

Join Us in Protecting Little Sand Lake!



"Magic Sunset of Little Sand" Photo by Matt Janke- 2024 Photo Contest Winner 18 and Under Category.

Thank You to Our Valued Members!

Your Membership is Very Important!

Your membership is vital to the health and preservation of Little Sand Lake. Your dues directly support critical initiatives, including our membership in the Hubbard County Coalition of Lakes (HCCOLA), advocacy efforts through Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates (MLR), ongoing water quality monitoring, and funding for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) inspection hours at the public lake access.

Dues & Additional Contributions

While the majority of membership dues go toward maintaining our lake's health, a portion helps cover administrative expenses, such as website management. We deeply appreciate members who go above and beyond with additional donations, especially since not all property owners join the Little Sand Lake Area Association (LSLAA).

Tax-Deductible Giving

As a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, all membership dues and donations are tax-deductible—a great way to support our lake while benefiting from tax advantages.

Membership Details

Annual dues: \$50 per property

Fiscal year: January to December (dues paid within the fiscal year apply to that year)

Memorial Donations

Honor a loved one with a memorial donation to Little Sand Lake. For donations of \$50 or more, we will place a commemorative nameplate at our kiosk near the boat launch. While we recommend a minimum of \$50, smaller contributions are also welcome and will still allow a nameplate to be placed.

Easy Payment Options

We encourage electronic payments for convenience. Visit our website to pay securely by credit card: [Annual Dues | Little Sand](#)

Thank you for your support! Together, we ensure Little Sand Lake remains healthy, protected, and thriving for generations to come.



"Why Fly When You Can Stand" Photo by Will Todd- 2024 Photo Contest Winner People's Choice Category.