

PULL THE PLUG ON AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS

Actions Required by MN Law to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species:

- ✓ Clean aquatic plants, zebra mussels, and other prohibited invasive species off watercraft, trailers, and equipment before leaving the water access.
- ✓ Drain water from boat, ballast tanks, portable bait container, and motor before leaving a water access – and drain bilge, livewell, and baitwell by removing drain plugs. Keep drain plugs out while transporting boats.
- ✓ Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash. It is illegal to release live bait into the water, or to dump worms on the ground.



mndnr.gov/ais
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Big Sandy Lake Association

Mission Statement

With respect for future generations, the mission of the Big Sandy Lake Association -- through education, leadership, and by example -- is to protect and improve water quality, promote best practice shoreline management and use, and seek balance and harmony between the rights of property owners and existing (and proposed) rules, regulations, statutes, and laws.

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Zebra mussel detectors installed around Big Sandy

Floe International hosts MLAF fundraiser

Vintage map found in cabin cleanout

AIS laws

Enbridge pipeline update



And then there are the regulars:

President's Letter

News from our CO

Bob Harder's "Did You Know . . ."



BSLA members are welcome to attend the Board of Directors meetings, held from 8:30 to 11 a.m. on the 2nd Saturday of each month in the lower level at Big Sandy Lodge.

BIG SANDY LAKE ASSOCIATION

August 2017

A Minnesota Star Lake

President's Letter

What a wonderful summer it's been. There were plenty of beautiful weather opportunities to be on the lake, play golf and visit with friends and relatives.

Saturday of Memorial Day weekend was the annual Run for the Lake 5K run, which was again sponsored by the Big Sandy Lodge and Resort. There were approximately 180 people signed up to run or walk and I would like to thank each of them. Their participation helps to support the Big Sandy Lake Association, as we are the nonprofit that benefits from the run. As a result of the Run, Josh Kuha of Big Sandy Lodge donated a check in the amount of \$1,200.00 to the BSLA. The Lodge personnel and everyone who helped organize and work at the Run, including the runners, deserve our sincere thanks and appreciation.

On June 24th, your lake association held its annual meeting at the Big Sandy

Lodge with a great turnout. We elected two new members to the Board – Margo Gisselman and Stu Mortrude. We now have all 15 positions on the board filled. Following the meeting, all attendees were treated to a very nice lunch.

The 4th of July weekend fireworks set off from Floe Island were absolutely amazing and beautiful. It seems they get better every year. The weather was perfect and the number of boats on the lake was unbelievable. Thanks to Wayne Floe and his many assistants for all the work they contribute to make this an annual event, enjoyed by all.

A final observation that needs to be mentioned is the increasing number of "surf boats" on Bell Horn Bay. These large boats make big waves than can be destructive to our shoreline. However, I have noticed that all of these boats are running in the center of the bay and moving north/south, rather than close to the shoreline. This makes a big difference and we appreciate those boaters.

I hope everyone has a great finish to the summer and we'll be looking forward to seeing you at Wild Rice Days on Labor Day weekend in downtown McGregor!

Bruce Johnson, President, Big Sandy Lake Association

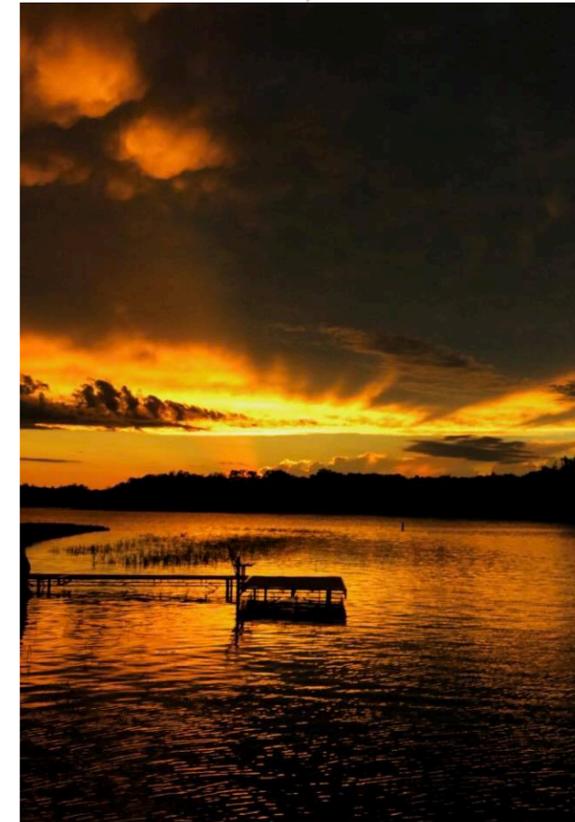


Photo credit Alan Denardo

www.bigsandylakemn.org

. . . for the latest BSLA news



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Upcoming Events in the Big Sandy Area

Wild Rice Days, McGregor

September 2, 2017
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Fun for the whole family! Arts & crafts vendors, food vendors, games for the kids, entertainment, bake sales, parade, and more. Free entry. \$3.00 Wild Rice Days Button enters you into a drawing for \$750, \$250 and \$100 cash

If you have events to share in this newsletter, contact Janet Hill at janethillnew@gmail.com



"Because you have a family, because you have a job, because you have a house and mortgage, because the car is all packed and your vacation is over, that's why you have to come down from that tree."

Richard Guindon

sources. Another serious outcome in the case of incomplete removal of sunken weathered bitumen could be a longer lasting impairment of a surface-water source of drinking water. . .

- In the United States, groundwater supplies about 32% of drinking water, and there have been studies of crude oil contamination of groundwater, such as the site in Bemidji, MN. Given the potential for longer travel time of crude oil in groundwater systems, the impacts may be detected later than for surface waters and may be inherently more difficult to remediate than for surface water bodies . . .
- . . . Nine days before DilBit tarred the Kalamazoo River, the EPA warned that the "proprietary nature" of DilBit diluents could complicate cleanup."

We find it alarming that this study has been ignored, when the short- and long-term health of many Minnesotans is at stake. The Big Sandy Lake Association, with over 500 household members, insists that an analysis of the study entitled *Spills of Diluted Bitumen from Pipelines: A Comparative Study of Environmental Fate, Effects, and Response*, be included in the final Line 3 EIS.

Also, given that Enbridge is dependent on its SCADA leak detection system to monitor Line 3 (discussed in Chapters 2 and 10 of the DEIS), please also include an analysis of results from the U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration Final Report No. 12-173: Final Report Leak Detection Study – DTPH56-11-D-000001. (<https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/staticfiles/PHMSA/DownloadableFiles/Files/Press%20Release%20Files/Leak%20Detection%20Study.pdf>). Here are some of the critical findings in this report that directly affect Minnesotans and which should be included in the final EIS:

- Detection is critical because the earlier a leak is found, the less damage to the environment and the pipeline. In the 361 pipeline incidents *that went undetected* by internal systems since 2010, a total of 141,421 barrels of petroleum products spilled, totaling \$1.2 billion in property damage.
- Federal data shows the leak detection systems have caught small leaks and missed some of the largest. Six out of the largest 10 pipeline spills in the U.S. since 2010, all of which were as big or bigger than the Colonial spill, went undetected by the [computer detection] system.
- Some of the release volumes where no data on SCADA was reported by the operator were as large as 6,300 and 9,030 gallons.

In the DEIS, Section 10.1.2.1, Threats to Crude Oil Transport by Pipeline Systems, states that "Pipeline stress or corrosion can also occur due to the natural conditions of the substrate surrounding the pipeline. For example, many types of peat (which is common in Minnesota) exhibit negative buoyancy and place upward pressure on pipelines, causing stress on the pipe." Because much of Aitkin County is peat bog, this is troubling, but it's also incomplete, as there is no mention of the affect of peat acidity on pipeline corrosion. We would like to see more analysis in the final EIS about pipeline stress in peat bogs, and the effect of peat acidity on pipes.

There is no evaluation in the DEIS of invasive species risk. Big Sandy Lake and Aitkin County spend a lot of time and money protecting our lake from aquatic invasives (AIS). How will the pipeline affect this? How will Enbridge manage this problem? Will they be required to follow the same rules that boat owners follow, even if this slows the work schedule? Are there permanent risks to our lake with a new pipeline corridor? Which routes are most susceptible to AIS risk? These questions need to be answered, as Minnesota lakes are greatly at risk for AIS.

There is no comparative analysis in the DEIS of the worst case scenario for emergency response to a spill along the various routes. Because the area around the alternative route SA-04 has more established roads and a leak would be more immediately visible to the local citizens, the response time for SA-04 would like be better than one in Aitkin County, with its remote wetlands and lack of roads. How easy would it be to access a pipeline break along each of these potential routes? In each case, how long would it take to get oil spill equipment to the most remote areas of the route? How easy would it be to access a large spill given immediate proximity to roads? We would like to see a comparative analysis of emergency response for all of the route alternatives, including SA-04.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns.

High Speed Internet arrives at Big Sandy Lake

The Economic Development Committee Aitkin County recently awarded SCI Broadband a grant to help provide FTTP (Fiber To The Premises) fiber-optic cable connection to properties in the Bridge Road area of Big Sandy Lake. Committee members selected two applicants that they felt provided the best opportunity in Aitkin County for broadband adoption, working from the home, and extended stays, all of which will benefit the county. Aitkin County will offer similar grants over the next two years, to encourage broadband providers to expand into this area.

SCI reports that the permitting process has begun, and they look forward to starting this project as soon as possible. The company hopes to expand service to other areas of Big Sandy if the customer base is strong enough to warrant the investment.

This is great news for this area, and we congratulate and welcome SCI. We also thank County Commissioner Bill Pratt for supporting this crucial infrastructure.

Raccoons + Trash = Mess

When you leave your cabin at the end of a stay at the lake, please be aware that raccoons or other animals may find the temptation of an unsecured trashcan too good to resist. Your trash may end up strewn around for all to see when you're not around.

Please make sure that trash can lids are securely fastened when leaving the lake. Thank you!

BSLA BOARD

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BSLA board weighs in on Line 3 DEIS

The Big Sandy Lake Association board submitted the following comment during the recent comment period, addressing problems with the DEIS that directly affect Big Sandy Lake.

Public Comment: Line 3 Project (CN-14-916 and PPL-15-137)

The Big Sandy Lake Association (BSLA) Board of Directors submits the following comments for the Line 3 Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Background

Big Sandy Lake is a 10-square-mile fishing and recreational lake in northern Aitkin County. It is the foundation of the economy of nearby McGregor, Minnesota; full-time and seasonal property owners on Big Sandy support over 100 businesses in this part of the state.

Enbridge's preferred route for the Line 3 "replacement" pipeline passes within a few miles from an inlet to Big Sandy Lake, and continues along the width of our sub-watershed on its way eastward toward Superior.

Risks for Big Sandy Lake

We are concerned that the DEIS does not include the results of a 2016 study by the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine, titled *Spills of Diluted Bitumen from Pipelines: A Comparative Study of Environmental Fate, Effects, and Response* (referred to hereafter as Dilbit Study).

The BSLA's apprehension regarding Enbridge's preferred route for Line 3, besides the possibility of a pipeline rupture anywhere in the Big Sandy watershed, is based on the probability that the pipeline will develop pinhole leaks as it ages and corrodes underground (DEIS section 10.3.1.4 Pinhole Releases). We understand that many types of carcinogenic solvents, such as Benzene, are required to be mixed with the tar sands to make them flow through pipelines. When a pipeline leaks, solvents in the dilbit become absorbed into the water column and are carried downstream as the water flows. This is not mentioned in the DEIS, and it has potentially devastating health and economic consequences in watery Aitkin County.

The DEIS states that pinhole-sized leaks cannot currently be detected by leak-detection systems. By the time enough oil from this kind of leak came to the surface to be noticed (which would take a long time in the remote, roadless wetlands of Aitkin County), oil and water-soluble toxins would have already reached Big Sandy Lake via at least one of the four rivers in our watershed that drain into the lake. The toxins released into Big Sandy Lake in such a scenario pose a threat to the residents of this lake, and residents downriver on the Mississippi. If you include findings from the Dilbit Study in the final EIS, the following facts (missing from the DEIS) will be fairly presented:

- Diluted bitumen spills in the environment pose particular challenges in water bodies.
- During the initial days of spill response, the major components of concern to human health in crude oils include the volatile compounds—benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylenes (collectively called BTEX) and hydrogen sulfide (H₂S)—that can result in acute and sublethal effects via inhalation exposure. Benzene is also a well-known human carcinogen. Benzene is typically present in crude oils and is frequently monitored to assess both inhalation and drinking water supplies . . .
- In addressing longer term human health concerns, protection of water supplies is a focus of spill response activities. . . Weathered diluted bitumen has a greater potential to submerge or sink, presenting a greater potential for chronic contamination of a water supply that may result in a long closure time for drinking water

Notes from our CO

by Conservation Officer Amber Ladd

It certainly has been a busy summer and hopefully you have found more time to enjoy the nice weather than I have! This time of year there tends to be a lot of people taking to the water to beat the summer heat. There are several topics I would like to cover in this newsletter to get some information out to people that have been requesting it. All of this information is on the MN DNR's website. If you have a question and are not able to locate the information, you are always welcome to send me an email.

Personal Watercraft

I see several Personal Watercraft or PWCs operated regularly on Big Sandy Lake. PWCs are also called Jet Skis or Sea Doo's by brand. Recently I was asked to highlight some of the PWC laws in MN. They are considered motorboats and must follow all other motorboat laws but also have several that only apply to PWCs:



- A rules decal (provided by the DNR) must be displayed in full view of the operator
- Operators and passengers must wear a USCG approved life jacket
- Must have a USCG approved fire extinguisher on board
- Must travel at slow – no wake speed (5mph or less) within 150ft of shore, docks, swimmers, rafts or any moored or anchored watercraft. The exception to the shore/dock distance is when launching or landing water skiers by the most direct route to open water.
- While towing, the operator must have additional person on board as a spotter or a wide-angle mirror which must be factory installed or specified by the manufacturer.

- The spotter does not have to sit backwards.
- Cutoff lanyards must be properly used and attached to the person, life jacket or clothing of the operator.
- Must stay 150ft from other watercraft when possible – no wake jumping
- Must travel at slow – no wake speed through emergent or floating vegetation
- May only operate from 9:30am until one hour before sunset
- Children under 13 years old may not operate even with an adult on board. 13 year olds must have either someone at least 21 on board or have a watercraft operators permit and be in continuous visual observation of someone at least 21 years old. 14-17 years old must have either a watercraft operator's permit or someone at least 21 years old on board.

Wake boats

I was recently requested to add some information in the newsletter about wake boats, as there have been several folks around the lake reporting issues with them. Wake boats and other "play boats" tend to get a bad rap. These watercraft must follow the same rules as other watercraft which can all be found at files.dnr.state.mn.us/rlp/regulations/boatwater/boatingguide.pdf. Often these boats create a large wake and when they are operated close to shore or others on the water there is a possibility for there to be conflict. In my experience on Big Sandy compared to other MN lakes that are used for recreation, most of these boaters do a very good job staying away from shore and other boaters. It is likely that there are maybe a couple of them that are causing some problems.



(Continued on next page)

Notes from our CO, continued

As always, if there is a violation or concern and you have specific information about the watercraft I will do my best to follow up on it. In general, be courteous and keep your neighbors in mind. One unique concern with these true wake boats is there are ballasts that hold water which need to be drained upon exiting the lake for transport. If I have violations with these types of boats it's usually the same as all other recreational boaters and has to do with not having enough life jackets on board or gunwale riding.

Hydro Jets

A new trend that is showing up on Big Sandy is the use of hydraulic jet systems to clear out vegetation and sediment around shoreline areas. I have written several articles about aquatic vegetation and the great resource Big Sandy has with the wild rice beds. Several lakeshore owners want to have a clear/clean/weed-free sandy beach. MN laws requires that a person have a permit to remove any vegetation that grows above the surface of the water (including wild rice). The hydro jets use water to push sediment (muck) as well as aquatic vegetation away from the system. Hydro jets are illegal to be used in MN and enforcement action will be taken as they change the cross section of the shoreline by dredging out the sediment.

Private Docks

A question was sent to me about private docks. Docks extending from private property are also considered private property. It is not legal for someone to go onto a private dock without permission and utilize it. I would treat it the same as them going onto your private land. This is not a situation we deal with often and there are several different public opinions on it. If you have an ongoing problem and need assistance let me know and I can give you more information on the topic. In general, respect others' property and privacy. Big Sandy is a large lake and there should be plenty of areas to play without disturbing someone else's property.

As always, feel free to contact me for further information or consult with the MN DNR website. Have a safe rest of the summer!

CO Amber Ladd #553, MN DNR Enforcement (McGregor)

Email: amber.ladd@state.mn.us Cell: 218-429-2021 TIP: 800-652-9093 or #TIP from your cell phone.

Zebra Mussel Detectors Around the Lake by Christopher Krolak, BSLA Board Member

This spring, BSLA deployed an early detection process for zebra mussels on Big Sandy. The goal of this process is to identify any zebra mussel infestation on Big Sandy as soon as possible, to possibly enable area quarantine and treatment and to help slow down the spread of this AIS to other bodies of water. Currently, there are 275 water bodies in Minnesota infested with zebra mussels. Any boat or dock lift transported from one of the infested waters to Big Sandy without being drained and decontaminated has the possibility of spreading zebra mussels to Big Sandy.

The zebra mussel early detectors used on Big Sandy were designed by a biologist from the Minnehaha Watershed District. Each detector consists of a set of PVC plates, which is hung from a dock and pulled out of the water periodically to inspect for the presence of attached zebra mussels. Currently, BSLA has 8 detectors deployed throughout the lake: four detectors at DNR and Corp of Engineer boat launches and four at private residences (see map at bigsandylakemn.org/ais-inspection-program). Through the first two months of monitoring, no zebra mussels have been found in Big Sandy Lake.

We would like to expand the monitoring to additional sites throughout the lake. If you are willing to install detector plates on your dock or help with the inspections, please contact me. (cjkrolak@gmail.com or 612-991-2108).



Zebra mussel detector at the DNR boat launch just north of Zorbaz. The detector is collecting a lot of Chinese mystery snails, but no zebra mussels have yet been detected.

Our 2017 Business Members

Please give our business members your patronage. They understand that the well-being of Big Sandy Lake is essential for the well-being of their business.

A+ Auto Body
A & M Electric
Aardvark Septic
American Legion Post 23
Aspen Realty, Inc
Bann's Bar & Restaurant
Big Sandy Camp & Retreat Ctr
Big Sandy Lodge & Resort
Catholic Youth Camps
Century 21 Twin Lakes Realty
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EyeCare Center of McGregor
Floer International
Grand Timber Bank
Independent School Dist #4
Lake Country Power
Light Publications Satellite Office
McGregor Lanes
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Meyer's Service Center
Minnesota National Golf
Nistler Plumbing & Heating
Peat Inc.
Tamarack Pest Control
Thrifty White Pharmacy
Voyageur Press
Willey's Marine
Willey's Sports Shop & Spirits
Yellowstone Log Homes
Zorbaz on Big Zandy

Enbridge pipeline update

by Janet Hill

We are in the final stages of the permitting process for Enbridge's Line 3 replacement project, proposed to be built through the Sandy Lake Watershed (crossing Highway 65 between the Big Sandy and McGregor) on its way to Superior, Wisconsin and ultimately to refineries further east.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Line 3 was released by the Minnesota Department of Commerce in mid-May. In June, public meetings were held along the proposed route to take comments from citizens. The meeting in McGregor was held June 12th at the East Lake Community Center, and it was well attended. Several lake association members spoke.

What's next in this process

The final EIS (FEIS) will be released August 10th, including the results of over 3,000 pages of comments from citizens and organizations (including the Big Sandy Lake Association; see next page), documenting its inadequacies. Written comments on the FEIS will be accepted until September 25th. Then, final public hearings on the route permit and Certificate of Need (CON) will be held this fall, most likely in October. The BSLA will keep members posted, on the BSLA Facebook page and on our website. Evidentiary hearings with the attorneys and representatives of intervening parties (including five tribes, the Sierra Club, Honor the Earth, Friends of the Headwaters, a pipefitters' union, and many others) will be held in late October.

Even if you can't make it to a public hearing, you are encouraged to submit a written comment. Contact me (Janet Hill, janethillnew@gmail.com) if you need assistance.

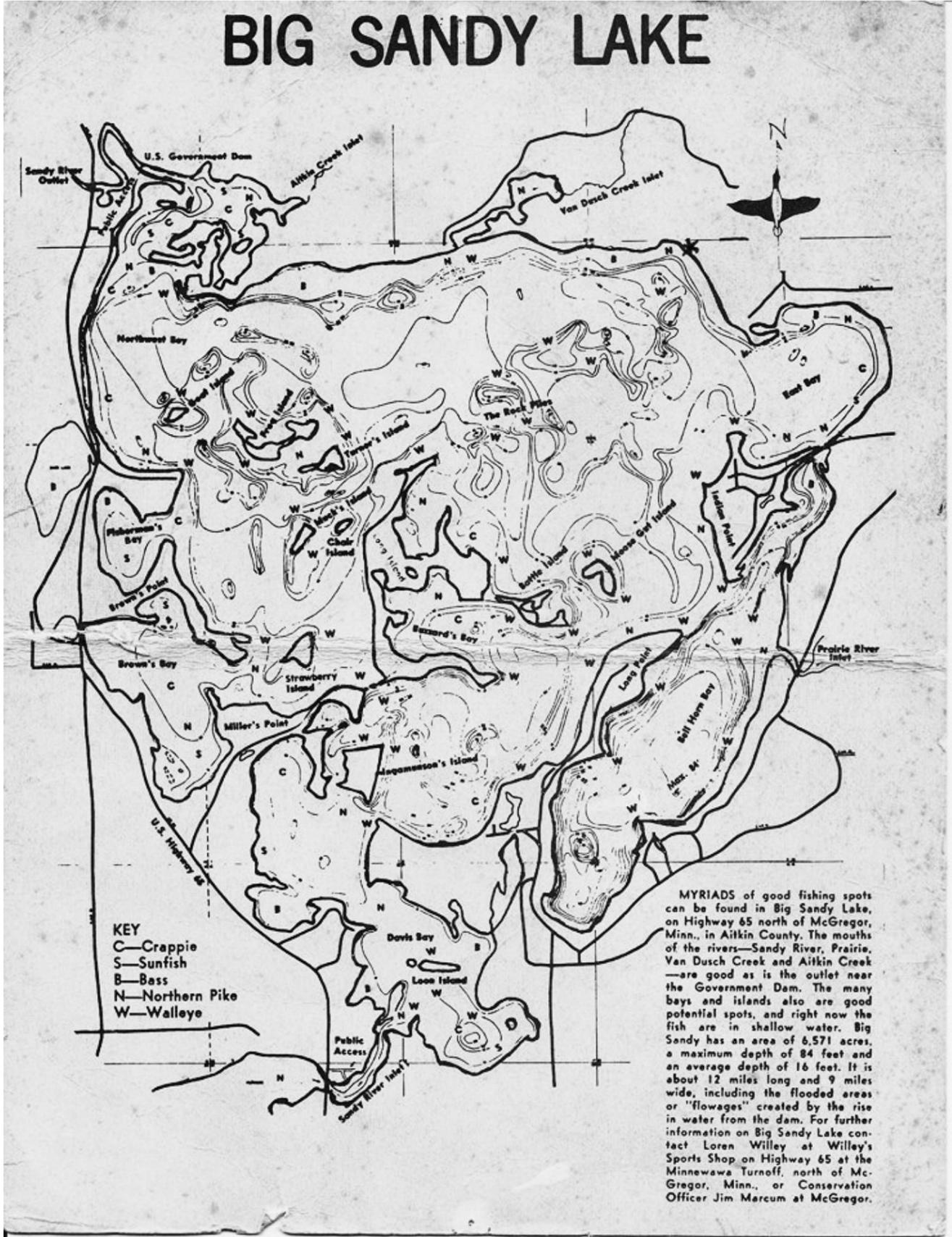
The final decision by the state of Minnesota is expected at the end of April 2018.

The BSLA board thanks our members who took the time to comment on the DEIS. Your input is crucial, and we encourage as many as possible to get involved during these final stages of the permitting process.



Cabin cleaning unearths vintage lake map

Big Sandy resident Patti Pagenkopf was cleaning her parents' cabin, which she now owns, when she came across this old fishing guide map of Big Sandy Lake. Thank you, Patti, for sharing!



Did You Know?

By Robert O. Harder

For most of our seasonal and permanent lake residents the late summer ritual of "wild ricing" is a bit of a mystery. Other than knowing the Ojibway Indians and a few local non-natives get in boats and beat at the tall grasses on our local lakes and rivers, and then later the product of their labors turns up magically in nice packages at places like Minnestalgia, most of us don't know very much about it.

When I was a youngster in the 1950s and before wild ricing became a nation-wide commercial industry, wild rice was practically gold, sometimes selling for several dollars a pound still green right out of the boat and double that at what few stores carried it. Many of my high school contemporaries depended upon "ricing money" to buy clothes and other necessities for the new school year. It was, and still is, heavily regulated for non-Indians to take rice. For centuries, the Indians depended on the fall rice harvest for their very survival over the long and bitter winter--today it has become just another item on everyone's market shelf.

With the help of Dave Laursen, who wrote "A Capital Place: Reminiscences of a Sandy Lake Boyhood" (available on Amazon), let's briefly explore "wild ricing," as it was done in the early days. First, it's not really rice at all, but actually a kind of "wild oats." Dave explains the way he harvested it back in the 1940s, a process similar to the ancient ways of the native Ojibway. The first step, once he and his friends figured out when and where it was legal for them to harvest the stuff, was to beat the other fellows to what was left of the good patches after the Indians' head start. While the Ojibway of times past would tie together stalks of the rice (think shocks of oats) and carefully knock loose only the ripe rice (coming back later for another round of newly ripened grain), ricers of Dave's time were more likely to beat the daylight out of a bed and quickly move on to the next--rice buyers of the time weighed whatever came out of the boat, chaff and all. One must remember this was not sport, but serious business to the ricers of that time.

Dave would have a buddy--this was a two man operation. One fellow would push the boat through the beds using a long pole; the other would not so gently wield two wood sticks resembling thick drum sticks. While the canoe moved continuously forward, the "picker" (he who wielded the sticks) used one stick to draw an armful of rice stalks over the side of the boat and the other to knock as much rice as fast as possible into the bottom of the boat. Dave and his partner often engaged one or more other teams in a lively contest as to who could harvest the

most pounds in a day. Dave tells us the competition, which required a good deal more strength and endurance than one might imagine, caused the boys "to work like maniacs." Often they'd take only a few minutes lunch break and then were back at it. For the need for speed was actually very real; non-Indians



Artist: Daniel Vitalis

were only allowed to rice on certain days and at certain hours and the season was very short. The fellows were highly motivated--teenagers of that day would be fortunate to make \$3 or \$4 a day at a part time job. A pound of green wild rice in the boat arriving at a buyer's landing could easily fetch a day's wages. To the young men on Sandy Lake in that era that was practically a fortune!

Today, in an age when most rice sold is commercially harvested "paddy rice" rather than hand-harvested "wild rice," the retail price is but a fraction of what it was three-quarters of a century ago, which naturally has greatly expanded its reach. As for taste and quality of the delicacy then

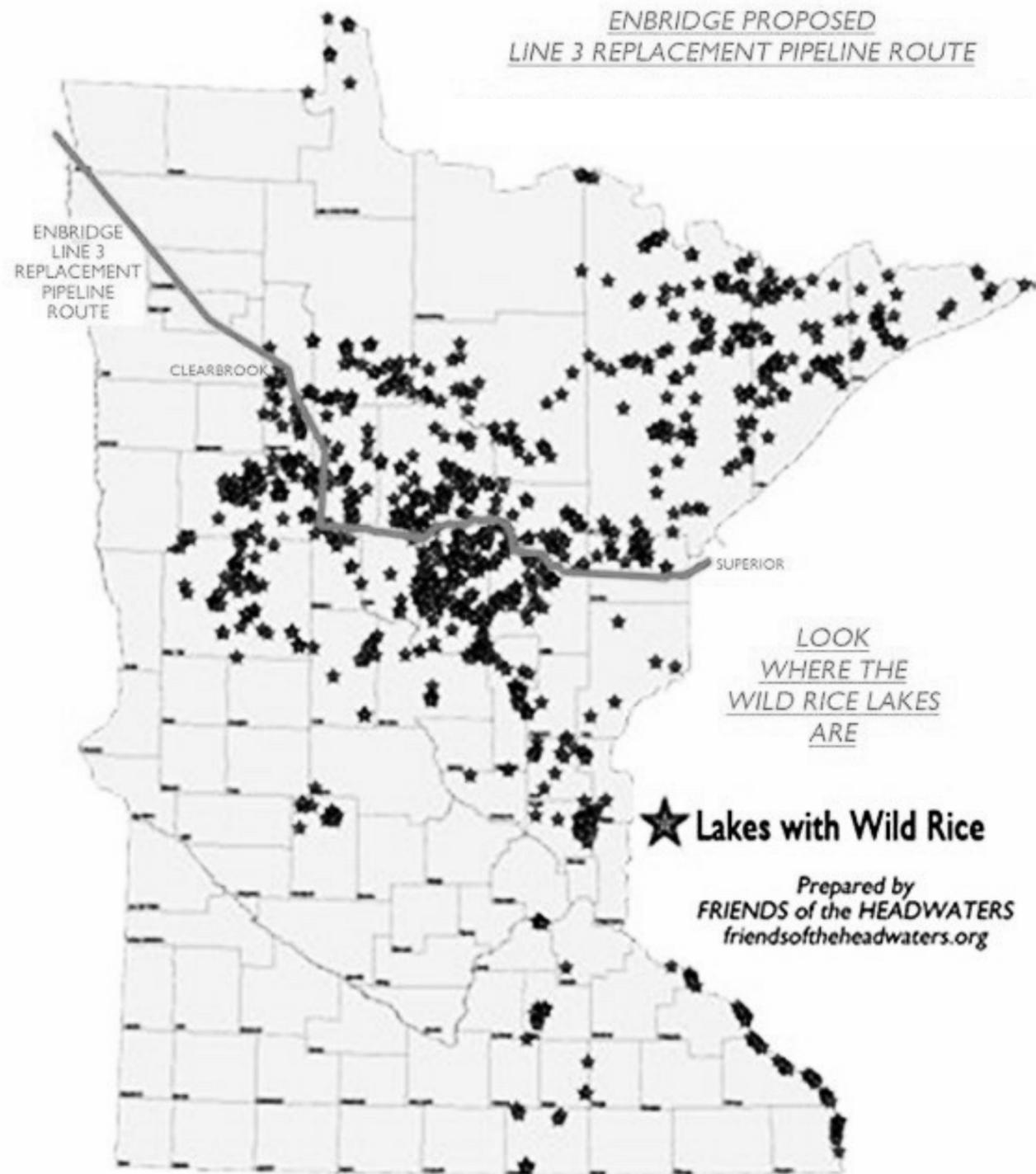
and today, I leave that to the taste buds of the consumer. I would draw the readers attention, however, to Dave's comment about his product of those early days: "Weeds, worms, and empty rice heads fetched the same price as the real thing."

Editor's Note: Late summer is the time of the Manoominike-Giizis (Wild Rice Moon) in northern Minnesota. About 150,000-250,000 pounds of lake and river rice are produced each year in Minnesota, and it is a state and reservation treasure. Here's a good recipe for breakfast when you're at the lake (or when you're not):

Hell's Kitchen Manoomin Porridge

- 4 cups cooked hand-harvested, local wild rice
- 1/2 cup roasted, cracked hazelnuts
- 1/2 cup dried blueberries
- 1/4 cup sweetened dried cranberries
- 1/4 cup pure maple syrup
- 1 cup heavy whipping cream

In a heavy nonstick saucepan, add cooked wild rice, hazelnuts, blueberries, cranberries, and maple syrup. Cook over medium-high heat for about 3 minutes. Add heavy cream and heat through, stirring constantly, about 2 minutes. Ladle into bowls and serve immediately. Serves 4.



For many years, nearly all of the wild rice produced in the world came from Minnesota, and most still does. Enbridge's proposed new route for the Line 3 replacement runs through the most dense concentrations of wild rice beds in the state.

Guided tour of Floe International to benefit MLAF

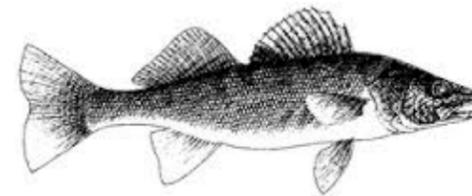
by Jim Carlson

Mark your calendar to come and celebrate the 25th Anniversary of McGregor Lakes Area Foundation (MLAF —formerly Big Sandy Lake Foundation).

The event will be held at the new Floe International East Plant on Friday, August 18th from 3:00 to 5:30 pm. Beverages and a short talk about the Foundation will begin the program, followed by a talk by Cindy Gray about the history and growth of Floe International. Then Wayne Floe will give a guided tour of the newly expanded plant.

The event also serves as an annual fundraiser for the Foundation. We have anonymous donors who have pledged \$10,000 to be used to match individual donations dollar-for-dollar, so your donation is

automatically doubled: \$100 becomes \$200; \$200 becomes \$400, etc. Our goal for our 25th Anniversary is \$25,000, so please be as generous as you can be, as all donations ultimately benefit the McGregor Lakes Area Community. RSVP to Jim or Ann Carlson at 218-426-4256 or at carlsona@frontiernet.net.



Clean In, Clean Out ... It's the law

From the Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources

When boating or fishing in Minnesota, protect our waters by following state aquatic invasive species laws.

Remember!

1. **CLEAN** all visible aquatic plants, zebra mussels, and other prohibited invasive species from watercraft, trailers, and water-related equipment before leaving any water access or shoreland.
2. **DRAIN** water-related equipment (boat, ballast tanks, portable bait containers, motor) and drain bilge, livewell and baitwell by removing drain plugs before leaving a water access or shoreline property. Keep drain plugs out and water-draining devices open while transporting watercraft.
3. **DISPOSE** of unwanted bait, including minnows, leeches, and worms, in the trash. It is illegal to release bait into a waterbody or release aquatic animals from one waterbody to another. If you want to keep your bait, you must refill the bait container with bottled or tap water.

Collection bin at the Pier 65 boat launch for bait and weeds



KNOW THE LAW: YOU MAY NOT...

Transport watercraft without removing the drain plug.

Arrive at lake access with drain plug in place.

Transport aquatic plants, zebra mussels, or other prohibited species on any roadway.

Launch a watercraft with prohibited species attached.

Transport water from Minnesota lakes or rivers.

Release bait into the water.