

In This Issue

Pioneers of our Past: A Story of Three Generations

Big Sandy Fishery

Help Loon Chicks Survive

..And More!

The Regulars

President's Letter

Greetings From Your Sheriff

Bob Harder's "Did You Know"

A Note From Our C.O.



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 The Big Sandy Lodge.



BIG SANDY LAKE ASSOCIATION

May 2020

A Minnesota Star Lake



President's Letter

This has been a very long winter and we're really happy that the ice finally went out in Bell Horn on the 20th of April. We can finally enjoy being outside without snowbanks and unseasonably cold weather every day. We did have a couple of months in Florida. I am looking forward to being able to be with our family and the grandchildren again, not to mention all of our friends on the lake -- and hopefully soon!

Due to the virus, we have not been holding our regular monthly Big Sandy Lake Association meetings, but I have been thinking about things we need to keep in mind for this upcoming warmer weather that will benefit us all and the lake too. Please pay attention to what's on your shoreline that will affect water quality:

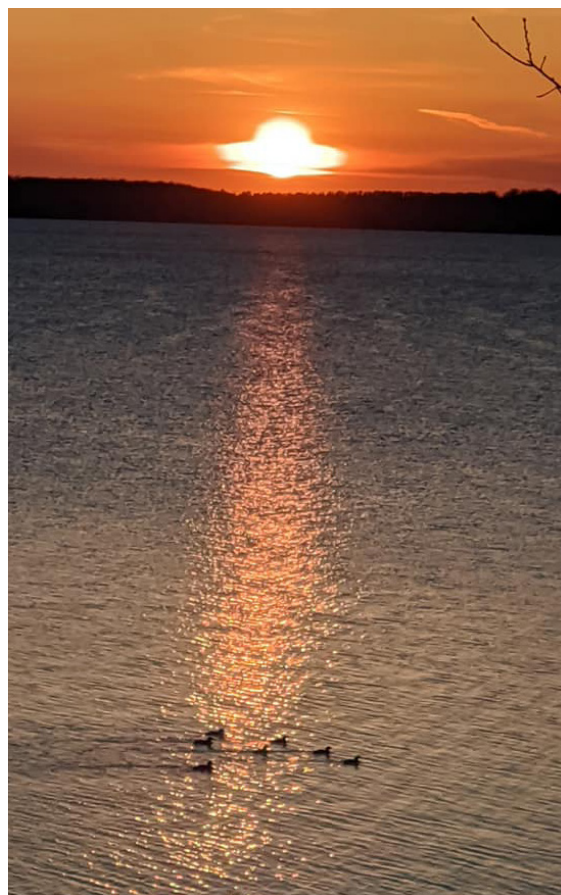


Photo Credit: Andreliis Nistler Kowitz

- Don't let runoff water flow into the lake.
- Don't build firepits in locations that can allow the ashes to end up in the water.
- Don't blow leaves and pine needles into the lake.
- If your septic isn't up to code, please remedy that problem as soon as possible.

All of these things are easily remedied so that they don't cause nutrients to get into the lake and affect water quality and clarity as well as weed and algae growth.

We are waiting to make an official announcement regarding the change of date or possible cancellation of the Big Sandy Lake Association Annual Meeting that has typically been held in early June. When we do decide which way we will go, it will be posted on the lake association website BigSandyLakeMN.org.

Please take every precaution to stay safe and healthy. Hopefully, social distancing will eventually be left behind us and we will get back to normal activities.

Bruce Johnson

President, Big Sandy Lake Association



A Note From Your CO

By: Amber Ladd, Conservation Officer



Spring is in the air and so are the returning waterfowl! There is still some late ice activity as of now but we are in that transition from ice to open water and it will be opener before you know it.

I would like to give a shout out to some of the wonderful folks around the lake that have taken on a self-assigned role of doing lake clean up. This year is the first year since being in this station (2014) that I have not pulled a load of trash off the lake after ice fishing season. I’ve seen others doing it from time to time but usually there is still some to be removed. Also maybe some past conversations or enforcement actions have altered some behavior? Tough to say but it is nice to see a clean lake the majority of the winter so to whoever is helping keep it that way, thank you.

Also wanted to get the word out to those that also like to fish Minnewawa that there’s a new special regulation of a 3 walleye limit on Minnewawa. Any questions can be sent to Aitkin area fisheries.

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

Thank You

Thank you to these 2020 Business Members for their continued support of the lake and the organization.

- Willey’s Marine (Lifetime Member)
- Big Sandy Lodge and Resort (Lifetime Member)
- Zorbaz on Big Zandy (Lifetime Member)
- Talon Metals (Lifetime Member)
- 202 Tavern
- A&M Electric
- Ace Hardware
- Aspen Realty, Inc
- Bann’s Bar & Restaurant
- Big Sandy Camp & Retreat Center
- Catholic Youth Camp, Inc
- Century 21 Twin Lakes Realty
- Christian Realty North, Inc
- David Winegar, DDS
- EyeCare Center of McGregor
- Fisherman’s Bay

- Floe International
- Goble’s Sewer Service
- Grand Timber Bank
- Light Publications Satellite Office
- McGregor Insurance Agency
- McGregor Lanes
- McGregor Printing & Graphics
- McGregor Realty & Property Mgmt.
- Meyer’s Service Center
- Minnesota National Golf
- Nistler Plumbing and Heating
- Northern Ridge Lawn & Landscape
- Ole’s Resort
- Peat Inc.
- Round Lake Resort & Bar
- Schoolhouse Cafe
- Tamarack Pest Control
- Thrifty White Pharmacy
- Township of Workman
- Ukura’s Big Dollar
- Up North Riders, Inc
- Yellowstone Log Homes of Minnesota

BSLA Board

Bruce Johnson, President	218 - 426 - 5221	bwj4@frontier.com
John Sturner, Vice President	651 -356 - 1101	johnsturner6070@gmail.com
Ben Gisselman, Secretary	612 - 987 - 1770	ben@gisselmanlaw.com
Kathy Beatty, Treasurer	651 - 724 - 3690	kathybeatty12@gmail.com
Jeff Backowski	218 - 426 - 4047	jbackowski1@gmail.com
Richard Beatty	651 - 724 - 4697	rjb1946@gmail.com
Margo Gisselman	612 - 720 - 4527	mgisselman@gmail.com
Janet Hill	218 - 259 - 4090	janethillnew@gmail.com
Jack Johnson	218 - 820 - 7265	digjack39@gmail.com
Christopher Krolak	612 - 991 - 2108	cjkrolak@gmail.com

Stuart Mortrude
John Pilney
Ann Rorem
Laurie White
Russ Thompson

Liaisons

Bill Reed
Robert Greifzu

612 - 850 - 9275
651 - 398 - 9548
612 - 219 - 3720
763 - 742 - 3857
218 - 380 - 1828

smortrude@dresi.net
jppilney@aol.com
annrorem@gmail.com
whitehayhurst1@gmail.com
(no email)

wreed4318@yahoo.com
mcragbag@hotmail.com



Greetings From Your Sheriff

by Sheriff Dan Guida

As I am writing the ice is disappearing on Big Sandy, and the last remaining piece is floating around in the north end of the lake. Yesterday I was able to assist with a lift attached to moving ice and hovering over some deep water. It would have made great fish habitat, but we chose to bring it back to shore. The lake level is high enough to cause some concern, but the river levels in Aitkin are coming down and the lake will follow. Jeff and Tammy have advised the dam is wide open and I have observed the river in Aitkin dropping daily. This is old news, but I want all of you to know we have been monitoring the levels and are prepared to react to a request from the BSLA group for a no-wake order, with final approval made by the Aitkin County Board.

I am hopeful that the summer residents and weekend groups can return, but I will continue to encourage PHYSICAL DISTANCING from non-family members. Our retired population is a large share of our population and we need to keep them safe.

If you are a boat owner/operator, I would like to take this chance to remind you of the responsibility you have for your boats wash or wake.

MN 6110.1200 NAVIGATION OF WATERCRAFT ON THE WATERS OF THE STATE; SAFETY EQUIPMENT.

Subp. 2. Mode of operation of watercraft. Mode of operation:

- No person shall operate a watercraft in such a manner that its wash or wake will endanger, harass, or unnecessarily interfere with any other person or property.

This means that if your wake causes any sort of damage you could be cited. In 2019, we received many complaints of this and we hope to curb those for 2020. I would prefer doing this with some education but the enforcement piece is an option. There are many areas of the lake we can enjoy without violating this rule, please encourage spending time in those areas.

I want to thank all of you for a great winter. Your calls are always welcome and if you see something, say something and we will do our best to solve the problems!

Pioneers of our Past: A Story of Three Generations

by Laurie White

Sadie and Edgar Raveill

Sadie and Edgar Raveill were married in 1900 at Heron Lake, MN. They rented a farm for three years in Douglass township. Edgar worked the farm planting crops and harvesting corn. A few years later when Sadie was expecting and felt her first labor pains, Edgar hitched up the horse and rode to the town of Douglass three miles away to send a telegraph to the doctor who was in Rochester. The doctor made it in time to deliver their first son, Maynard.



After starting a family, they decided to move north after they learned of free homesteads in Aitkin County, so they could have property of their own. Try to visualize traveling by steamboat on the Mississippi River during the year 1903. Roads were very rough and many relied on the steamboat for transportation. In Aitkin, the boat boarded the passengers to their destination with provisions they needed. Many times, a limitless supply of jugs were toted up the plank in a spirited fashion . . . need I say more.

Edgar took the train with one of his horses in a railway car with hay for feed. All he had was an axe and a few provisions. It took him three days to cut a trail from McGregor and find his plot of

land, after scoping out the area six miles north of Big Sandy on Boot Lake. They went to the courthouse and applied for the homestead, agreeing to occupy it within six months. Life on the homestead was very hard, especially with all the mosquitoes. They slept under awnings at night to give them energy for the next day, clearing land and breaking young steers in to help with the work. Fishing was better than ever and always provided a good meal.

Neighbors pitched in and they took turns celebrating the holidays, each taking their turn hosting the holiday meal. Even though things were scarce there was always a treat of ice cream with homemade lemonade. Entertainment was easy back then: people made their own fun. The men and older boys played a ball game while the women got the dinner ready. One of the neighbors, Harry, played his fiddle which brought about many fine dances and music for all. Through all the hardships, they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in 1960. Edgar and Sadie had five children, Maynard, Lillian, Kathleen, Ruth (Russ’s mother), Elaine and Wayne (twins)

Burt and Ruth Thompson

Ruth was one of the daughters of Edgar and Sadie and was born in Minneapolis. They had four children: Russ and Ruby, who still reside in McGregor, and Jeanne and Grace, who have since passed.

Ruth met Burt at a 4th of July picnic. Burt built their home on the corner of County Road 14 and 36 in 1939. He logged and worked at a lumber mill located near the CMA camp until 1952. He also worked for the state highway department until he retired in 1975. Burt was an avid hunter and fisherman. People wanted him to be their guide as he knew where the hunting/fishing spots were. He competed in derby races down in the Cities, traveling all the way down the Mississippi. Burt participated in golf, men’s softball teams; he was an outstanding athlete. Burt and Ruth lived off the land; they had a huge garden, apple trees, pear trees, raspberry and strawberry plants. Ruth preserved most of the food for the long winters.



Ruby and Russ Thompson

Ruby was married to Jack and have 4 kids, two of whom still live in the area. She is passionate about gardening, enjoys sewing and has made many outfits for the grandchildren. She enjoys sketching and painting and one of her sketches was published in one of Eileen Keen’s books. She devoted her life to her family and the church. She belongs to a flower club and is a Master Gardener. Her flower club adorns the streets of McGregor each spring, planting flowers and placing hanging baskets around the town. Ruby is always there to help just like the giving tree. She is giving of her talents and time.

Ruby’s older brother Russ was an enthusiastic fisherman. When Russ was a kid, he and Leonard put a plank from the bank of the Prairie River toward the mouth of the river one spring day when a bog had floated down the channel and blocked the river opening. They created a fish hole in the middle of that bog and were rewarded with many kinds of fish. Russ is the oldest child of Burt and Ruth Thompson. He graduated in 1951 from McGregor High School, joined the army in 1953, was stationed in Salzburg, Austria, and left in 1955. While in the Army he worked in accounting and punch card accounting. In 1956 he joined the Air Force and served in Duluth, MN and recruited for nine years. He also worked at Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii, working as a computer systems analyst.

Russ met his lovely wife Betty — who is from Wisconsin — at a St. Patrick’s Day dance at the Pleasure Palace. They married in September 1955 at the Log Church on County Road 14. Betty’s father was a cheese maker at the creamery in Lawler. She attended the University of Wisconsin. He built his current home on the Prairie River in 1978 after he bought an older cabin that was on the river lot years ago in 1974. In his later years Russ sold real estate until 1996 for Woodland Realty, then McGregor Realty.

Bear, wolf, and moose are some of the wildlife Russ and Betty enjoy watching in their beautiful heavily wooded lot. Their dog Remy is a keen watcher of squirrels and has caught many mischievous creatures. Russ keeps busy hunting grouse, ducks, geese, and deer. He is active in the Lions Club, has riced the river, volunteers at the American Legion, was a chairman for the Aitkin County Hospice and Aitkin County Housing Board. Russ, Wayne Reed and Connie Martin started the Big Sandy Lake Association. He enjoys volunteering at the Tamarack Sportsman club working on habitat projects building duck and bird houses.

Stories written by Laurie White and told by Ruby Serfling, Kathie Serfling, and Russ Thompson.

As we read about the hardships our ancestors endured, I’d like to ask you to reflect upon your own blessings. When times were tough back in the old days, neighbors reached out to others to offer a lending hand to build a barn, to share food with others in need, and families sometimes raised other children from different families. I’d like to ask you to pay it forward; if it’s a meal, a helping hand, or a phone call to stay connected to those who may be alone or need a friend to talk to.



Big Sandy Fishery

by Rick Bruesewitz, DNR Fisheries-Aitkin

Greetings, Big Sandy Lakers!

I’m sure we are all a bit shocked at what has transpired this spring with respect to the coronavirus, and I sure hope you all are safe and well at your homes. While things are a bit delayed due to this current situation, I do have some exciting news on a large-scale project that we (DNR and USACE, and likely Iowa State University) will be undertaking in the next several years. Before I get to the details of the what, let me first try to explain the why.

The main issue I have heard so much about over the last many decades that I’ve been in the Aitkin office is the issue with the walleyes not growing on Big Sandy. There is no doubt that growth rates are relatively slow; however, that shouldn’t mean a near absence of large fish, it should only take them a bit longer to get there. Many lakes in NE Minnesota also have slow growth, but many also have larger fish in the population. When I first became the area manager, one of my first orders of business was to figure out what was going on. The result was the implementation of the slot limit for walleye. I do believe the regulation has been effective in a number of ways (especially with improving reproduction), but it hasn’t resulted in the increases in quality sized fish like we expected.

One of the things we learned from the creel survey we conducted a few years back was that exploitation (the proportion of the population angler’s harvest) could not completely explain the very high total mortality that we had been seeing on walleye between ages 3 and 6. In other words, fish were still disappearing even though anglers were not harvesting them, and it is not likely that large predators were eating them simply because there really are not that many large pike or walleye in this system.

So, where does that leave us? Well, there could be two more explanations. One is that as they mature they migrate out of the lake and into the river systems of the Sandy, Prairie, and Tamarack Rivers. There is no doubt that fish do move into these systems. However, these are also the rivers that tend to get too warm in the summer and become very low in oxygen not too long after heavy summer rain events. When we conducted our studies in 2016, we marked fish that we had handled during spawning assessments, clipping different spines for fish in the lake vs the Sandy River. What we found was that by early June the fish that had been in the river had returned to the lake where we recaptured them. This tells me that while fish move into the rivers, they do eventually return to the lake. We also learned that the sizes and ages of the walleyes spawning in the Sandy River were much larger and older than the fish we observed in the lake, however, the number of these larger fish is just a small fraction of the total population.

So why are the river fish bigger and older than the lake fish? This brings me to the second explanation of why there are so few larger walleyes in the system. When walleyes spawn, they tend to return to the same area they had spawned in the previous seasons. If it is there first time, they likely wander the shorelines of the lake looking for suitable habitat as well as other spawners. Those that spawn their first time in the river would then return to the river in subsequent years, while those in the lake likely return to spawning areas in the lake. Those that spawn in the lake would likely encounter the dam more frequently than those that spawn in the river. Therefore, if they are “encountering” the dam there is a risk that they would swim past the dam. When they do this, they are not able to return. The fish that spawn in the rivers would not be as likely to encounter the dam and so they are able to grow older than the fish in the lake. These lake fish that swam past the dam would then never be seen in our assessments, or on your stringers. While we know this happens to some extent, recent research by Dr. Michael Weber and his students at Iowa State University have estimated this “escapement” in some Iowa reservoirs to be similar to angler exploitation, in some cases. A doubling of angler mortality due to escapement would certainly explain why there are so few large fish in the lake.

(cont.)



(cont.) With this in mind, I proposed a large-scale project to look at movement and escapement of walleyes in the system and DNR and the ACE entered into an agreement to just that. Later this summer we will be deploying underwater acoustical receivers that will be used to detect special sonic tags that we will implant in walleyes. There will be receivers all over the lake, up the tributaries, as well as just above and below the dam. This will give us a very good idea of just how much escapement happens throughout the year. In the following springs, we will also be tagging several thousand walleyes with standard numbered tags that will add to our knowledge of the extent to which they are caught by anglers throughout the system. At the same time, we will also be conducting a creel survey (likely two years), standard net assessments, recapture assessments to estimate total population size, temperature and dissolved oxygen profiles, habitat assessments in the tributaries, and dam flow observations. These results would then be used to alter harvest regulations, guide dam management, and guide the construction, operation, and timing of fish passage structures and/or barriers to reduce or optimize fish escapement.

In the meantime, I’d sure like to hear about your fishing this past winter (my email address is rick.bruesewitz@state.mn.us) and I want to wish you all a pleasant opener with no giant rain events this summer! Take care.

Help Loon Chicks Survive

by Ann Rorem

Loons start to nest in mid May. They generally lay 2 eggs which hatch in 3-4 weeks, around late June. Loon chicks are incredibly vulnerable to our activities on the water. Every chick counts, and the survival of loons depends on their young being healthy until able to fly south in late fall.

As boating season approaches, we as watercraft operators should be aware of how our activities affect our state bird. Powerboats can send waves crashing into shorelines drowning nests. Areas frequently fished, especially for bass and pike, are also preferred by loons as nesting areas. When you see you’re lining up with a loon while trolling, give it a wide berth and then return to your original course. Please use non-lead sinkers and jigs.

Canoes and kayaks can easily slip quietly into nesting areas and startle loons off their nests. Personal watercraft, water skiers, and tubers speeding near shorelines can run over a chick.

Loon parents will leave the nest if you come within 500’ of it, leaving eggs without warmth or predator protection. They will leave the nest altogether if disturbed too often. If the loon does decide to try to re-nest, the likelihood of chicks hatching or surviving is very low.

Loon chicks are not waterproof, and stay warm and dry by riding on their parents’ backs. If watercraft come too close, adults will leave their chicks to defend their territory. Young chicks are very buoyant and cannot dive deep to avoid boats.

Constant boat presence cause chicks to keep swimming instead of feeding and resting, which weakens them. Loon parents will move the chicks as they grow, away from the nesting environment into deeper water and more open shoreline to avoid their natural predators. Unfortunately this puts them into more direct conflict with personal watercraft, water skiers, and tubers.



Loon awareness and responsible boating will help reduce the conflicts that occur between boaters and loons. While out on the water if you hear a loon start to call or slap its wings while dancing across the water, MOVE AWAY! Loons are capable of adapting to a variety of conflicts, however people should remember that we share the water with a variety of wildlife, and to stay away from shoreline and also keep a sharp eye out for loons, giving them distance to feed and care for their young.



Did You Know . . . ?

by Robert O. Harder

Editor’s Note: This article is a revised, re-formatted version of the February, 2019 Did You Know? column. We’re reprinting due to readability issues in that issue.

Few today remember, or ever knew, that Minnesota’s first mission school, and the first school of any kind outside the then-recently established Fort Snelling, was founded in 1832 at Sandy Lake. The story has been handed down to us by Clifford Greer, a Works Progress Administration (WPA) writer, who in 1940-41 conducted extensive research and interviews on the subject. That material, along with a great deal more local history, was published in 1967 by O.L. Johnson in Twelve Poses West.

It all started with the missionaries, they who were determined to both convert and then civilize Native Americans. It was the Jesuit “Black Robes,” Methodist Episcopalans (ME), Presbyterians, and several other Christian denominations that sent their evangelists into the North American wilderness. For the purposes of our specific story we must point to one Frederick Ayer, a Presbyterian clergyman who in 1831 opened an Indian (Ojibway) mission at LaPointe on Madeline Island in the Apostle Island group. La Pointe was long known among the missionaries; a century and a half earlier the Jesuits had established and then later were forced to abandon the location--conditions in the remote frontier were not yet right for proselytizing. It had been a trader at La Pointe, Lyman Warren, who convinced Reverend Ayer it was time to try again. The new mission became an instant success.

Emboldened by his efforts at La Pointe, Ayer decided to spread the Word of God farther west. When passing into the Sandy Lake region, he was introduced to the formidable William Aitkin. The “factor” or superintendent of the American Fur Company’s post on Sandy Lake, Aitkin headed up the company’s Fond du lac department. Rev. Ayer found the area bustling with activity. To Ayer’s great pleasure, Aitkin greeted the missionary enthusiastically, urging him to stay on at Sandy and open up a school for the children of his voyageurs, clerks, and Ojibway “pack” men. Ayer agreed to the idea and in the fall of 1832 organized a school at the post and personally taught the young ones over the winter.

During his earlier stay at La Pointe, the talented cleric had begun work on an Ojibway to English spelling book and during that first winter at Sandy he completed it. With eighty dollars of his own money and, with William Aitkin’s aid, he made his way to Utica, New York by canoe via the Great Lakes route to get it printed. By good fortune, it was just at this time the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, had begun to show considerable interest in the Great Lakes Indian tribes. According to Greer “Ayer placed himself under the Board’s direction, and one William Boutwell, who had been at Sandy Lake when Schoolcraft passed through earlier in 1832, was sent to take Ayers place.” Following his success at Sandy Lake, Ayers was dispatched to Yellow Lake, now in Wisconsin, where he continued his work for two more years. He subsequently married and in 1836 the couple was given the mission at Minnesota’s Pokegama Lake.

Despite the serious obstacles presented by the Indian’s belief that everything in nature had its own spirit and those deities protected only they who had done something to merit favor, the early Christian missionaries soldiered on. And, while their religious mission objectives may have sometimes faltered, their work in education took a firm hold. The Board of Commissioners, pleased with the success at Sandy Lake, directed one Edmund Ely to join Boutwell. Ely arrived at Sandy Lake and eventually took charge of the school, with Boutwell moving on to Leech Lake. The decades to come saw the concept of formal education becoming firmly established on the northern Minnesota frontier--the seed having been firmly planted on our own Sandy Lake.

And speaking of seed planting, there could no better way to “grow” a healthy lake than to join the Big Sandy Lake Association. For as little as \$30 per year, you and your family can join us as fellow stewards of the lake. The BSLA is a 501C3 non-profit organization (dues tax-deductible) dedicated to protecting the lake and the interests of all its permanent and seasonal residents. To current members--thank you for your support! To our neighbors--we hope you’ll join us!

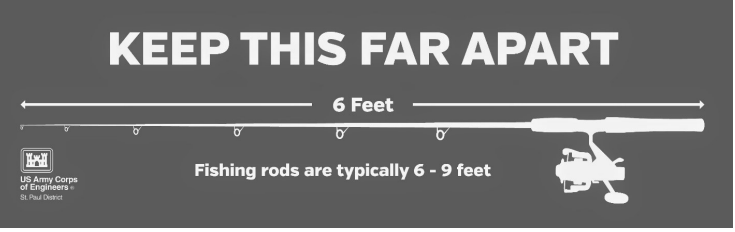
COVID-19 Impacts, Sandy Lake Dam Rehab, and Fish Reconnaissance Study

By Tamryn Frauenschuh, Site Lead/Natural Resources Specialist, US Army Corps of Engineers, Sandy Lake Dam & Recreation Area

First and foremost, the staff at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Sandy Lake Dam hopes this update finds you and yours safe and well. There are several items for update due to the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing projects.

COVID-19 Impacts on the Sandy Lake Dam & Recreation Area

Safety of our visitors, shareholders and staff is our top priority. Due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, the Sandy Lake Dam and Recreation Area has limited recreational availability.



The following closures are in effect until May 15 (subject to extension) including:

- Park Visitor Office
- Campground (no overnight parking allowed)
- Playground Areas
- Beach
- Flush Restrooms
- Fish Cleaning Stations
- Visitor Center and Museum
- Main Picnic Shelter

Minimal day use, including boat launching and dam viewing, is currently permitted (subject to change). Users are advised to remain at least 6 feet apart and no group gatherings will be allowed.

Boat launching facilities are only available via the “South Entrance” and parking will be limited. Please be courteous and maintain adequate spacing when utilizing launch facilities. Overnight parking is not permitted at any time. Violators may be prosecuted. For additional information about park closures and area availability please visit: <https://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation/Sandy-Lake/>, calling 651.290.5850, or email sandy.lake@usace.army.mil.

Sandy Lake Dam Rehabilitation Project

The St. Paul District released a draft environmental assessment, or EA, for the proposed rehabilitation of Big Sandy Lake Dam for public review on April 16. Corps staff will accept comments through May 18.

The Corps’ rehabilitation work would include concrete repairs, refurbishing the existing slide gates, upgrading stoplogs, and replacing the existing timber apron and cutoff.

The draft EA describing the plan and the environmental impacts is available to the public and can be viewed on the St. Paul District website at: www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Home/PublicNotices.aspx.

Questions on the plan or comments on the EA can be directed to Eric Hanson, environmental planner, at 651-290-5386 or eric.r.hanson@usace.army.mil. Please address all formal written correspondence on this project to the St. Paul District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, ATTN: Regional Planning and Environment Division North, 180 5th St. E., Suite 700, St. Paul, MN 55101.

Fish Reconnaissance Study

The St. Paul District signed a cost share agreement with the Minnesota Department of Resources in January to study the Big Sandy Lake watershed’s aquatic community as a whole, in addition to impacts from the operation of Sandy Lake Dam.

The information gathered from the study will help scientists better understand the aquatic community of Big Sandy Lake, including near the dam. The results will be used to improve the operational management of the dam, as well as consider the potential for a future fish passage.

The study is covered under the Corps’ Planning Assistance to States Program and will focus on the area fisheries and a hydrological assessment of how water moves through the dam. The study has a total cost of \$718,000, half of which will be federally funded.

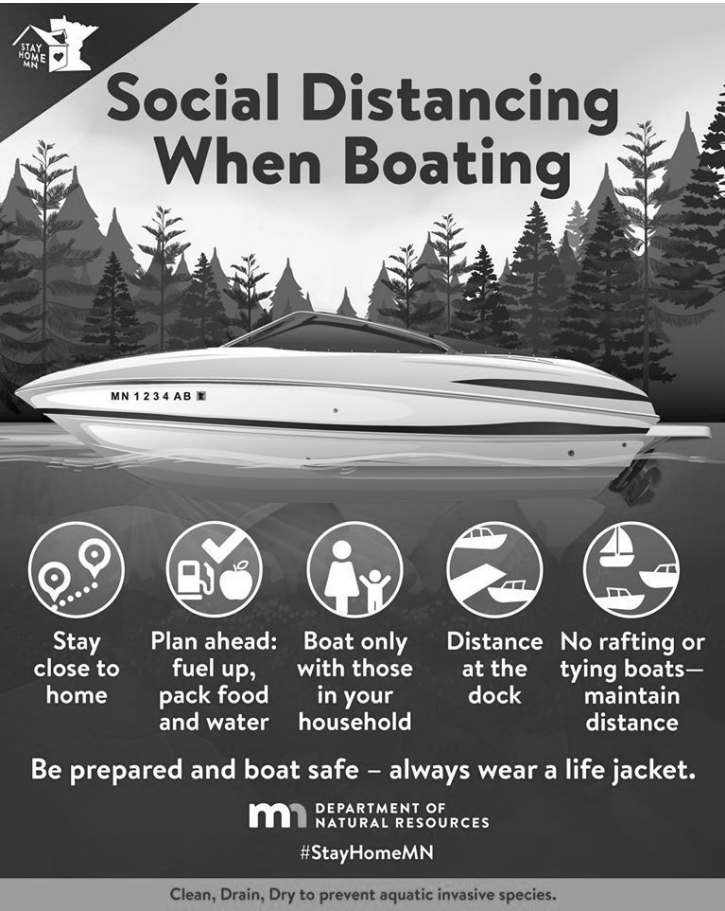
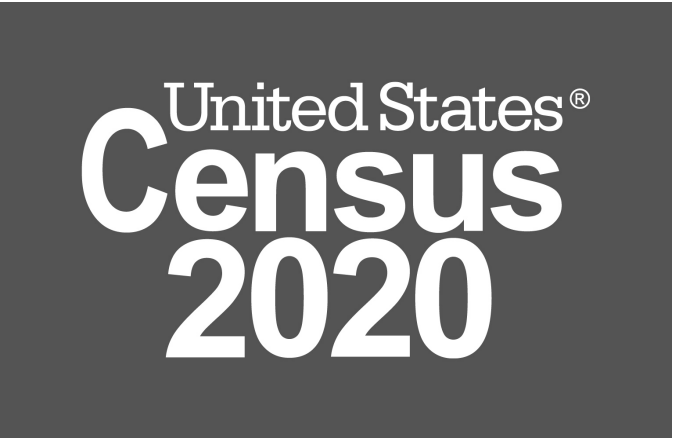
Under its Planning Assistance to States and Tribes Program, the Corps is authorized to use its technical expertise in water and related land resource management to help states, federally recognized Indian Tribes and other eligible units of government with their water resource problems. Questions about this project can be directed to: Sam Smith, project manager, at Samuel.R.Smith@usace.army.mil.



Everybody Counts

Every 10 years, the federal government conducts a population count of everyone in the United States. Data from the census provide the basis for distributing more than \$675 billion in federal funds annually to communities across the country to support vital programs—impacting housing, education, transportation, employment, health care, and public policy. They also are used to redraw the boundaries of congressional and state legislative districts and accurately determine the number of congressional seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Everyone needs to be counted. You can respond for your home in one of three ways: online, by phone, or by mail, telling the Census Bureau where you live as of April 1, 2020. All information is totally confidential -- strict federal laws protect your census responses. It is against the law for any Census Bureau employee to disclose or publish any census information that identifies an individual. So make sure you are counted by completing the form as soon as possible.



Corporate Support

If you work for a large corporation, are you aware that your employer might have a program to provide financial support to the Big Sandy Lake Association? Some companies will match employee donations, so a \$30 membership becomes \$60. Many have foundations that evaluate employee requests for donations to the nonprofit of their choice. Others provide programs for regular contributions through payroll deductions. The next newsletter will recognize corporations providing this support to BSLA.

Employees of large business are encouraged to find out if this is a benefit available to them. If it is, requesting support of BSLA will be easier if you provide our Employer Identification Number (EIN) 41-1615518. This is an opportunity to obtain additional financial support from companies that believe in supporting the nonprofit organizations of their employees' choice.



Big Sandy Lake, MN



THANK YOU!

The BSLA board is grateful for all of you who support and help protect Big Sandy Lake by being members of the BSLA.





"I guess we should have done more to STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS! Who would have thought that a few weeds would ruin our favorite spot?"

Big Sandy Lakes 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.



www.bigsandylakemn.org
for the latest BSLA news



Forwarding Service
Requested

McGregor, MN 55760

Big Sandy Lakes Association
P.O. Box 21

McGregor, MN 55760
Permit No. 9

PAID

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage