

BIG SAUK LAKE ASSOCIATION

INFORMER

SPRING EDITION 2013

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Most of us have heard the old saying, "April showers bring May flowers". This year it was "April snowfalls morphed into May snowballs." However, spring has emerged. We rejoice that albeit somewhat late, our trees and shrubs are budding, lawns have greened up, and spring flowers are blooming. What a relief! Recall from your 9th Grade science course, that it is all "springs" from the facts that as spring progresses, the axis of the earth (tilted at 23.5 degrees) coupled with the speed of the earth in its orbit (66,600 mph), brings our northern hemisphere into greater and greater exposure to the sun's rays. This warming occurs despite the fact that we are farther from the sun on June 21st than we are on December 21st. Ain't that amazin'?

First, I should like to comment on a couple of major issues and wrap up with others. Our ANNUAL MEETING is coming up on Saturday, May 25th! Once again it will be held in the basement of the First Lutheran Church (Elm Street and Sinclair Lewis Avenue) commencing at 8:00 A.M. If you are a newcomer to the meeting, enter through the South Doors and proceed directly to the stairway. Proceed downstairs, make a couple of short right turns and proceed down the hallway to the meeting area. A breakfast will be served by the Youth Group. A free-will offering will be appreciated. Our principal speaker will be Eric Altena, DNR Division of Fisheries, Little Falls. I am sure that Eric will touch on major issues confronting our lake and those of other lakes in this area AND bring stories of his tenure with the DNR. Listen closely and offer your Q's following his talk.



We also may have a visit from our new DNR Law Enforcement Officer. Our Business meeting will follow. This year, MEMBERS will receive a Dwarf Bush Honeysuckle - genus *Diervilla*, it is good for raingardens and shorelines.

I would also remind you that we have openings on our Board of Directors. We have never, in my tenure, had a full complement of 13 members. If you are so moved, please speak to one of our Board members who can then place your name in nomination. We always meet at the SRWD office on a Saturday at 7:30 A.M. Meetings are generally held on the 2nd or 3rd Saturday (more so the 3rd). We do not meet during the winter months except for a dinner meeting in January.

Recall that our Winter Issue had reference to a "Carp Shoot" to be held on Big Sauk Lake on June 8th. This has been confirmed. Boaters will launch from the Highway 71 access at 9:00 P.M. that evening, fish all night (with lights) and check in at 6:00 A.M., the next morning. After trucks and boat trailers have been connected, entrants will proceed to the parking lot in Sinclair Lewis Park for a weigh-in, award ceremony, and a park breakfast. Subject to possible change, prizes will be awarded for the largest number of harvested fish, the heaviest carp, and the combined weight of the 6 heaviest fish. Your Board has considered adding to the prize money to entice more participants. Recall that we still about 70% of our "Carp Fund" in savings. This would be a legitimate use of a portion of that Fund. After the tournament date was announced, it was learned that another tournament would be held in the Fergus Falls area. This will probably siphon off some participants who might have attended our event. Still, it is hoped by the organizers that at least 20 "teams" will be present. BSLA members are encouraged to attend either the launch event or the awards presentation the

next morning. As we mentioned in our Winter Newsletter, DO NOT call the authorities that night if you see moving lights on the lake!! To this writer's knowledge, luminescent fishes only occur in the depths of the ocean!

We have continued to have discussions with SRWD staff on the management of the Harvester Fund and the permitting process. We have written earlier that the SRWD Board of Managers have voted to discontinue use of the Harvesting Equipment. It is now in storage. Control of invasive weed species will be done by chemical spraying. Our most recent meeting at the SRWD office was on May 13th. Board members Weir, Blenkush and Bjork were present. Although any final solutions must be approved by the Board of Directors, these suggestions were generally approved: 1) The Harvester Fund accrued by the levy on property owners will be retained by the SRWD. This levy is no longer in effect. 2) The BSLA will be responsible for acquiring an Annual Permit to chemically treat Big Sauk Lake for invasive aquatic weeds. It will also secure a competent company to do the spraying when necessary. 3) Individual lake property owners who desire treatment of invasive weeds to open channels, etc., will be responsible for acquiring their own individual treatment permit. It is expected that they would employ the spraying company designated by the BSLA. 4) Retention of the Fund is necessary to guard against future massive growths of invasive species such as clp as we observed in years past. Such a growth would require thousands of dollars to control. If Members have questions on this issue, bring them up at the Annual Meeting.

President's letter continued on page 2

Presidents letter continued from page 1

At this writing, there has been no meeting of the Todd-Stearns Cola. I have not pursued development of the Stearns Cola. With Board approval, I did send a letter of support of our organization to the newly formed Melrose Lake Association. As reported in our Winter Newsletter, their members have property bordering the Sauk River upstream from the Melrose Dam. They wish to determine the extent of silting and nutrient loading in this section of the river by hiring a St. Cloud State Graduate student to do the study. The letter was in support of their application of a grant to hire the student.

I would also like to emphasize that the SRWD has received several important and sizable grants to improve water quality in the watershed. Obviously, this includes Sauk Lake. As members, you know if your shoreline shows evidence of erosion and/or paths or boat launch areas which are eroding. What would you rather have, the carrot or the stick? The cost-share funds may just be available for you to do a project which will minimize or virtually eliminate soil erosion and concurrent nutrient loading into the lake. Are you composting your grass clippings so they are not going down sewer drains? If you have an interest in farm land, are you actively working with a tenant/renter to prevent soil erosion and keeping expensive nutrients on the land rather than washing into a nearby creek and eventually into Sauk Lake? If you have acquired cost sharing to install a raingarden, how is it

progressing. Does it need Botanical surgery? (I'm afraid mine does for I see more quack grass emerging than the original Plants). Wouldn't it be wonderful to see restored shorelines bursting with wildflowers and shrubs beautifying our shores where possible rather than drab, lifeless looking ones??

In conclusion, Our April membership report revealed that our membership lagged considerably behind last year at this time. If you have not renewed, please use the membership form in either the winter newsletter or this one. We budget funds to support efforts to effect the first part of our By-Laws. As a case in point, we contribute to the support of the Water Festivals held by the SRWD for area 4th graders. This writer had the privilege of being a presenter at the first one this year. It was held at the Sinclair Lewis Park on May 16th. Kids attend 7 different sessions plus a major presentation by the Science Museum of Minnesota. With help from a very competent Junior student from Melrose High School, our team presented our program seven times to about 140 kids. The organizers were expecting total attendance of about 377 students. Events like this would be impossible without help from agencies outside of the public/parochial schools involved.

My wish is for all members to have a safe and pleasant summer. Be sure to tote those campfire ashes away from the lake! We will be back in the Fall with our next Edition but first, we want to see you at the Annual Meeting.

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NEWSLETTER NEWS ITEMS

Members, you are our best source for events, issues, and information. Our "collective" eyes and ears come across many tidbits of information in the months between newsletters. If you would like this newsletter to mention these topics, please give me a call at 320.351.2513.

Visit Us on the Web
For BSLA information, notices, and lake-related links
or to contact us.



This site is courtesy of the
World Wide Web Foundry, LLC.
A BIG thank you to BSLA member,
Lynn Woodward.



Big Sauk Lake Maps

- 17 1/2" x 21 1/2" Map
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Some readers may have seen this story already but it is so remarkable that I felt moved to put it into our Newsletter.

WISDOM: An Amazing Life Journey

The reader may look at the heading and wonder "How can this noun have a life much less a journey? It is possible if you know that the title WISDOM is the name of something alive! This story starts in 1956 when a Laysan albatross, now affectionately known as "Wisdom" flew to the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge. She was captured and banded by an ornithologist named Chandler S. Robbins.

This bird returned to the Atoll during the winter of 2012 and of course was recognized by the band she still wore. This makes her 62 years old, a life span far beyond the average 12 to 40 year lifespan for a Laysan. She is oldest documented living bird.

Last February she laid another egg and hatched out another chick.. Scientists estimate she has raised 30 to 35 chicks. In the process she has logged at least two million miles in flight. This is equivalent to approximately four round trips to the moon and back!

Two years a Tsunami destroyed many albatross and nests on the Atoll. She survived that and numerous other threats to survival.

As to Chandler Robbins, he has devoted six decades to bird conservation. He has been referred to as the Father of Modern Ornithology. He has investigated the effects of forest fragmentation on bird survival and contributed greatly to the effect of DDT on shell structure and the decline of bird species. This work influenced Rachel Carson's landmark book "Silent Spring". Now in his nineties, the journalist Shirley Hao quoted him as saying that while he has "grown old and gray and gets around only with the use of a cane, Wisdom still looks and acts just the same as on the day I banded her."

Note: Shirley Hao writes for the publication "Earthjustice". Information for this story was in the Spring 2013 issue.

SHORELINE EROSION CONTROL: A MISSING LINK

Editor's Note: Information for this article is credited to UM Extension Publication, Shore to Shore, Issue 112

Author: Mary Blickenderfer

For the past 20 years, a growing emphasis has been placed on providing environmentally and effective erosion control for shorelines. "Softarmor," "soil bioengineering" and "shoreline restoration" have become part of practitioners' vocabulary.

These terms refer to the process of establishing a plant community that will resist erosion - the preferred option to hard armor (e.g. rock riprap, etc) when site conditions will allow it.

Numerous resources for shoreline erosion control have been developed. Shoreline soil bioengineering methods and installation protocols are found in the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Engineering Field Handbook (1992,1996) and A Soil Bioengineering Guide for Streambank and Lakeshore Stabilization (Eubanks 2002), as well as local adaptations of this material. The

Wisconsin DNR created an online Erosion Energy Calculator and Erosion Intensity Worksheet to help determine whether biological shore protection (live plants), vegetated armor, rock riprap or seawall is appropriate for properties experiencing shoreline erosion.

However, there is very little guidance on how to link these two types of resources (i.e., what combination of erosion control methods and products

to use on a site with a given combination of site conditions) and what spe-

cific plants are needed to get the job done in our area-referred to as "work-horse species".

Available online early this year, a new resource - The shoreline Erosion Control Decision Tool - will provide the missing link. This online tool was designed with input from an expert panel of experienced and innovative natural resource professionals, nursery and landscape professionals, consultants and contractors in Minnesota for their use while working with clients on-site, as well as a reference while designing projects or responding to erosion control inquiries at their offices. This tool may be useful to other audiences as well.

Choosing to use this decision tool requires users to enter information about four distinct areas of their shoreline: off-shore, nearshore, erosion toe, and upland/wetland. Data entries involve items like fetch (maximum distance that a wave would travel to reach the users shoreline), frequency of ice damage, water level fluctuation and type of erosion present. When entries are complete, the user is presented with a summary of their entries, a visual cross-section of their shoreline, a list of general erosion control practices or combination of practices to consider for each of the four zones.

These general headings are color-coded according to their effectiveness and appropriateness for the particular set of shoreline parameters: green for effective and appropriate, yellow for use care/caution with this practice (limited or inconsistent data for these conditions), red for ineffective, and orange for inap-

propriate (i.e., more environmentally friendly and effective options are available). There are other options to click on to produce other information including a printable information page. This page yields information including a materials list, instructions for installation, a shoreline cross section depicting the installed practice, and appropriate plant species for Minnesota.

The decision tool web link was to be published in January-February issue of Shore to Shore but was not available for inclusion here.

The reader could access the author at: blick002@umn.edu or (218) 244-7996 Interested readers can access the Erosion Energy Calculator via the web address: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/waterways/shoreline/erosioncalculator.html>

The Erosion Intensity Worksheet is available at: http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/waterways/factsheets/Erosion_Intensity_Worksheet.pdf

While professionals would be more likely to use the web sites for information, an interested lake shore property owner considering a shoreline

restoration project could certainly access the information. There is nothing wrong with being prepared in advance.

The Shoreline Erosion control decision tool was provided by a Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) 319 grant. Numerous individuals from various academic and businesses conducted research for this publication.

2013 Big Sauk Lake Association Membership

Below is a listing of BSLA Residential and Business members who have paid dues for calendar year 2013 as of **May 10, 2013**. **THANK YOU** for your support of Big Sauk Lake and the Sauk Centre community!

RESIDENTIAL Members

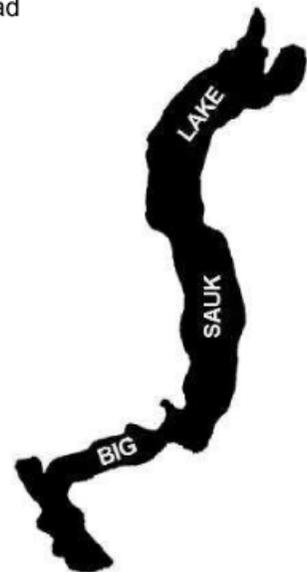
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2013 Membership—Big Sauk Lake Association

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THANK YOU for your support of Big Sauk Lake!

The Big Sauk Lake Association is a Minnesota nonprofit corporation, and a tax-exempt, environmental organization under Article 501 (c) (3) of the U. S. Internal Revenue Code.

ATTENTION: RIVER AND LAKE DAY

Editor's Note: Recently, our Board received this message from the Todd County Soil, and Water Conservation District announcing their Annual River and Lake Day. Although it is directed to Todd County residents, all Stearns County Lake and/or River property owners are invited.

The Todd County SWCD will be holding our 3rd Annual River and Lake Day on June 7, 2013 at Shiprex, Burtrum. Registration will begin at 8:30 A.M. with presentations beginning at 9:00. The program is scheduled from 9-12. Coffee and rolls will be provided. Tentative topics to be covered include:

- * Feedlots
- * Planning and Zoning: Q and A
- * Aquatic Plants
- * Aquatic Invasive Species

If there are additional topics you would like covered please contact our office and we will try to accommodate your request.

Due to budget and time constraints, SWCD and P&Z Staff will be unable to attend individual lake association meetings; however, we encourage you to mark your calendars and plan to attend this event.

If you need specific information for your meeting, we will gladly provide it to you. Please extend the invitation to your Association members to attend River & Lake Day. Please note that pre-registration is required. This is a FREE event. To RSVP: Call: 320-732-2644 Or Email: amy.warnberg@co.todd.mn.us

On the Lighter Side . . .

Moshe was sitting at the bar staring at his drink when a large, mean-looking dude steps up next to him, grabs his drink and gulps it down in one swig and menacingly says, "Thanks Boy, whatcha going to do about?" Moshe burst into tears.

"Come on, man," the dude says, "I didn't think you'd CRY. I can't stand to see a man crying. What's your problem?"

"This is the worst day of my life," Moshe says. "I'm a complete failure. I was late to a meeting and my boss fired me. When I went to the parking lot, I found my car had been stolen and I don't have any insurance. I left my wallet in the cab I took home. I found my wife in bed with the postman and then my dog bit me". "So I came to this bar to work up the courage to put an end to it all. I buy a drink; drop a capsule in and sit here watching the poison dissolve; then you show up and drink the whole thing!"

"But enough about me, how's your day going?"

NOTE OUR ADVERTISERS:

***Should you visit any one of them,
please mention their advertisement
in our newsletter!***

Editor's Note:

The content of this article is directed more to our lakeside members who dwell within the Sauk Centre City Limits. It's implications should be of concern to all.

Information for this article is credited to Issue 112 of Shore to Shore, publication of the UM Extension service, Shane Missaghi, author.

WHAT IS AN MS4 (MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEM)?

Water is a limited natural resource, and only 3% of all Earth's water is in the form of fresh water. Of that small amount, 99.7% of it is locked into glaciers and groundwater, leaving only 0.3% available as surface water. The quality of this valuable natural resource is under stress from stormwater runoff, agriculture, and climate change.

Many communities own and operate an infrastructure of storm drains, pipes, ditches and ponds to capture, collect and convey rainwater runoff (a.k.a. storm water) downstream. These Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems, or MS4s are separated from sanitary sewer systems (i.e., where our household drains go). The benefit of separating stormwater from the sanitary sewer system is that it prevents overloading of wastewater treatment facilities. On the other hand, the stormwater carried by the MS4 is not treated before it is released to water bodies downstream; it would be expensive to treat stormwater like we treat wastewater.

The Minnesota Water Sustainability

Framework (<http://wrc.umn.edu/water-sustainabilityframework/index.htm>) and the National Water Quality Inventory-2004 Report to Congress (<http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/guidance/cwa/305b/index.cfm>) concluded that stormwater runoff is one of the leading sources of pollution for our water resources. MS4 operators in urban areas are required to obtain a stormwater discharge permit by developing and implementing a local stormwater management program. The purpose of these programs is to prevent and minimize pollutants such as excessive nutrients or harmful heavy metals from getting into their MS4 and being transported downstream. MS4 operators have found that the stormwater programs that mimic natural hydrology as much as possible are effective in reducing stormwater discharge and lowering pollutant loadings.

Each MS4 stormwater program has specific control measures and practices for reducing and managing excessive runoff. Over the past three decades, water resources professionals have

developed various control measures and practices including educating the public to prevent the dumping of waste directly into storm sewer systems. Another popular innovation has been to construct raingarden basins to capture rain water so it can soak into the ground. The University of Minnesota continues to be a national leader and information resource for stormwater research.

Editor's Note: Readers can visit <http://stormwater.saf1.umn.edu/> for the latest research, resources and educational programs about stormwater management. It is also imperative that our city members are extra careful of keeping grass clippings and any other possible contaminants out of city drains. As one who has the pleasure of touring the city water treatment plant, I learned that the water which is discharged into the Sauk River has lower concentrations of chemical substances like phosphorus than the river itself. I would urge these members to find out if storm water drainage is treated at our local plant as well.

BIG SAUK LAKE ASSOCIATION

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**Big Sauk Lake Association
ANNUAL MEETING**

WHEN: Saturday, May 25, 2013
8 am—Breakfast Served By Youth Group
(Free - Will Offering Appreciated)
8:30 am—Business Meeting

WHERE: First Lutheran Church, (Elm St. & Sinclair Lewis Ave.)
Please enter via southwest entrance to basement.

GUEST SPEAKER: Eric Altena, Area Supervisor,
DNR Fisheries Dept., also in attendance, local Conservation
Officer—**Caleb Siljford**

FREE: A Dwarf Bush Honeyuckle plant for shoreline
stabilization to each BSLA member registering
for the Business Meeting.

Hope To See You There!

