

BIG SAUK LAKE ASSOCIATION INFORMER

WINTER EDITION 2015

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From the President,

Greetings Fellow Members of the BSLA.

This is the time for our Winter Edition of the INFORMER, somewhat abbreviated from our usual size. Obviously our barren yards reflect a lack of snow. The T.V. forecasters often compare the total snowfall to past years but I never seem to have a pen or pencil handy to write the comparison. Should the snow "drought" continue into the spring, we will be yearning for rain. Such are the vagaries of our winters. For the inquisitive reader, check out the effects of EL-Nino on our climate. Ah, good news! By the time this newsletter reaches you, our barren yards may be covered with the white stuff.

The major themes for this letter will be a review of efforts to control non-native species of aquatic plants on Sauk Lake, our collaboration with the City and the SRWD to sponsor an upcoming Public Informational Meeting, and remarks on the continual efforts to control Aquatic Invasive Species.

Our long-time residents will remember past years, the appearance of Sauk Lake in the 80's, 90's and the first few years of this century. Aquatic plants were thick, particularly curly leaf pondweed. Boat trips were stalled when props became clogged. Boats had to stop and props reversed to clear the weeds. Initially, grants through the Federal Government provided funds to purchase a more efficient mechanical weed harvester, a transporter, and truck. Load after load was transferred to the shoreline, loaded into a truck and hauled to one or more farm fields and eventually plowed or disked into these fields.

Operating costs were secured through a levy on businesses and private residents.

Eventually the concentration of clp declined. Navigation improved. Recreational usage seems to have expanded. Question's still abound. What caused the decline in clp? Was it the result of heavy snowfalls which blocked enough light to slow the growth of clp in late winter and early spring? Did an abundance of carp destroy its root system as well as many native aquatic plants thus diminishing spawning sites for our native fish? What of the inflow from our two major creeks and the Sauk River?

Moving forward in time, fewer and fewer "trips" had to be made by the harvesting equipment and crew. By the second decade, very few trips were occurring in response to calls from property owners primarily around the North end of the lake. For each phone call the crew had to be called, equipment prepared to operate, and the slow journey got underway. Also, after these many years, the harvesting equipment needed updating with new parts. Costs were escalating. In 2013, the SRWD Managers agreed to shift to chemical spraying and retire the harvesting equipment. It was eventually sold. The "harvesting" levy was discontinued. However the accrued funds would be retained for the new program. The BSLA and City would manage the operational part of the new effort. The BSLA took the initiative to hire Lake Restoration, Inc. from Rogers MN., to conduct an aquatic plant survey during the summer of 2014 and if necessary, a spraying effort in 2015. See our 2014 INFORMER for additional details. Very recently, the SRWD prepared a DNR permit to spray. I was required to sign the permit - which I did. They also completed a grant application to acquire partial funding for control of invasive species. This application has a deadline later this spring but may have been mailed at this writing.

As to the second major part of this letter, we are announcing a Public Information Meeting to be held at City Hall later this month. PLEASE READ THE DETAILS IN THIS NEWSLETTER. Besides the public, we hope to have: Chad Hadler from Lake Restoration, City Administrator, Vikki Weller, SRWD Administrator Scott Henderson, and possibly Eric

Altena from the DNR Division of Fisheries. Certainly, some of your Board members will be present. If you have questions regarding how a spray operation is conducted, what areas of the lake may be sprayed, the properties of the herbicide Aquathol K, e.g., when will it be applied, its duration in the water, and effect on other plant species, any other possible environmental impact, how individual property owners will be affected and questions regarding the conversion from mechanical to chemical control of invasives, BE PRESENT !!

As I mentioned earlier, the third part of this letter will be brief. I was able to attend the Annual Meeting of the Stearns COLA in December. Much information was given with respect to their efforts to develop a plan to control AIS - particularly zebra and quagga mussels. The last mailing I have received indicated that the plan has been completed and is or has been submitted to the Stearns County Board of Commissioners for approval. I have also attended six hours of meetings in Long Prairie to hear discussion of the Todd County AIS Plan. It was completed and already approved unanimously by the Todd County Commissioners. Implementation will begin this spring and summer.

In the final analysis, we have to decide what kind of lake we want. Can we balance aquatic plant control to suppress the non-native species and still maintain weed beds thus preserving spawning areas to preserve our fish populations? Do we desire a growth in recreational opportunities? As control over invasive animal species proceeds, how will this affect our lake?

In closing, thanks to every family, individual and business which will renew their 2015 membership. Without you, we as a Board could not continue very long to help manage what has begun. These next few months will be interesting. Look for our Spring Newsletter sometime in early to Mid-May prior to our Annual Meeting. Note THE DATE in this newsletter.

Make the best of our remaining winter. Stay healthy and don't text while driving!
Respectfully, Pres. Bob



THANK YOU!!!

Dear BSLA Members,

Below is the final listing of lakeshore property owners on Big Sauk Lake and on the next page are area businesses who were BSLA members in **2014**. The board would again like to thank all of you who have become members of the lake association. We believe that is your way of saying that we are doing what you believe needs to be done to keep our lake in as good of shape as we can. Your membership fees and donations are the backbone that keeps this organization moving forward and makes our lake a great place to live and play. We hope you will continue to support BSLA in 2015 (a membership form is included on the next page). Along with the board of directors, I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year and hope you enjoy the winter on our lake or wherever you are. Have a safe and fun-filled winter and we will see you on the water next summer!

Mike Blenkush, Membership Director

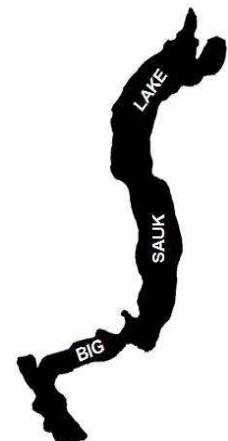
2014 RESIDENTIAL Members

James & Alice Abraham
Frank & Nancy Ademite
Ed & Beth Ampe
Gary & Darleen Anderley
Dennis M. Anderson
Kevin & Leisa Baartman
John & Cindy Banovetz
Kevin & Mari Banz
Vern & Sue Beckermann
Jerry & Renee Beddow
Betty Lou Berg
Jerry & Kaye Beuning
Chad & Trista Beuning
Roger & Susan Beuning
Marian Bielke
Big Sauk Lake Coop
Bob Bjork
Mike & Betty Blenkush
Jim & Clare Boyer
John R. Bregel
Mark & Brenda Breitbach
Andrew & Teresa Burlet
Richard & Susan Cardinal
Barbara Carlson
Wendell & Clara Christensen
Dennis & Kathy Christianson
Roger & Janette Cook
Jim & Barb Cooper
Richard & Linda Cross
Ervin & Raeanne Danielowski
Chris & Katie Determan
Robert & Colleen Diercks
Steve & Debbie Dierkhising
John & Lorna Dierks
Hazel Dirnberger
Jon & Charlotte Dockter
James Dolan
Duffey - Lind
Philip & Marian Ehresman
Tony & Irene Felling
Cyril & Deb Felling
Merle & Kathy Felling
Mike & Judy Felling
Tom & Edie Fischer
Roger & Darlene Fisher
Kitty Fobes
Eugene & Marion Fourniea
Tom Frazee

Nathan & Angie French
Greg & Darla Gilb
Dawn & Carl Gordon
Bonnie & Roger Grapper
Larry & Mary Gustafson
Ed & Sara Hackenmueller
Benedict & Claire Haeg
Francis & Darleen Hagen
Heather & Tom Hamilton
Kristine Hansen
Harry & Alta Hanson
Rick & Cindy Haroldson
Bob & Kandy Heinen
Maggie Heinen
Richard & Grace Henning
Larry & Debbie Herke
Bill & Deb Hildebrand
Mark & Barb Hilgers
Dean B. & Dawn Hilgers
Jim & Liz Himanga
Alyce Hintzen
Paul & Shawn Hintzen
Lawrence & Barbara Hittle
Ken & Kathy Hoeschen
Bob & Sue Hoffman
Kris & Chrissy Hokanson
Randy & Denise Hommerding
Stan & Dorothy Hortness
Jared & Erin Howe
Gary & Renae Illies
Tim & Mary Janish
Rick & Laurie Jennissen
James & Bernadette Jennissen
Dean & Elaine Jensen
Mike & Lori Jost
John & Hank Kessler
Greg & Jeanie Klasen
Edward Korteum
Chuck & Bev Kortuem
Mark Kranz
Ron & Carol Kuffel
Marge & Bob Lackmann
Christine E Lamusga
Bill Lanik
Larry & JoAnn Lawinger
John & Laura Lepowsky
Duane & Bonnie Leukam
MeRoy & Carol Lillehaugen

Maxine Lobejko
Mike & Chris Long
James & Mary Maddox
Skip & Lyn Manoski
Richard Jr & Barb Martin
Jeffrey & Carol Mayer
John & Karla McCarey
Troy & Sandra McCarthy
Peg and Lance Mead
Steve & Fran Messerli
Patricia Meyer
J&J Miller Family Trust
Marlene Mohr
Lanny & Darlene Moyer
Gary & Nancy Mueffelman
Patricia Musenbrock
Bob & Carrie Nelson
Ken & Judy Nelson
Ken & Mary Nelson
Gerry Newgaard
Chereen Norstrud
Kathy & Tom Oschwald
Gilbert & Treonne Panitzke
Herb & Alice Peters
Rod and Jeanne Pettit
Ed & Sue Pfeifer
Roger & Betsy Piela
Mary Ann Polipnick
Dupper Polipnick/Deb Shapro
James & Shana Rachev
Linda S Ragan
Roger Reinardy
Shirley Rice
Al Rindfleisch
Marjorie D. Ripperton
Bruce & Lyn Robeck
John Rucinski
Arthur & Lorraine Schapp
Kathy & Denny Schiebold
Jeff & Nancy Scholl
Mark & Shellie Schreier
Tom & Joyce Sedgeman
Tom Shaw
Paul Sieben
Keith & Jean Sjurseth
Don & Jan Spehn
Erna L. Spehn
Jsaon & Minnow Speidel

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Jeff & Kathy Stickles
Wanda Storie
Kathy & Dale Struffert
Bob & Linda Swanson
Lawrence & Dolores Terwey
John & Janet Tracy
Vic & Lorraine Traut
Dwayne & Judy Trisko
Joe & Katie Uphus
Dennis & Dorothy VonBank
Roy Walz
Bruce & Barb Wanquist
Dwayne Weiner
Brian Weinzierl
Tim & Jo Weir
Marcia & Chuck Weisbrich
Cathie Wendell
Bruce & Vanessa Whitehead
Loren A. Williams
Gary & Connie Winter
Leroy Wolbeck
Lynn & Lynn Woodward
Candi Woodward
Bill Wroge
Joe & Sharon Wyffels
Wayne & Mary Jo Yokiel
Dale & Jan Zaczkowski
Jim & Mary Zilka
Kevin & Joan Zimmer
Virgil & Jean Zwilling
Patrick Zwilling



Working Together For A BETTER Big Sauk Lake

Benefits of being involved as a BSLA member?

- Receive the BSLA newsletters (INFORMER) with water quality, shoreline, social event information and more!
- Opportunity to join with other shoreline property owners to protect and improve the quality of Big Sauk Lake.
- Meet and enjoy the friendship of other lake shore property owners!
- Opportunities to share your skills, interest and expertise with involvement in grants, education, and state/local agencies that benefit the health and enjoyment of Big Sauk Lake!
- Set an example of the importance of "involvement" with your family and friends—Big Sauk Lake is a very important natural resource and a valuable asset in central Minnesota and to the Sauk Centre community!

Who Can and Should Be A BSLA Member?

- Lakeshore owners of Big Sauk Lake.
 - Family and friends that share our great lake's experience with you.
 - Businesses you use for fishing, boat service, beverage, food, lawn and yard care, house and cabin maintenance, supplies, and insurance, etc.
 - Visitors who frequently use Big Sauk Lake for recreational purposes.
- All of the above have an interest in the continued protection and enjoyment of Big Sauk Lake and the Sauk Centre community.

Our lives are "too busy." However, remember that in contrast, the sunrise/sunset boat or pontoon cruises, roasting marshmallows, fishing, tubing, swimming and quiet times with our families and friends at BIG SAUK LAKE are priceless. See you on the lake!

2015 Membership—Big Sauk Lake Association

(\$25 per Year: Jan. 1—Dec. 31, 2015)

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Lake Address (if different): _____

Phone No: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Please cut out and include with your payment to:

BSLA, Box 282, Sauk Centre, MN 56378

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.

2014 BUSINESS Members

Ann Mitchell, Attorney

Birchwood Resort

Boomerang Marine & Powersports, Inc

Central Minnesota Federal Credit Union

Centre Lumber

Centre Sports, LLC

City of Sauk Centre

Daniel B Borgmann, Ltd

Felling Trailers, Inc

First State Bank

Fletcher's Bait

Godfather's Exterminating, Inc

Home Town Solutions/Verizon

Jitters Java Café

Minnesota National Bank

Mitch's Dyno Tuning

Sauk Centre Public Utilities Commission

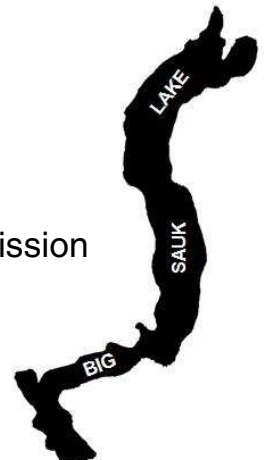
Saukinac Campground

Stearns Electric Association

Tree Top Nursery & Landscaping

Westside Liquor

Worms Ready Mix



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Big Sauk Lake Aquatic Plant Management Project PUBLIC HEARING

Monday, February 23rd, 7pm

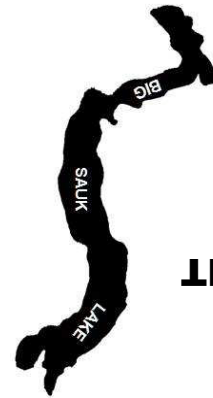
Sauk Centre City Hall Meeting Room
320 Oak St South
Sauk Centre, MN

Big Sauk Lake
Association
Annual Meeting

**Saturday,
May 23,
2015**

(More details
will be
in the
spring issue
of the
INFORMER)

**NOTE
THE
IMPORTANT
MEETING
DATES
FOR
YOUR
LAKE
ASSOCIATION
IN THIS
ISSUE**



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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