

# BIG SAUK LAKE ASSOCIATION

# INFORMER

SPRING EDITION 2019

## President's Letter: THE ICE IS OFF!



Isn't it exciting to see boats moving and docks and lifts going in?! My pontoon is just waiting for the chance to get in the water. Shouldn't be long and our beautiful Sauk Lake will be teeming with summer activity. What is it for you? Swimming? Fishing? Boating? The other day I chuckled as I saw someone putting their personal watercraft in for the year. It was maybe a day after the ice was officially off, and they came by slowly and cautiously...looked like they were in shorts, but they had a winter jacket with the hood pulled up over their head!

Your BSLA Directors hope you'll be able to attend our annual meeting on Saturday, May 25th at 8:30 am. Come 1/2 hour early for breakfast provided by First Lutheran Church for a donation. On our agenda is Mr. Eric Altena, DNR Area Fisheries Manager - and, a representative from the Stearns County Sheriff's Office will be on hand to answer questions and talk about the water patrol. Eric will cover several topics, one of which will be anticipated impacts to the fishery from the newly discovered Zebra Mussels in Big Sauk Lake. Should be a good meeting and we hope to see you there. Several door prizes, including a really cool cribbage board, will be given away, so don't miss your chance to be a winner, and invite your lakeshore neighbors to attend as well!



A quick note about the sirens. Last month, I noted that BSLA wasn't going to be handling them anymore, and on our website I provided lots of alternatives for getting weather alerts. As of this moment, I can report that Birchdale township is considering whether they will take them over. Thanks to the individuals who contacted us via the website to let us know their feelings, or to ask questions. We'll address this briefly at our annual meeting, and perhaps we'll have an update from Birchdale township by then.

We'll also provide more details regarding the 2019 Curly Leaf Pondweed eradication strategy. After going through the survey process, DNR vetting and getting the permits, BSLA has contracted to have a very small navigational channel sprayed up in the far northwest end of the lake. This will take place when the water temperature is between 50-60 degrees in order for the best results.

Remember last time we talked about the carp removal? About 19 tons of those little rascals removed, AND...It's possible more to go later. We'll discuss this some more at the meeting, too. And Jeff Mayer, one of your Directors on the Board, has put together a really neat PowerPoint presentation of the whole process that will be on display at the meeting. Be sure to check it out!

Should you receive a permit to do shoreline work, including spraying, OR if you notice a large number of dead fish somewhere...would you please be so kind as to drop a note using our "Contact Us" link on the web site? We often get "blamed" for spraying that gets done in other parts of the lake, and most of the time it is individuals doing it. Keep us posted and we'll try to do the same.

Have a safe and fun summer on the lake!  
Mike Disher, President

## 2019 Big Sauk Lake Association Membership

Below and on the next page is a listing of BSLA Residential and Business members who have paid dues for calendar year 2019 as of **April 26, 2019**. **THANK YOU** for your support of Big Sauk Lake and the Sauk Centre community!

### **RESIDENTIAL Members**

**\$\$** - Extra Donation

#### **Bold—Board Member**

Alice & Jim Abraham  
Frank & Nancy Ademite  
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Romaine Joarnt  
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 Jim & Connie Zuccaro  
 Maria Zwilling & Jake Byrnes  
**\$\$** Jean & Virgil Zwilling

***BUSINESS Members***

**\$\$** - Extra Donation  
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 Centre Power Sports &  
 Recreation  
 City of Sauk Centre  
 Felling Trailers, Inc  
 First State Bank of Sauk Centre  
 Hughes Real Estate  
 Jitters Java Café  
 Main Street Press  
 Minnesota National Bank  
 Mitch's Dyno Tuning  
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**\$\$** The Cove at Greystone Golf  
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 Landscaping  
 Worms Ready Mix

**Please patronize the  
 businesses  
 that support BSLA!  
 They are important to  
 our success!**

**2019 Membership—Big Sauk Lake Association**

(\$25 per Year: Jan. 1—Dec. 31, 2019)

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.



# Should You Ask for Forgiveness or Permission?

By Charles Warga, Rocks to Roses Landscaping, [www.rocks2roses.com](http://www.rocks2roses.com)

When thinking about owning lake property or visiting the cabin, dreams of rest, relaxation, and fun cycle through our mind. Thankfully, we do get to enjoy these dreams; but, there are also large amounts of work and responsibility that go with owning and maintaining lakeshore.

As a local landscaping service provider, we get the pleasure of helping customers with multiple projects and designs within shoreland impact zones. We also work side by side with local planning & zoning departments and soil & water districts. During the initial design phase, we sometimes hear the question "Do we need to ask permission for this project or can we just ask forgiveness afterwards?" As a "middle man" during the design phase, we do our best to understand the reasons behind the rules that shoreline owners are required to follow. I will briefly discuss the most common projects we help with.

## View Corridor:

In both Todd and Stearns counties, you are allowed a maximum of a 50' view corridor per property (depending on the length of your shoreline). So, let's say you have a 150' of lake shore which is fully grown in with trees and underbrush. You are only allowed to "open up" 50' of that to provide a view of the lake. Indeed, it would be nice to see the lake from every window of your house, or to be able to sit on your patio and get a full 180-degree view of the sunset mirroring off the water.

I agree with you, as do the various agencies, however, that just isn't going to become reality. Here's why:

Every tree holds in place tons of soil (literally tons when talking big, mature trees). Shrubs and native underbrush likewise, have a dense network of roots to maintain soil placement. Native grasses and perennials have deep roots which tap into the subsoils and maintain the integrity of the shore even when the waves are pounding. All this vegetation will also help prevent ice heaves from occurring on your shore.

Keeping a shoreline in existence is the most important part of being a responsible steward of that property. Why would you donate your lake property to the bottom of the lake through the process of erosion? With proper planning, layout, and design; there is a solution for most properties which will maximize the beautiful view of the lake while maintaining the structural integrity of the shore.

## Water-Related Structure:

Again, in both Todd and Stearns, you are allowed 1 water-related structure per lot. Stearns allows a maximum of 150 sq. ft. and Todd allows a maximum of 250 sq. ft. This structure still needs to be set back from the shoreline a specified amount according to the zoning of your lake (50' on Big Sauk Lake). This structure can be a boat shed, storage, or patio. All other structures need to be setback at least 100' from the ordinary high water level (OHWL).

The main complaint we hear frequently deals with the structures which have been grandfathered-in. "My neighbor has \_\_\_\_\_, why can't I?" Most of these ordinances were established over the last few decades. So, if the structure was in place before that point, it has been allowed to remain.

As with most of these regulations, the intent is to minimize erosion and runoff. A non-porous structure will promote concentrated runoff, which can lead to localized flooding, surface runoff, and eventual erosion. Just because some structures exist right next to shore, doesn't mean they are beneficial to have on every property. For the ones that do remain, significant maintenance and care should be taken to lower the risk of damage to the structure and the effect it has on the shoreline.

## Lawn Fertilizing:

Most home owners desire a lush, green lawn to walk barefoot across, play in, mow, and even just for the aesthetics. A healthy lawn greatly reduces surface runoff and the risk of erosion. Unfortunately, when working with shoreland, soil quality is often light or of low quality. To get that lawn to grow in sandy or clay soils, adequate fertilizing and supplemental organic material is required.

The problem we face with fertilizer near water is the risk of saturating the body of water with excess nutrients, causing algae blooms, tainted water, and loss of dissolved oxygen in the water. Phosphorus-containing fertilizer should not be applied to lakeshores according to Minnesota law. Studies have shown that just 1 pound of concentrated phosphorus can feed up to 500 pounds of algae.

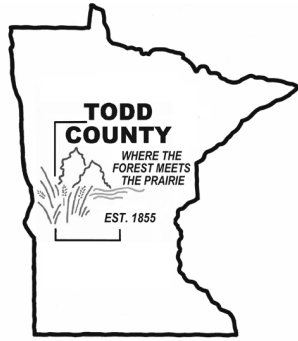
When these fertilizers are applied to sandy soils, the nutrients can leach into the water table too quickly and affect the local bodies of water. When applied to clay-rich soil, surface runoff can quickly carry the nutrients directly to local bodies of water. When fertilizing



your lawn, make sure to only use products with a zero for the middle number (15-0-7, 22-0-6, or 10-0-8 are some of the ratios we use depending on time of year). If that is confusing, the numbers stand for the rate of Nitrogen-Phosphorus-Potassium in a certain product.

Make sure all fertilizer has been removed from non-porous surfaces to prevent direct runoff. It is also important not to spread fertilizer right before severe or large amounts of rain. While a slow, intermittent rain will help the nutrients work into the soil; a quick and heavy rain can wash the nutrients away through surface runoff.

These are just 3 topics we frequently face when we work with shoreline owners. If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact us at [www.rocks2roses.com](http://www.rocks2roses.com) or any of your local landscaping professionals, soil and water conservation districts, or planning and zoning departments. If a potential project is in the works on your shoreline, I strongly encourage you to become familiar with the ordinances in place over your property first, and make sure to get the proper approval and permission for the project.



## AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS) SUMMARY REPORT FOR TODD COUNTY

### S U M M A R Y

2 0 1 5 – 2 0 1 8



Minnesota is fortunate to have 11,842 lakes for boating and the highest per capita water craft ownership in the U.S. In addition thousands of out-of-state boaters utilize Minnesota lakes and rivers each year. About 7% of MN lakes are infested with some type of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). AIS threatens recreation, water quality, fisheries and even lake property land values.

#### Program Accomplishments

- \* 29,053 boat inspections
- \* Up to 30 lakes inspected annually
- \* Signage at all DNR landings
- \* Monitoring for Zebra Mussels
- Outreach and Education included articles, radio, presentations, and at outdoor science events



#### AIS Prevention Funds Utilized to Protect Lakes

In 2014 the State of Minnesota legislature allocated AIS Prevention Aid funds to counties provided that they prepare and submit an action plan to slow the spread and introduction of AIS within county waters. A Todd County AIS Plan was prepared in 2015 with input from interested parties including lake associations, county commissioners, and Todd SWCD staff. Implementation of the plan was delegated to SWCD staff. The current plan can be found on the county web site. If you have questions call Todd SWCD at 320-732-2644.

#### How AIS Impact Lakes

Plant AIS can impact lakes in a number of ways: Flowering rush can crowd out native plants and block fish spawning beds. Eurasian water-milfoil gets so thick on a lake's surface it can block boats. Thousands of gallons of herbicide are used each year to control it. Curly Leaf Pond weed grows quickly then dies mid-summer – releasing nutrients into the water causing algae blooms.

#### AIS are Commonly Moved Around by Boats and Trailers

Watercraft moving between lakes poses a risk to Todd County lakes. An estimated 85,000 boat launches or landings occur at public landings annually within Todd County. Watercraft identified as unclean by AIS inspectors an average 523 times each year. Inspectors only covered about 10% of all launches so this equates to an estimated 5,230 unclean launches occurring annually posing a very real AIS risk to county waters. This is very evident when reviewing AIS inspection data showing where boats are coming from—often lakes and rivers with AIS problems.

**Boat inspection data revealed that boaters from an average of 21 different states launch boats in Todd County each year.** An estimated 1890 boat launches are made annually from out-of-state craft.

**New Threat - Starry Stonewort**, a grass like macro-algae first found in Lake Koronis, near Paynesville in Stearns County, 2015, is now confirmed in a dozen MN lakes. The algae grows so thickly it can block boats or swimmers and crowd out native plants.



# Lake Laughter

Why shouldn't you tell jokes on a frozen lake? It might crack up.

Dropped my phone in the lake. It's syncing.

**Game warden:** Didn't you see the no-fishing sign, son?

**Boy:** I'm not fishing, sir. I'm teaching these worms how to swim!

**A book never written:** "How to Fish" by Will Ketchum.

**Jeff:** Why is it so easy to weigh fish?

**Mike:** I don't know. Why?

**Jeff:** Because they have their own scales!

## Crossing the Lake

Two people are on opposite sides of a lake.

One yells to the other, "How do you get to the other side?"

"You are on the other side," the other shouts back.



## Minnesota Lake Trivia from the DNR

Minnesota's waters flow outward in three directions:

- North to Hudson Bay in Canada
- East to the Atlantic Ocean
- South to the Gulf of Mexico

Voyageurs National Park in northern Minnesota is the largest water-based park in the National Park System.

### By the numbers

Number of lakes:

11,842 (10+ acres)

Number of natural rivers and streams:

6,564 (69,200 miles)

Wetlands acreage present in 1850:

18.6 million acres

Wetlands acreage present in 2008:

10.6 million acres

### Names

Ten most common lake names: Mud, Long, Rice, Bass, Round, Horseshoe, Twin, Island, Johnson, Spring

### Size and length

Ten largest lakes (entire lake within borders of Minnesota):

1. Red Lake (both "Upper" and "Lower") - 288,800 acres
2. Mille Lacs Lake - 132,516 acres
3. Leech Lake - 111,527 acres
4. Lake Winnibigoshish - 58,544 acres
5. Lake Vermilion - 40,557 acres
6. Lake Kabetogama - 25,760 acres
7. Mud Lake (Marshall County) - 23,700 acres
8. Cass Lake - 15,596
9. Lake Minnetonka - 14,004 acres
10. Otter Tail Lake - 13,725 acres

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Largest border lakes: Lake Superior (20,364,800 acres total with 962,700 acres in Minnesota)

Lake of the Woods (950,400 acres total with 307,010 acres in Minnesota)

Longest shoreline: Lake Vermilion, St. Louis County (290 miles of shoreline)

Minnesota River length: 370 miles


Mississippi River length in Minnesota: 680 miles

State and national Wild and Scenic Rivers: 589 miles

Total Area Covered by Lakes and Rivers (deep water): 2,560,299 acres

Total surface water area including wetlands: 13,136,357 acres



 **Big Sauk Lake Association**  
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Sauk Centre, MN 56378  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED  
www.bsla.org E-mail: bigsauk@gmail.com

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**BSLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- Mike Disher – President—AIS Detector, 320-232-0650
- Jeff Mayer – Vice President, 612-710-9866  
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- Wayne Yokiell – Secretary, 612-867-8935
- Rick Jennissen – Treasurer, 320-260-3229
- Mike Blenkush – Membership, 320-290-2496
- Vern Beckermann, 320-352-3732  
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- Tim Weir—320-352-3318
- Bob Bjork, 320-351-2513
- Jerry Beuning, 320-352-3921
- Kevin Baartman, 612-369-2725
- Mitch Manoski, 320-282-8312
- Rand Willhite, 612-819-2857

***You are cordially invited to  
Big Sauk Lake Association  
Annual Meeting***

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

**WHEN:** Saturday, May 25, 2019  
**8 am**—Breakfast Served By Youth Group (Free Will Offering)  
**8:30 am** - Call-to-Order: Business Meeting  
Introductions  
Treasurer’s Report  
President’s Report  
Q & A - Open Forum  
Director Elections

- GUEST SPEAKERS:**
- Eric Altena, DNR—Area Fisheries Manager
  - A Representative from the Stearns County Sheriff’s Water Patrol

**Hope To See You There!**

