



BIG SANDY LAKE ASSOCIATION



President's Letter

Happy New Year to all. Here we are in 2026 and at that point in the year when we make plans for upcoming projects. Your Lake Association is doing that too, so please watch your mailbox for our upcoming information about renewing your membership and please respond quickly. Currently we have about 675 members and are hoping to increase that number to 700 (or even a few more) this year. This year's membership packet will go to about 1200 property owners around the lake.

If you are a current member, that's great - we appreciate your support. Your participation is very important to our success. At this time, please take a minute to think about neighbors and friends and family who might be interested in joining and encourage them to sign up too.

If you're not currently a member but a property owner, you will receive the packet too, so sign up and join us! Just to remind you, here are a few of the events/efforts we are involved in throughout the year:

- Four newsletters per year that keep you up to date with local news and activities
- Annual education event and complimentary breakfast at MN National
- Monthly meetings at Big Sandy Lodge
- Informational videos on BSLA website
- Annual meeting including presentations by the sheriff and other local officials
- Informational booth at Wild Rice Days in McGregor
- Water testing on three sites on Big Sandy three times a year to check for water clarity
- Partnership with Army Corps of Engineers at the Libby Dam during high/low water periods
- Monitoring boat launches on weekends during summer months to help prevent the spread of zebra mussels and other invasive species
- Informational booth at annual Shamrock Township event
- Care and maintenance of the highway 65 overlook
- Highway 14 cleanup day



Your \$30 annual membership is well worth the investment. We use all funds to keep Big Sandy Lake healthy so that future generations will enjoy it the way we do.

On another topic: we all know that winter weather and conditions bring challenges, including snow, sleet, ice, rain, early darkness and difficult visibility. Please take care and keep safe while driving and walking and otherwise moving around. Falls and accidents are a serious risk for all of us. On the other hand, winter offers many great activities and ways to enjoy the outdoors, including ice-fishing and snowmobiling, and skiing and snowshoeing and just plain walking. It's a great time to participate in all that winter has to offer. Thank you and enjoy the winter!

Sincerely,
Bruce Johnson
President, Big Sandy Lake Association

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Minnesota Initiates Wrap Recycle Right Program



Have you wondered what happens to all the plastic wrap that is used to cover boats for the winter? To provide an effective solution for boat owners to discard the plastic wrap, Minnesota launched the **Wrap Recycle Right (WRR)** program.

WRR is a nonprofit stewardship organization that represents boat wrap producers in developing and operating a recycling program to meet the **Minnesota's Boat Wrap Stewardship Law (Minn. Stat. § 115A.1416)**—the first such law in the United States. Formed to reduce plastic waste in the boating community, WRR supports producers in meeting regulatory requirements and building a network for boat wrap collection and recycling.

The WRR team is partnering with collection sites across the state and will continue to expand access as the program evolves. Under the program:



- Manufacturers and brand owners of the plastic must join the approved stewardship plan to sell boat wrap in Minnesota.
- WRR oversees the collection, transportation, and recycling of boat wrap at no cost to the public.
- The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency approves stewardship plans, sets performance goals, and maintains a public list of compliant producers.
- Retailers must verify that producers are listed with WRR before selling or distributing boat wrap in or into the state.

In the spring, boat owners and program partners collect used boat wrap and drop it off at designated collection sites. Proper prep is key — the materials must be clean, dry, and free of contaminants, with no straps or other non-wrap materials. To learn about the entire recycling process, see the WRR website at <https://www.wraprecycleright.org/>.

The goal of the Boat Wrap Stewardship Program is to reduce plastic waste, safeguard our lakes and rivers for recreation, and support a thriving boating community for generations to come.



Greetings From Your Sheriff!

Happy Holidays BSLA and members,

At the end of each year, I get to reflect and determine what went right for the year, what did not, and what we can do to improve. So instead of reminding you to drive safely, report suspicious activity (which happened 24 times in 2025!), and enjoy the winter, I will summarize my end of year thoughts.

What went right this year on Big Sandy.... There were a ton of great times and memories made. People enjoyed the lake and the area with minimal conflicts. The fishing was excellent for most of the summer. The BSLA Facebook has done a great job communicating current issues with everything from buoy movement to ice heaves. Area kids were trained in boat operation, jet ski operation, and snowmobile operation.

What went wrong on Big Sandy.... We are still dealing with impaired drivers. There are vehicles operating on unsafe ice. A thief was staying in our area and went on a meth induced midnight stealing spree. We caught him several times and the court continued to let him out of jail until the last time when he was shipped to prison. This person accounted for the majority of the 25 theft complaints in Shamrock/Turner Twsp.

How can we improve.... Communication can always be better. Increased hours patrolling on the lake will make Big Sandy safer. Always strive for 100% sober drivers. Report missing items immediately as we recovered a lot of property from the cases mentioned above and more often than not that property was not reported as missing, making it tough for us to seize and arrest.

All in all, the data shows we can use continuous process improvement to make minor adjustments and hope to repeat the good things in 2026. Thanks for another great year and I look forward to serving you in 2026.

Sheriff Dan Guida

dan.guida@co.aitkin.mn.us

A Message From Our Conservation Officer

Conservation Officer Nate Benkofske reminds outdoor enthusiasts of possible hazards that could be encountered when out riding snowmobile or ATVs this winter. Not all areas of our lakes freeze the same. There are currents in places resulting in thin ice each year. Salt can also come off the roads, especially at bridges, and degrade the ice. The areas around beaver lodges and dams also hold thin ice from their underwater activities. Ice chunks, pressure ridges, and plowed roads can be hard to see on the lake especially on cloudy days without contrast. Please use good etiquette when driving near fish houses. Grant-in-aid snowmobile trails are for snowmobile use only, not ATVs. Keep alcohol use and driving separate. Let us enjoy the winter safely.

PLEASE HELP!

There are hundreds of homes, cabins and businesses around Big Sandy, so we maintain a mailing list of about 1100 addresses. This first newsletter of the year is sent to all of you. The other newsletters published this year will be mailed to paid Individual, Lifetime, Benefactor, or Complimentary members only. Every copy that is undelivered and returned for any reason was formerly charged 18¢ to investigate why it was returned. The new rate for this service is almost \$2.

To minimize this increase, please review the address on your newsletter and email mgisselman@gmail.com describing the problem and making corrections if:

- Any information is wrong
- It is not your address
- Forwarding to another address has expired
- You do not wish to be a member or receive future newsletters.

This will help keep our data current and avoid unnecessary expenses. Our annual membership mailing will be arriving soon, so any corrections now will be very valuable.



Sandy Lake Dam Annual Drawdown, Water Safety, & Recreation Update

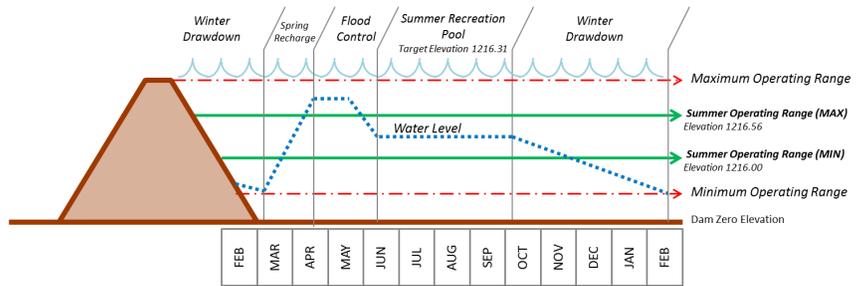
Winter Water Level Management

The annual reservoir drawdown began on October 1, which will gradually lower the water level approximately two feet throughout the winter. Table 1 shows targeted monthly reservoir elevations for the winter drawdown. Starting in late February through early March, Corps staff will begin performing snow surveys across the watershed to measure snow depth and moisture content. These surveys help us to better prepare for the spring run-off within the Big Sandy Lake reservoir and Mississippi Headwaters basins. Additionally, the data is provided to the National Weather Service to assist with spring flood predictions.

The Big Sandy Lake reservoir is currently on course for a standard winter drawdown. For up-to-date water level information, please visit https://water.usace.army.mil/office/mvp/location/MissHW_Sandy.

Month	Elevation
October 1	1216.31 (Normal Summer Pool)
November 1	1215.90 feet
December 1	1215.50 feet
January 1	1215.10 feet
February 1	1214.50 feet
March 1	1214.30 feet

Table 1. US Army Corps of Engineers – Sandy Lake Winter Draw down Monthly Elevation Targets



Water Safety

For those of you who plan to do some ice fishing or snowmobiling yet this winter, please be careful if you venture onto the lake. Ice conditions can be unpredictable from one area of the lake to the next. Please be extra cautious around areas with underwater springs or areas with current. If you head out onto the ice, let somebody know where you are headed and measure the ice as you go. It's always a good idea to carry a pair of ice picks and to wear a float coat if you have one.

Recreation Update

Although it might not look like it now, summer will be here before we know it. The campground at Sandy Lake Dam & Recreation Area will open for the season starting May 1, 2026. Reservations can be made up to 6 months in advance of your planned arrival date by going online to www.recreation.gov or calling 1-866-444-6777.

How Can I Help?

Our Lake Community is made up of a great collection of people. You have so much to offer including many skills, talents, knowledge and a passion for helping. The Big Sandy Lake Association is looking for ways that its members can be more involved. If you would like to volunteer, please complete the survey in the QR code below and indicate where you'd be interested in helping or to suggest additional ideas. We look forward to working with you.



To take the survey:

1. Point your cell phone camera at the QR Code and wait for link to appear.
2. Click on the link and complete survey.



Big Sandy Lakeshore Ownership

In 2016, the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Headquarters issued a directive to survey all federal properties, including those with fee title or flowage easements to establish definitive boundaries and to ensure the properties are being used in accordance with Federal Regulations. The following actions have been taken:

- **USACE Action:** Starting in 2017, the USACE Saint Paul District began surveying the Big Sandy Lake shoreline, claiming fee title ownership and installing monuments up to a defined elevation, creating a strip of government-owned land landward of the lake on specified sections.
- **Aitkin County Involvement:** The Big Sandy Lake Association (BSLA) Board contacted Aitkin County in 2024, which was previously unaware of the USACE's ownership claims and had been taxing private owners up to the lake margin.
- **The Proposed Resolution:** In February 2025, a meeting was held with Aitkin County, BSLA, USACE, and U.S. Representative Pete Stauber. Aitkin County submitted a Resolution to transfer its fee interests in these properties to adjacent private owners to align with county subdivision standards.
- **USACE Response:** In August 2025, USACE formally rejected the resolution. Colonel Matthew B. Chase stated that USACE must retain the ability to flood to 1222.3 feet based on the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 (NGVD29) to operate the Big Sandy Lake Dam, and because Congress has not funded a change from fee title to flowage easement, USACE cannot support the resolution.
- **A meeting occurred on January 5th, 2026,** between Representative Stauber, USACE leadership and Aitkin County personnel to review the situation. Representative Stauber demanded the parties resolve this problem in a timely manner and could provide funding if needed. We anticipate the four local townships and a representative from the Big Sandy Lake Association will be present in resolution meetings.
- **BSLA's Next Step:**
 - The BSLA Board created a Shoreline Ownership Committee (SOC) in September 2025, which includes three voting Board members and a nonvoting Liaison member. This committee exists to research USACE claims of shoreline ownership and activities that impact land on Big Sandy Lake and surrounding bodies of water; identify and propose potential actions to the BSLA Board, including communications to educate Members on such issues, activities, and actions.
 - The SOC will continue to research claims, legal documents, and property abstracts. If you are willing to share your abstract, please reach out to a BSLA Board Member.
 - The BSLA will continue to update members through our published newsletters, and on our website (www.bsllamn.org) and social media accounts.

To view the Aitkin County GIS Map to determine if USACE claims your property is fee title or easement, follow these instructions for accessing the Aitkin County GIS Map.

1. Go to <https://www.co.aitkin.mn.us/departments/gis/>
2. Click the Interactive Map box
3. Click I agree...
4. Click OK
5. Zoom into Big Sandy
6. Select the Layers icon (second icon in the red bar)
7. Click off every layer except Basemap
8. Click Basemap
9. Under Basemap, click off all but Hydrology
10. Click Hydrology
11. Under Hydrology, click off all and select Big Sandy Lake Flowage
12. The map will update with Yellow for Easement and Lavender for Fee Title

***Please note, the colors are superimposed on the map and are not always accurate. They are sometimes very narrow and other times wide, so zoom in close. Additionally, these lines are not an exact depiction of the affected shorelines.*



Did You Know?

By: Robert O. Harder

In 1900, Sandy Lake (it didn't get the "Big" until 1921) was a completely different place than today. Essentially, it was the centerpiece of a water highway system used to transport wood products to sawmills downstream along the Mississippi and on to Minneapolis. Lumberjacks and log drive crews, along with a few score Ojibway living around the lake—many of them loggers as well—were then the sole inhabitants of the lake. But after the pine and hardwood forests had been harvested, Sandy Lake lost most of its economic usefulness. The new dilemma: how will the inhabitants make a living?

The answer was to come in several parts. Many of the loggers departed for new opportunities in the Redwood and Douglas Fir forests of the Pacific Northwest. Others turned to full time crop farming and dairy cows. A few stayed to log over the remaining cedar, tamarack, and aspen trees used to make fence posts, railroad ties, and paper and wood by-products. They did their jobs to a fault—photos show that by 1925, there was scarcely a local tree remaining in our area over six inches in diameter. Still, a few individuals that didn't want to go West, farm, or take the small wood realized there was money to be made catering to sporting men looking for good places to hunt and fish. It was these latter folks who essentially stumbled into the tourist trade.

Thanks to the new mobility offered by the automobile and better roads, Twin City sportsmen were literally showing up unannounced on lakeshore properties, asking for a roof over their heads. Instead of allowing an old shed or bunkhouse to sit empty, the locals reasoned, why not rent it out to these fellows for a few dollars a week? Thus was born the Big Sandy Lake resorting business. Local logger Elmer LeVesseur and his wife Elise were among the first to pick up on the idea. In 1919 they opened "Pine Beach" campground, on the homestead Elise had earlier claimed on Waban or East Bay (in the 1960s it became the CMA or Christian Missionary Alliance Camp). Elmer had also been trying to figure out how to make a little money from all the fresh milk coming out of his small herd of dairy cows. It came to him to offer guests all the milk they wanted as a come-on if they stayed at his place. The idea caught on, especially after Elise took naturally to resorting, keeping the place clean and attractive.

It didn't take long for others to notice the LeVesseurs were on to something. By circa 1940, and in spite of the Depression, there were a host of fishing resorts, small stores, and eat shops (some 35-40 concerns) flourishing about Big Sandy. But when World War Two came, those operations were hit hard (gas rationing), and the post-war period wasn't much better; so many vacationers now wanted their own place on the lake. It was not long before the resorts had difficulty making enough money to make the business worthwhile and the local operators joined real estate developers in selling off their places piecemeal to individual cabin owners. Most of the mom and pop diners, taverns, and stores soon disappeared as well. Today the lake is host to only a comparatively few businesses, though thanks to the snowmobile (year round tourism) and general prosperity of the land, the 21st Century has seen a solid rebound in goods and services offered.

In the early 1950s, a local lake association was formed to better protect the watershed, lobby governmental agencies for improvements, and stabilize lake levels. Today we know that organization as The Big Sandy Lake Association, a 501c3 non-profit organization (dues tax-deductible). For as little as \$30 a year you and your family can join us as fellow Stewards of our Minnesota Star Lake, dedicated to protecting the lake and interests of all our seasonal and year-round residents (see application form on page 8 in this issue). To current BSLA members—thank you for your support! To our neighbors—we hope you'll join us!



"Kare Phree Pines" Resort postcard circa late 1940s. This site is now Big Sandy Lodge & Resort on Davis Bay.



Can a Paradigm Shift in Bystander Intervention Save More Lives?

My Journey to Launch the Life and Lake Project

On December 30, 2021, my husband Tom and I drove to our Indian Point cabin on Big Sandy Lake. We drove past the driveway of our 80-year-old neighbor. He was there, shovel in hand and told us his snowblower would not start. Tom agreed to plow for him and I left Tom at our shed. As I drove by the neighbor's driveway again, I saw him lying in the snow, not moving, and called 911. The operator asked me if I owned an AED (Automated External Defibrillator). NO. She instructed me to start CPR and counted with me. Tom returned and took over CPR; another man drove by and took over CPR. First responders arrived with an AED and EMTs. Two ambulances arrived. Sadly, our neighbor passed away.

According to the American Heart Association, Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) is the third leading cause of death in the U.S. Approximately 356,000 people of all ages experience SCA each year and nine out of 10 victims die. SCA is NOT a heart attack: Heart attack and sudden cardiac arrest are two different conditions. A heart attack occurs when blood flow to the heart is blocked. Sudden cardiac arrest occurs when the heart suddenly stops beating. A heart attack is a circulation problem. Sudden cardiac arrest is an electrical problem. TV and movies often portray an individual or team pulling together to heroically save a life. But for us, there was a crushing realization that reality is often quite different. We wanted to help other people from losing someone to SCA.

In Spring 2025, we saw an AED at Shamrock Township Hall. The AED was stored in an outdoor smart cabinet, supplied by Advocates for Health, a Sartell, MN company (www.advocates4health.org). I called Advocates and spoke to Joel Vogel, Program Director, and SCA victim that CPR and an AED saved. Advocates for Health sells and installs climate-controlled AED cabinets. Since 2018, they have installed more than 350 cabinets in the US. Per their website, "THE MISSION of Advocates For Health is to bring Public Access Defibrillation to communities by installing Outdoor Smart Monitored AED cabinets and bringing CPR/AED awareness to community members. In 2025, Advocates For Health has evolved to include Stop The Bleed Kits and Naloxone in their temperature-controlled cabinets....".



Two months ago, we purchased this heated/cooled AED cabinet, now installed in our driveway. The cabinet has the AVIVE AED, Naloxone (Narcan) and Stop the Bleed kit. The cabinet is hard wired to power, connected to WIFI to enable 24/7 online monitoring by 911. When the cabinet door is lifted and AED removed, an alarm sounds and a picture is taken. In an emergency, 911 should always also be called to confirm location, contact first responders and send an ambulance.

The AED cabinet and CPR training are the beginning of the vision for our Life and Lake Project. We want to help prevent other tragedies and encourage the community to learn CPR and build a network of AEDs.

According to the American Heart Association, "Bystander CPR improves survival. CPR is an emergency lifesaving procedure performed when the heart stops beating. If performed immediately, CPR can double or triple the chance of survival from an out of hospital cardiac arrest. The chance of survival decreases by 10% every minute without CPR." First Responders are experienced in performing CPR and carry AEDs to shock the heart back into rhythm. However, first responders/medical personnel AND an AED may be more than 15 minutes away. CPR helps circulate blood to the heart, brain and other organs. If there is no heartbeat, CPR cannot restart the heart. An Automated External Defibrillator can shock the heart back into rhythm. AEDs play a vital role in emergency response, especially in public spaces and workplaces. Their (AED) availability and the training of bystanders can significantly improve survival rates during cardiac emergencies...to ensure that more lives can be saved in critical situations."

Many AEDs are designed for use by untrained bystanders.

AEDs are designed to analyze a person's heart rhythm and determine if a shock is needed, provide voice instructions to guide users through the process, making them accessible even to those without medical training. The AED will look for heart rhythm or recommend hands-only CPR. If a normal heartbeat is detected, the AED will not shock nor recommend CPR.

So how can a Paradigm Shift in Bystander Intervention save more lives? Train as many people as possible to perform Hands-Only CPR and/or use an Automatic Electronic Defibrillator. (Continued on page 8)



Can a Paradigm Shift in Bystander Intervention Save More Lives? (Cont.)

In January 2022, Tom's cousin Dan had an SCA after pheasant hunting. After Dan went inside, he felt very hot. His wife Denise saw Dan collapse suddenly. He was not breathing and had no pulse. Denise called 911 and started CPR/rescue breaths with 911 operator's instructions. For 12-1/2 minutes, Denise kept up the compressions until first responders arrived and shocked his heart. Dan made a full recovery.

If your loved one collapses, is not breathing, has no pulse, then you are not only a bystander. You ARE a First Responder, trained or not. With the help of 911, Denise kept Dan alive until an AED arrived. And wouldn't we all want to save our family and friends from Sudden Cardiac Death? Please watch the video contained within the QR code below and join me in the Life and Lake Project.

Cabinet Info + Avive Quick Response

Suzanne Andreasen, suzmandreasen@gmail.com



Life and Lake Project: Promoting AED Support in the McGregor Lakes Area



2026 Annual Family Membership

JOIN NOW!! The Big Sandy Lake Association depends on member donations to provide services to protect the quality of our lake and watershed. BSLA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and all donations are fully tax deductible.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Regular: \$30 | Support general operating fund |
| Sustaining: \$35 - \$95 | Support general operating fund |
| Sponsor: \$100 - \$495 | May specify a project to support |
| Lifetime: \$500 - \$995 | No annual dues |
| Benefactor: \$1000 + | Includes Lifetime membership |

You may pay by **returning the bottom portion of this form with your check**. If you prefer to pay online using **PayPal**, go to our website bslamn.org, and select "Membership".

____ Please help us cut mailing costs! Check here to receive future newsletters and membership mailings electronically to the email address below.

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SAVE THE DATE

BSLA'S ANNUAL

LOVE YOUR LAKE

COMPLIMENTARY MEMBER BRUNCH

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2026

MN NATIONAL GOLF COURSE

RSVP to inbox@bslamn.org

Space is limited.



Mescher-Bennett Property History

By Kathryn Bennett Beatty

Three generations of my family have owned property along the northeast shore of Big Sandy Lake since 1941 and now the fourth and fifth generations are enjoying it as well. The recorded history of the property begins in the late 1800s when the United States Government gave ownership of the land to the Northern Pacific Railroad Company. Then, in 1890, the railroad sold the land to the Minnesota Land and Colonization Company. They sold parcels to private owners. One was Willis F. Dyer who in 1908 purchased all that would eventually be known as Mescher Subdivision.

Over the next 20 years the land passed from one Dyer family member to another. In 1934 the property was owned by Elaine Dyer, a schoolteacher in St. Paul. When she wanted to visit her property on Big Sandy, my grandparents, Al and Jeanne Mescher, would drive her there and stay in one of the cabins while she stayed in the other. In 1941 she sold the entire property to my grandparents.

The Meschers tore down one of the original cabins and built a new one where they spent many weekends with their four daughters. A very popular song in 1941 was the Hut Sut Song about a Swedish boy and girl whose dream was to have a home (Hut Sut) on the river (Rillerah). Even though they weren't Swedish, they cleverly named the cabin the Hut Sut and the outhouse the Rillerah.

By 1950 the cabin was often very crowded when my parents and their three daughters, plus other aunts, uncles and cousins stayed there. My parents, Lee and Janice Bennett, decided to build their own cabin on the property. My dad and grandfather constructed a cabin with one bedroom, a hand pump and a 2-seat outhouse in back. Unfortunately, the cabin was built during the historic flood of 1950. The level of the lake rose but did not quite reach the cabin. To minimize the risk of future flood damage, the cabin was eventually moved farther back from the shore.

My sisters and I have fond memories of roasting marshmallows over a fire using sticks our dad cut from small branches, listening to our transistor radios on the beach, and rowing the boat (no life jackets of course)



from our place to the Trader's Post store to buy candy.

When my grandparents retired, they wanted a full-time home on Big Sandy. Their property did not have electricity, so they bought a home on Waban Bay. The Rural Electrification Administration (REA) would only install service if there were at least 10 customers. So in 1959, they had part of their property platted to include 10 lakeshore lots titled "Mescher Subdivision." My grandparents kept one lot, sold one to my parents, and opened the other eight for sale to the public.

When all the lots were sold, electricity was installed and the cabins began to be modernized. Electric lights replaced lanterns, a faucet replaced the pump, and a bathroom replaced the outhouse. This change

(Continued on page 10)



Mescher-Bennett Property History (cont.)



also meant that the long, convoluted road that accessed the cabins was replaced by a direct gravel road. We no longer used the two ruts that we had appropriately called the Bumpy-Bumpy Road.

My grandfather had great appreciation for Big Sandy and the area. He joined a group promoting the designation of Savanna Portage as a state park. The board pulled together all the necessary documentation and after months of work, presented the plan to Governor Elmer Andersen for approval in 1961.

In 1977, my grandfather began construction of the house next to their cabin. Sadly, before it was complete my grandmother died. My grandfather moved in and made it his home until his death in 1980. Their daughter, Barbara

Mescher Spencer and her husband Tom, eventually moved into the house. Barbara, my aunt, died in 2023 and Tom continues living there. He's a wonderful neighbor!

As the Bennett family grew to include four daughters and a son, over the next decade our cabin was frequently reconfigured and enlarged to accommodate all seven of us.

When my parents retired, they also wanted a year-round home on the lake. My dad and a local builder built a small one-bedroom home alongside the cabin. The highlight of the house was the fireplace built of rocks collected from the lakeshore.

In 1994 my husband Richard (Dick) and I arranged to take ownership of the property with the stipulation that my parents could continue to live there as long as they wanted
(Continued on page 11)



Mescher-Bennett Property History (cont.)

to, and we would help with maintenance. They enjoyed many years of retirement there while we continued to live in the Twin Cities.

In 2010, my dad died at age 92. My mother continued to live in the house and played golf with the Women's League every summer. In 2012 Dick and I had retired and decided to join her at the lake full time. We remodeled the house by adding two bedrooms, a family room, a TV room, and large deck. We kept the stone fireplace -- when the roof was removed, the builder found my dad's initials written in the cement. Unfortunately, construction and moving were during the huge flood of 2012, but in spite of all the delays, we moved in by Christmas. Our daughters and grandchildren joined us for the holidays.

We enjoyed two wonderful years living with my mother until her death in 2014 at age 92. The house is now often filled with our children, grandchildren, other relatives and friends. Living at Big Sandy has taken many enjoyable forms for me, from a child staying at Grandma and Grandpa's cabin, a teenager staying at our family cabin, an adult staying at my parents' house, to living in our own house, always watching the seasons change and enjoying the amazing sunsets.



Thank You

Thank you to these 2025 Business Members for their continued support of the lake and the organization.

- Floe International (Benefactor Member)
- Aspen Realty (Lifetime Member)
- Be Well Nutrition (Lifetime Member)
- Big Sandy Camp & Retreat Center (Lifetime Member)
- Big Sandy Lodge & Resort (Lifetime Member)
- Dean Masonry & Concrete (Lifetime Member)
- Medtronic (Lifetime Member)
- Riverwood Healthcare Center (Lifetime Member)
- Talon Metals (Lifetime Member)
- Township of Turner (Lifetime Member)
- VMWare (Lifetime Member)
- Willey's Marine (Lifetime Member)
- Zorbaz on Big Zandy (Lifetime Member)
- Ace Hardware
- Bann's Bar & Restaurant
- Beaudry Oil & Propane
- Country House Gift Shop
- EyeCare Center of McGregor
- Fisherman's Bay
- Grand Timber Bank
- Independent School District #4
- Larson's Barn LLC
- Last Chance Pub'n Grub
- Light Publications Satellite Office
- Martz Mobile Welding
- McGregor Area Dental
- McGregor Lanes
- McGregor Oil
- McGregor Realty & Property Mgmt.
- Meld Electric
- Meyer's Service Center
- Minnesota National Golf Club
- NAPA/Northland Parts
- Ole's Resort
- Peat Inc.
- Pine Insurance Agency
- Timber Lakes Septic Services
- Township of Workman
- Up North Riders





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.

BSLA Board

Bruce Johnson, President	218-426-5221	bwj4@frontier.com	Jack Johnson	218-820-7265	digjack39@gmail.com
Deb Laursen, Treasurer	612-859-7589	laurs6@aol.com	Tom Meyer	218-670-0868	t196967@frontiernet.net
Margo Gisselman, Co-Secretary	612-720-4527	mgisselman@gmail.com	John Pilney	651-398-9548	jppilney@aol.com
Christopher Krolak, Co-Secretary	612-991-2108	cjkrolak@gmail.com	Ann Rorem	612-219-3720	annrorem@gmail.com
Matt Amerson	715-338-2086	matt.amerson@gmail.com	Amy Schulz	651-402-6167	amys@aaaparts.com
Paula Andrzejewski	651-295-9766	paulaandr@gmail.com	Liaisons		
Kathy Beatty	651-724-3690	kathybeatty12@gmail.com	Robert Greifzu	218-392-0409	mcragbag@hotmail.com
Richard Beatty	651-724-4697	rjb1946@aol.com	Ben Gisselman	612-987-1770	ben@gisselmanlaw.com
James Dame	651-219-0286	jjdame5@yahoo.com	Susan Jennen	605-880-4794	susan.jennen@boosjennen.com



Forwarding Service Requested

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P.O. Box 21
McGregor, MN 55760

