

Big Sugar Bush Notes

Fall 2021 Volume 31 Number 2

Hello all BSB neighbors! It is hard to believe that Summer, 2021, is drawing to a close on Big Sugar Bush. It has been a warm and very dry season, but, once again, a beautiful summer on the lake. Hopefully, everyone has had the opportunity to enjoy our wonderful lake and community.

I want to take this opportunity to update everyone on activities the BSB Board has been working on to update our communication mediums. While our current communication programs have worked well, and we are thankful to our neighborhood contributors who have diligently kept these systems in place, we find that the programs are dated, and there are many new programs which will update our systems and are much easier to use. Additionally, some of our neighbors who have managed these programs for several years are looking to pass the baton to new members.

As I am sure most everyone is aware, Ross Collins has been the masterful mind behind the Big Sugar Bush Website. He has done this for many, many years and has now asked that we find someone else to manage the website. At our recent Board meeting, Mindy Jenson and Claudine Anderson (who both have knowledge of designing and managing social media sites) agreed to take on the challenge of the website. They will be meeting with Ross to review what has been done in the past and discuss ways to continue the website. Mindy and Claudine recommended, and the Board approved, the purchase of Weebly software for upgrading the website. Once the new software is in place, Mindy and Claudine have agreed to

be the administrators of the site for a period of time and will be working to transfer all our BSB historic data to new website.

At the Board meeting, we also discussed the BSB Facebook page. There has been confusion in the past regarding management and administration of our Facebook page. Mindy and Claudine have agreed to review our processes and report to the Board their findings. This will allow us to have an efficient process for postings on the site, assign administrators and make the system more transparent, and identify the types of information we want to have on our website.

Finally, there was a lengthy discussion on the current newsletter. Fran Mattson has been diligently producing a newsletter for a number of years (and doing a great job of it I might add), but would also like to turn that responsibility over to some new people. Again, Mindy and Claudine will be working with Fran on the production of the newsletter. There are new software packages that can be purchased that will make the production of a newsletter much easier.

Although we know these software updates to our social media accounts will cost additional money, the Board believes these additional costs will enhance our ability to communicate to our BSB lake members. We will keep you posted on our progress which understandably will take an extended period of time to implement. As always, if you have any questions, please contact a Board member.

Larry Michelson, President



Why Raise Dues for the Lake Association

by Fran Mattson

At the 2021, annual meeting the motion was made to raise the dues which was unanimously passed. Some that were not in attendance have questioned this move. The original motion was to raise the dues to \$35. Some were concerned that this modest increase was not enough and may just result in the dues needing to be raised again in a few years. The motion was amended to change the dues to \$50. The amended motion passed.

Our treasurer, Bob Backman, indicated during his Treasurer's report that many of the board have wanted to support statewide organizations that work for lake property owners but due to lack of funds we have been unable to provide that support. As a small lake with relatively few members we can still have a big impact by supporting state and county wide organizations such as MN Lakes and Rivers. These groups lobby and educate our elected representatives and

government staff on issues which are important to lake property owners. A prime example is 15 to 20 years ago MN had a tax structure which was unfair to lake property owners. A statewide organization which we supported, effectively lobbied for a more equitable tax structure which saved each property owner a considerable amount of taxes. These organizations also are vigilant in watching for emerging issues and bringing them to the attention of legislators and lake property owners. With more funds we can also support the U of MN lake environmental research on aquatic invasive species.

It doesn't take long for a small lake like BSB to be negatively changed in just a few short years. We need to be spending funds now and building a reserve to deal with upcoming issues allowing for quick action when problems arise. Starry stonewort is an example of an emerging invasive species which is already a significant problem in some lakes. It is an aggressive algae that forms thick mats which make it difficult for a boat to move through it. One of our neighboring lakes, Island Lake, is actively building a "war chest" so that when an invasive is found they can very quickly react with the appropriate treatment.

Our dues go directly toward meeting the stated goals of this organization-to promote, protect and maintain the environmental and recreational value of the Big Sugar Bush Lake area. Continued support of the lake association is a simple and economical step that each of us can take. Hopefully each one of us believes that this is a lake environment that deserves protection and will continue our support of the Big Sugar Bush Lake Association.




Photos by Kelly Becker Mertes



July 4th Boat Parade by Diane Becker

The great BSB spirit was experienced once again for the 2021 Annual BSB Fourth of July Boat Parade. The enthusiasm was contagious from the 22 boats and all who gathered on the docks and beaches all around the lake as they proudly displayed the

USA  red/white/blue colors and support during this fun event. Many thanks to all of you for participating!

Over the many years we have organized the boat parade, it has become a Becker family favorite. However, we have decided it is time to “pass the torch” so to speak. If you and/or your family would be interested in coordinating this event for the 2022 Boat Parade, please give Diane a call (763-360-1666) to discuss the logistics. This is a BSB Lake Association sponsored and funded event.

Recruiting July 4th Boat Parade Organizers

***After 15 years the Chuck and Diane Becker family is stepping down from the role of organizing the boat parade for July 4th. A huge thank you for all of their work with this since 2007. In those fifteen years their family has expanded as children married and grandchildren were added. They have special family celebrations during this holiday time. If you might be interested in this volunteer job, call Diane. She has lots of tips to share with you.)





How Much is the Water Level Down?

The DNR has an official gauge in front of Darryl Zitzow's residence which has been recorded since 1993. Big Sugar Bush Lake's water was high in the spring of 2020. The reading spring 2020 was 1482.3, the reading May 12, 2021, was 1491.27. Lake levels dropped during that time period by 12.36 inches. From May 12, 2021, to Aug. 19, 2021, water dropped another 12.12 inches. Since spring 2020, to Aug. 19, 2021, the lake level is down 25.08 inches. The lake level was even lower on May 12, 1993, when the reading was 1489.07. So, the lake level was 13.78 inches lower in the spring of 1993, than it was on Aug. 19, 2021. The lowest of all times was most likely in the drought years between 1920-1936

Water Clarity Remains Impressive on Big Sugar Bush Lake

by Ken Mattson

I have been water testing on Big Sugar Bush Lake for over ten years. We survey five different GPS coordinate locations on the lake. Site 205 is just one of those sites. The average water clarity at this site for the last ten years is 15.65 feet. This reading has been taken within a couple days close to August 10, each year. This year on Aug. 9, 2021, the clarity was 18 ft.

Water clarity typically drops the middle of July and August because of the warm water and algae growth. I believe it is clearer this year even with the warmer water and algae growth, because with very little rain we have had no run-off into the lake with the lack of heavy rainfall. Heavy rains washes nutrients (phosphorus) into the lake which promotes algae growth. This indicates to me that buffer zones are critical to maintaining water clarity on Big Sugar Bush. Take a look at your shorelines. Are there steps that can be taken to create better buffer zones.



Below is an advertisement related to a resort that operated on Big Sugar Bush Lake in the 1940's (possibly the 30's?) and 50's as a boat rental and duck hunter's destination. Mr. Brewer was a character who could spin a good story or recount the numerous successes of hunters and fishermen from his place of business. The resort was on what is now the Amundson property.

According to Jim Jasken his wooden dock was short and wiggly, servicing clients with mostly oar-propelled 12 foot Ole Lind crafts. July of 1948, Jim fished with his uncle on his 6th birthday, They caught many sunfish. That was the first time he had ever been on the water in a boat!

BREWER'S FISH BOWL

ON

BIG SUGAR BUSH LAKE

BIG SUGAR BUSH LAKE -so named by; the Indians many years ago, from the gorgeous sugar maples lining its shores, which produce delicious maple syrup and maple sugar – located twenty miles north of the city of Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, in the heart of the wilderness.

It is one of the DEEPEST, CLEANEST. AND CLEAREST lakes in the State. With 15 miles of beautiful winding shore line having many points and bays where quiet water can ALWAYS be found for some of the BEST FISHING in Minnesota. We were instrumental in having this lake stocked with 1,700,000 little walleye over the last twelve years, making it now a veritable paradise for fishermen. Extra large bluegills, walleyes, northern pike, and black bass in profusion are waiting for you.

Good roads lead to comfortable MODERN cabins, completely furnished for housekeeping (except towels}, and the rates of \$35 to \$42.50 per week include boat. When making reservations, a deposit is required and the number of people should be stated.

Some food supplies are available at the office and stores are nearby.

If you want peace and quiet-beautiful scenery -to be away from the crowd -and, best of all, if you want to fish without disappointment – then come here and enjoy a good vacation with us. We shall be happy to see you.

Fishing license for sale here.

BREWER'S FISH BOWL ON BIG SUGAR BUSH LAKE

RJBrewer

Proprietor

route1,Ogema,Minnesota

Telephone April to December dial 9832165 you will be connected direct.

Winter headquarters: 2035 Dayton Ave., St. Paul 4,-1347

Cabin #1- 8 people-\$42.50 Cabin #2-5 people-\$37.50

Cabin #3-2 people #32.50 Cabin #4-6 people \$40.00

Personal Watercraft Owners-Do Your Drivers Know the Laws?

Listed below in bold print are a few of MN state laws related to personal watercraft. There have been a number of violations observed by others on the lake.

Anyone operating or riding on a personal watercraft must wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved wearable life jacket that is compatible with the activity.

A woman driving a jet ski with a young child was observed on BSB with no life jackets on either rider.

Personal watercraft must travel at slow no-wake speed (5 mph or less) within 150 feet of nonmotorized boats, shore (unless launching or landing skiers directly to or from open water), docks, swim rafts, swimmers, or any moored or anchored boat.

Jet skis have been observed running at high speeds going through both the large and small channels as well as too near other shorelines.

Operation of personal watercraft is allowed only from 9:30 a.m. to 1 hour before sunset

Jet skis have been observed running too close to sundown.

Be a good neighbor-Don't operate in the same area for a long period of time. Operate far from shore and boaters. These regulations are taken from the 2021 boating guide.

How Old is That Walleye Anyway?

By Jimmy Olsen

It is often considered inappropriate to ask someone how old they are. There are exceptions of course. It's generally alright to ask children how old they are, and they are proud to answer – often saying they are almost a year older than they actually are – “I am almost 8!”. Likewise, you may ask a very elderly person their age, as they usually like to celebrate their longevity by stating their age, not in one-year increments, but rather in half years or months – “I'm 92 years and 8 months old!”.

One thing is for sure, however, if you ask a fish how old it is, you won't get an answer. Anglers are frequently interested in the age of fish they catch, but it is difficult to determine fish age with a large degree of certainty because individual fish can grow at very different rates. The sex of a fish, stage of sexual maturity and various genetic factors all influence growth in a fish population. Between lakes, climatic conditions and lake productivity can be major influences. So, there are many variables that affect the growth rate of fish – even within Minnesota inland lakes in close proximity.

The answer to the question, “How old is that walleye anyway?”, does not come easy. In Minnesota, there has been a good deal of research on the age of walleyes. Walleye are the predominant fish reared, hatched and stocked by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) for Minnesota lakes and rivers. The walleye stocking regime and success depends on good feedback regarding the number, length, weight, and age of walleye in various year classes. So, when the MNDNR conducts fisheries lake surveys, age of the fish as well as

the number count, length, weight are all important variables to capture. One challenge is the age of a walleye is not readily determinable simply by looking, weighing and measuring it.

So how is the age of a walleye determined? The generally accepted practice by researchers is to examine the otoliths – commonly called “ear stones” of the walleyed pike. These are actually inner ear bones that help the fish sense their balance and movement in the water. Locally on Big Sugar Bush Lake, not even local ace amateur fisheries biologist and limnologist, Ken Mattson, has the laboratory equipment to conduct this analysis. However, if so inclined, the local Big Sugar Busher can use a short cut method to approximate the age of a walleye (or other perch species). That method involves counting the rings on the gill plate of the fish. Here is how it is done:¹

1. First things first. Catch a walleye (not an easy task on Big Sugar Bush).
2. Dress out the walleye and cut off its gill plate.
3. Place the gill plate in hot water to soften the outer skin.
4. Rub off the outer skin of the gill plate.
5. Clean the gill plate with cool water.
6. Place the gill plate in the window sill to dry overnight.
7. The next day, hold the gill plate up to the light and see if you can discern and count the yearly growth rings.

To test this methodology, early this summer I managed to catch two walleyes of similar size. One from Big Sugar Bush, and one from nearby White Earth Lake (to serve as a comparison). Both were approximately 24 inches in length. Now, most of the time I would release a walleye of this size. However, sometimes sacrifices have to be made in the name of “science” (and to have something for the frying pan). So, after removing and preparing the gill plates of both, I compared the yearly growth rings. They both appeared to be about 6 years old.

As most of us Big Sugar Bush Lake Association members are aware, the MDNR stocks our lake with walleye every even year; i.e., 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020, etc. It is likely the fish I took and sampled from Big Sugar Bush was from the 2014 or 2016 year stocking. Here are the results of the recent years stocking program in our lake.²

Year	Species	Size	Number	Pounds
2020	Walleye	fingerlings	590	59.0
	Walleye	yearlings	8,380	535.0
2018	Walleye	fingerlings	10,860	594.0

¹ Retrieved from Northern Ontario Travel magazine website. <https://www.northernontario.travel/fishing/how-to-determine-the-age-of-a-walleye-yellow-perch-sauger>

² Retrieved from MN DNR website.

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/showstocking.html?downum=03030400&context=desktop>

Year	Species	Size	Number	Pounds
2016	Walleye	fingerlings	1,275	80.0
	Walleye	adults	183	90.0
	Walleye	yearlings	2,064	424.0
2014	Walleye	yearlings	100	25.0
	Walleye	fingerlings	13,723	573.0
2012	Walleye	yearlings	2,940	366.0
	Walleye	fingerlings	4,235	265.0

Fry are newly hatched fish and usually about 1/3 of an inch long

Fingerlings are one to six months old and range in size from 3 to 8 inches in length.

Yearlings are at least one year old and range in size from 6 to 12 inches in length.

Adults have reached maturity. Walleye reach maturity between the age of 4 and 6 years and, of course, vary in length.

Because of the number of variables, it is not possible to establish a standardized chart or graph depicting age vs. length of all walleyes. For example, female walleyes grow faster than male walleyes once they reach maturity at about 3 years old. A MNDNR study of Lake of the Woods found that male walleyes longer than 24 inches were extremely rare. Female walleyes which were 25 inches long were about 10 years old, and 30-inch female walleyes were in the range of 20 years old. The oldest female walleye they found in the study was 23 years old and 30.3 inches in length.³

Still, some researchers have found that for specific bodies of water and certain fish species, a decent correlation between average length and age can be made.⁴ The two 24-inch walleyes I caught in White Earth and Big Sugar Bush lakes that appeared to be about 6 years old would be considered anomalies when compared to Lake of the Woods walleyes. One variable attributed to this difference is the farther northern latitude of Lake of the Woods. Latitude of the lake was found to be relevant in the findings from a 1986 report by D. Sternberg entitled "Walleye"⁵ (see Table 1)

³ Retrieved from MN DNR website. https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/areas/fisheries/baudette/low_walleye.html

⁴ Retrieved from "The Scientific Fisherman – How Old is This Fish?", <http://thescientificfisherman.com/old-fish-age-chart/>

⁵ D. Sternberg, "Walleye", Prentice Hall, NY 1986.

Lake/Latitude	Walleye Length in Inches at Various Ages									
	Age 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
North Caribou Lake, ON / 53N	4.3	6.7	8.5	10.2	12.0	12.4	14.6	16.1	17.0	18.0
Lake of the Woods, MN / 49N	5.6	8.0	10.0	11.6	12.8	14.4	15.7	17.2	18.7	19.6
Trout Lake, WI / 46N	5.3	9.7	13.7	16.6	19.0	20.7	21.7	22.3	23.1	23.3
Spirit Lake, IA / 43N	7.2	11.1	14.4	17.5	19.9	22.0	23.7	24.9	26.0	27.8
Pymatuning Lake, PA / 42N	7.9	13.6	17.4	20.7	23.3	25.2	26.7	27.8	28.8	29.0
Claytor Reservoir, VA / 37N	8.1	13.9	18.4	22.6	25.5	27.4	30.0	32.2		

Table 1. Walleye Length in Inches at Various Ages and Locations.

The latitude of Big Sugar Bush Lake is 47 degrees North; however, the 24-inch, 6-year-old walleye lines up more favorably with lakes in more southern latitudes. Still there are many other variables to be considered as well as the accuracy of the gill plate annual ring count method.

Based on this, it seems the best that can be said is that the results from the gill plate ring count to determine the age of the Big Sugar Bush walleye proved to be inconclusive. And I, and all us Big Sugar Bushers, may have to resign ourselves to the current fact that we will not know for sure “how old is that walleye anyway”.



Figure 1. 24-inch walleye from Big Sugar Bush Lake, June 2021.

¹ Retrieved from “The Scientific Fisherman – How Old is This Fish?”, <http://thescientificfisherman.com/old-fish-age-chart/>

¹ D. Sternberg, “Walleye”, Prentice Hall, NY 1986.

SWEET LAND AND CLEAR WATERS

History of Human “Footprints” at Big Sugar Bush

- Jim Jasken

Let's not get too academic about all of this. We will limit our examination of human life at Big Sugar Bush to the last twenty thousand years or so. At that time human existence was quite simple. Finding food and eating, reproducing and surviving the natural elements took most of their time. Lives were short, the challenges, many. There were no fly rods.

At a spot within 35 miles (as the crow flies) of our Big Sugar Bush, a 15,000-year-old human skeleton was exhumed in 1931. An elk horn-handled knife with conch shell blade was found with the body. The body is that of a 15-year-old girl.

Scientific speculation is that she drowned in pre-historic Pelican Lake. Her body was found under nine feet of clay and shell layers. She was buried 5,000 years later than her death by the glacier, which covered most of Minnesota. Ice up to two miles thick scraped and gouged the current lake area landscape. The young woman's people vanished when the glacier appeared. It is logical that these people lived at what would later become (after the glacier) the shores of Big Sugar Bush, as well. The larger woodland buffalo were common during this period but faded around 10,000 BC. Significant skulls having been found, mostly in wet swamps or under water in the BSB area.

The glacier receded about 10,000 years ago, leaving a lush land of flora and accompanying fauna. Following a line of the receding glacier (it melted with climate change and mostly flowed north into Canada via the Red River), a new people arrived at Big Sugar Bush. Historians know them as Archaic Period peoples who gradually filled the countryside. These people never even dreamed of Cabella's.

It is estimated that the return of the woodlands around our lake was about 6,000 years ago. This welcomed the Forest Archaic Period. The peoples relied on small animals, waterfowl, fish and wild plants and vegetables. Corn was a domestic crop. This is the period of the Mound Builders (2500 years ago); those mounds can be seen today near BSB. Studies of tools, pottery and weaponry lay much of the base for our knowledge of individual groups during this period. *I have a clay pipe bowl, made during this period, which is part of this history's evidence. I found it as a young duck hunter sixty years ago, underwater, eight miles northwest of BSB.*

Various theories exist on why these early cultures faded from the scene. There is much interesting research available on this topic, too much to speculate upon here. We conclude the pre-history of our area with the arrival of the Siouan peoples, then the Chippewa. Some local Natives claim their tribe has always been in BSB country. Since their records are oral in nature, we know not the specific details.

However, scholars recognize that both the Sioux and the Chippewa were driven from the East by the strongly aggressive Iroquois nation. We do know that by the time the French introduced the written accounts of history in the mid-1600's, both Sioux and Chippewa claimed much of northern Minnesota and were embroiled in a vicious war for the rich hunting grounds.

This war for territory lasted for a century and is well documented by William Warren. The Chippewa eventually drove the Sioux southward, thereby claiming this area from the Sioux. (Warren's splendid work, History of the Ojibway People (1885) is easy to find and well worth reading. Find a copy in which an editor has not "re-interpreted" Warren's relevant work in the mid-century writing.)

The French controlled much of the fur trade in our lake area until they were defeated by the English in the French & Indian War (on American soil), concluded in 1767. British interests took over control of BSB, pushing many of the French into Canada.

President Jefferson purchased the area just a few miles east of our lake (the Mississippi River and its watersheds) known as the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. To this point the Big Sugar Bush country had been claimed by England, France, the Sioux and Chippewa, and finally, the United States.

The White Earth Reservation was established in 1868. The United States government set aside a tract of 829,000 acres for Native resettlement. Each individual received an acreage and title to individual pieces of land (Some tribes own their land in communal status. White Earth, had a more individual ownership agreement). The Big Sugar Bush Lake country is within these borders. The government erroneously assumed that the Native Peoples would take up agriculture, Christianity and capitalism and become "accultured" to such a pattern. This plan failed.

Later, the individual allotments were allowed to be sold by the Natives who owned the titles. *My German parents eventually purchased a farm on the Reservation from the Federal Land Bank in 1936. By then it had been through about a dozen owners, including the original allotment of 160 acres to a Native woman.*

Big Sugar Bush went through several short-term "harvest" periods. First, the landscape was permanently changed by the logging industry, which stripped the land of its white pine by 1900 for essential pioneer building material. The pine were replaced naturally by the progeny of the remaining trees, hard and softwood deciduous forestation.

Then came the wood brigades of the 1920 and 30's, local settlers who sought the hardwood for winter heat and lumber. *As a young man in the 1920's my father came to the south of Sugar Creek Road in the winter, lodged his team of horses in a lean-to shelter for the day, and cut a load of firewood before returning home seven miles west by dark.*

The earliest continuous ownership at BSB goes back 102 years to 1918. That is the family of Dr. Sally Prickett, who currently owns the entirety of "Turtle Bay." Their first structure was completed in 1923. This bay is one of the outstanding features left in our area by the receding glacial activity. It was likely a huge ice chunk impression remaining from the melting frozen piece.

A series of land and lumber companies are listed on many BSB abstracts. Principally Norwegians, Swedes Germans and Czechs settled the area on mostly small plots after 1900. Later came the Finlanders (1920's).

In 1950 a German descendant, Fern Dresbach and her mother, Ima, moved from their Iowa farm near Mason City, Iowa after Fern's father died. At first, they lived together in a small cabin along the lake with no running water or electricity. It wasn't long however, until Fern's brother-in-law, Harrison Weaver, constructed a large two-story home next to the cabin. Although there was initially no electrical service, they did have a gas-powered generator and a well.

Feeling a calling to mission to the indigenous peoples of White Earth, Fern and Ima built the home as a place where they could serve local Indian children and provide them with some basic necessities. While the mission with the White Earth native peoples did not work out, Fern and Ima did utilize their home and vacant cabin as a retreat for their missionary friends, when they would return to the "States" on furlough. It was around 1953, that Fern and Ima added another small cabin to what had now become a resort; and the next year they converted the attached garage into a cabin. These three cabins soon acquired official names: the "Sinker Snooze", the "Hook Nook" and the "Reel Inn".

A Second Scandinavian influx(!) occurred around 1960, when Hilding Hagen developed a large portion of the Lake. Many current owners or their descendants retain their Hagen-developed properties.

It was 1975 that Fern Dresbach and Ima gracefully retired to Florida and sold their Big Sugar Bush Resort and surrounding land. A man of French descent named Ted Dubois (whose name appropriately derives from "a man who lived or worked in the woods") purchased the property. In the early 1980's Ted and his wife Gwen decided to close the resort and developed it and the nearby land into lakeshore lots along the eastern shore of the smaller lake section of BSB. This resulted in a wave of new "settlers" and lake homes at Big Sugar Bush.

The latest entrance of lake residents began in the 1990's with the Taylor Properties development in the far northwestern shore of BSB within what has been called "Blue Bay".

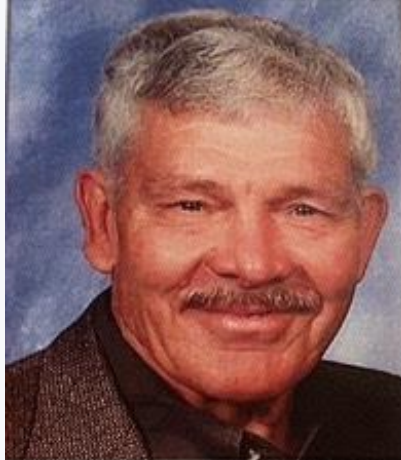
Our Big Sugar Bush country has been claimed by several pre-history peoples, three nations and two Native tribes over the years. Our occupancy during the current era is but a small blip on the historic timeline, yet our impact on the surroundings is significant. Knowing the history of the sweet land and clear waters of Big Sugar Bush with its rich diversity of occupants, it is evident we are but caretakers on this special piece of earth for but a relatively short period of time. Others are destined to follow and will become another chapter in the history of human footprints on Big Sugar Bush.

Bibliography: HISTORY OF THE OJIBWAY PEOPLE, William Warren, 1884 (The internet used book market has many reasonable copies.)

A HISTORY OF BECKER COUNTY, A.H. Wilcox 1907 (This is an incredibly complete history.)

The Minnesota Historical Society has many detailed books on early Minnesota civilizations and pioneer development. See their website.

***I am indebted to **Jimmy Olson** for his incorporated additions to this story.



Condolences to the Ade Sponberg family at the death of Ade in Aug.

He was best known in this area for his years as athletic director at NDSU, doing much for both men's and women's athletics. He taught and coached in his earlier years and went on to administrative positions. He was inducted to the athletic hall of fame both at Gustavous Adolphus and NDSU. He and his son Steve built their lake home on Big Sugar Bush where he and Donna were able to spend more time in their retirement years as well as spending time in Tucson, Az. He was president of the lake association when he took a position in Wisconsin.

Big Sugar Bush Lake Association Board Members

President: Larry Michelson 2019-2023

Vice President: Ken Bruss 2020-2023

Secretary: John Boots 2020-2023

Treasurer Bob Backman 2017-2022

Jimmy Olson (replacing Gary Mohlenkamp) 2017-2022

George Wallman 2017-2022 (replacing Kay Lohman)

Claudine Anderson 2021-2024

Chuck Becker 2021-2024

Mindy Jenson 2021-2024

President Michelson Head Margarita Maker



