

Big Sugar Bush Notes

Spring 2020 Volume 30 Number 1

Hello to all Big Sugarbush Association Members from President, Larry Michelson

I sincerely hope that everyone is enduring these trying times in good fashion and thinking about enjoying time around our beautiful lake this summer. COVID19 is changing the way we are able to do many things. I am writing to update you on the status of our annual meeting (which is currently scheduled for June 13), and on the wake boat issues status.

But first, a few of the normal signs of Spring around the lake from April 1st through April 25th.

- *The swans, ducks and geese came back in large groups. We are hearing the loons.
- * The wood ducks and mallards are looking for nesting spots.
- *Our summer birds are back.
- *Beavers are swimming everywhere.

Annual Meeting

Due to COVID19, we must be careful to not have large gatherings in small facilities. Therefore, we will be postponing our Annual Meeting to a later time. We will keep you posted. Because of this postponement, all existing board members will be asked to hold their same positions until the scheduled annual meeting occurs.

Wake Boats

Now to update you all on the wake boat situation in Minnesota. First, there was a wake boats directive on the lake. That is still in the works. An attorney's help may be used to help write the regulation. Second, at this time, other lakes, the Safe Wakes organization, and many other groups are working with the Minnesota Legislature on legislation to keep wake boats a safe distance from any shoreline and other people who are enjoying the Minnesota lakes in other ways. Simultaneously, Wake Boat manufacturers, dealers and owners are attempting to pass opposing legislation. Due to COVID19, it was decided by the legislature to put bills that had met with opposition, including the wake boat bill, as "Class 3", which means no further action would be taken this year by the Legislature. But as you are aware, they can and will include some such items in "junk bills", so we have to be diligent and watch carefully.

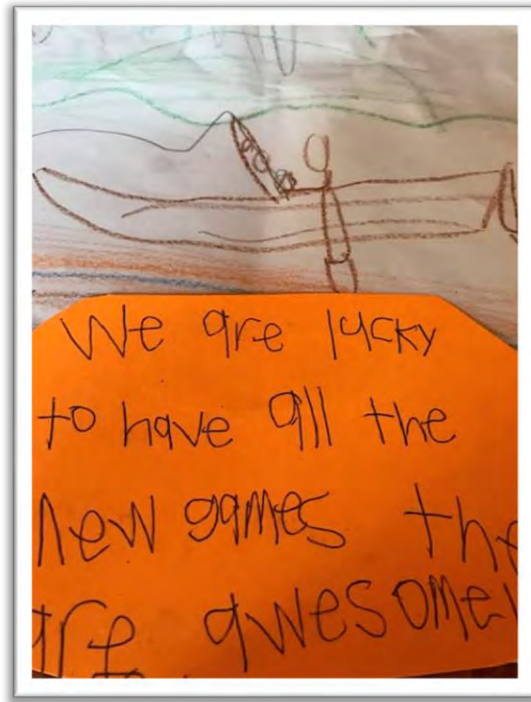
Finally, in closing, I would like to let you know that everyone will be receiving a packet which will include an updated map of residences on the lake by Jimmy Olson, a report on water levels by Jimmy Olson, a report on water quality, and a current directory. Thank you to everyone who has worked on keeping all of us updated on information about our lake.

We are trying to figure out ways to continue to gather in open spaces this Summer while keeping the proper social distances. As an example, there may be a Margarita Party in the cul-du-sac!

Wishing you all a fun and healthy summer as we all enjoy our beautiful Big Sugar Bush.

President, Larry Michelson

If you haven't paid your dues yet, send \$20 to Kay Lommen, Treasurer.



Thanks neighbors from Matt Jenson's Class

Update: Wake Boats

By Chuck Becker

Per the boating industry, wake boats are the only growing segment of their industry. Driving this growth is wake-surfing, which the industry touts as “low impact, easy to learn, and fun for all ages”, and “what families want to do today”.

With the growing sales of wake boats and more people wake-surfing, also growing are concerns across the U.S. and Canada regarding these boats, especially in wake-surfing mode. As stated by a Minnesota citizen in an Op-ed in the Minneapolis Star Tribune: “For the surfer, it’s pretty darn fun, but after the wake leaves the boat and the surfer behind, the fun ends and the lake and shoreline are hit with the safety and environmental impacts.”

In Minnesota, I’m directly aware of three lakes, all less than 240 acres, with 15 to 25+ wake boats residing on these lakes, and they all have public accesses that see more wake boats launched. These lakes are relatively long, narrow and shallow, similar to Big Sugar Bush, but this isn’t just a small lake issue. Lake Minnetonka is having issues with wake boats, especially when several get together and beat up one bay all day long. On the Gull Chain of Lakes, when 10,000-acre Gull Lake gets too crowded or choppy, these boats motor to the smaller lakes in the Chain to have their fun.

Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates, MN COLA, the Izaak Walton League, lake associations, and other Minnesota organizations and individuals, have all been voicing their concerns and calling for meaningful regulation of these boats. The wake boat issue has appeared in the Minneapolis Star Tribune, Outdoor News, Mn Post, Minnesota Public Radio and other media. In talking to people in other States, similar concerns and calls for regulations are also being voiced.

As many of you know, the boating industry and their lobbyists came to Minnesota with a solution to all of our concerns. They found sponsors in the Minnesota House and Senate for a Bill that would require wake boats to operate at least 200 feet from shore, docks, etc. while in wake-surfing mode. No mention, of course, of any minimum depth nor any regulation of wakeboarding, which also requires, per the boating industry, "... a large wake that is an important component of wakeboarding".

The Senate Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Legacy Finance Committee held a Committee Hearing on this bill on March 4. I, along with 7 others, gave verbal testimony in opposition to this bill. This Committee was also provided with ten written testimonies in opposition, including from some BSB folks. Walker Orenstein, a reporter for Mn Post, attended this hearing and wrote an article which was posted a few days later. I invite you to read this as it's a balanced summary of this hearing.

<https://www.minnpost.com/environment/2020/03/the-battle-over-wake-surfing-has-made-its-way-to-the-minnesota-legislature/>

Rep. John Persell, Chair of the House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee, refused to hold a hearing on this bill. Of note is that Rep. Persell has a degree in biology and recently retired after 41 years as water quality specialist and environmental policy analyst for the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. While the boating industry has been promoting their "Wake Responsibly" campaign since 2017, including "Stay at least 200 feet away from the shoreline, docks, or other structures", concerns with wake boats and wake-surfing have only increased. In Minnesota, a coalition of organizations has approached the University of Minnesota St. Anthony Falls Research Lab regarding doing a robust scientific study of wake boats and wake-surfing. They are very interested and are submitting a research proposal to the Legislative-Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR).

I invite you to view and listen to a recording of a webinar that was hosted by Minnesota Wakes and Rivers Advocates on April 24: "Enhanced Wake Watercraft Impacts on Lakes - Emerging Issue". www.anymeeting.com/196-087-965/EA50D887884A3F **(Just enter your name and email address.)** Jeff Marr from the St. Anthony Falls Research Lab was one of the presenters, along with Jeff Forester and myself.

In another era, we could have counted on Minnesota departments like the DNR and MPCA to lead the charge in protecting our lakes and rivers. Today these departments are taking a neutral rather than leadership stance on this issue and, in some cases, appear to be listening to the

boating industry rather than concerned citizens. In today's political environment, citizen activism is needed to protect our resources.

I encourage all BSB property owners and others concerned about protecting and preserving the quality of Big Sugar Bush, to learn about and support a new grassroots organization called Safe Wakes for Minnesota Lakes: <https://safewakes.org/>



Reviewing Weather And Lake Impact

Thanks to Jimmy Olson for updating weather data from his previous document-Big Sugar Bush Lake Reviewing Weather and Lake Impact. It now covers 1899, through 2019. It remains on our lake association website. It is filled with interesting information, photos and charts related specifically to weather information for Big Sugar Bush Lake location. Here are just a few highlights from this document:

- * 2019 set an all-time calendar year record with 103 inches of snowfall.
 - * Feb. 1, 1996, the coldest day in recent years at -52 , (the coldest of all time was - -53 on Feb. 9, 1899)
 - *1995-the lake was at the highest water level in at least 20 years
 - *July 13, 1995,- “wind storm of the century”, with winds from 80-100 mph
 - *1993 was the year of the big rains with 37.51 inches (2011, had only12.84 inches)
 - *1983 had the most severe Dec. weather ever
 - *1976- the driest year since the 1930's with only 11.95 inches
 - *Jan. 10-12, 1975, marked the “blizzard of the century”
 - *1936 marked the hottest summer and the driest year on record.
- Lake levels have varied with a range of 4.76 feet over the years.



Reflections of a BSB Icon

as shared with Ron Jenson's secretaries

Remember the big guy driving down the Sugar Creek road (several times a day), not Larry, the other one. You know, the one with the keys to your house. Yeah, that's the one, Ron Jenson. Well, Ron sat down with a few of us one afternoon and asked for some help sharing some of the things he misses about this great lake and the people on it. So here it is!

THINGS WE MISS:

Neighbors - I can't prank the ones in Moorhead.

Fall colors - but not the raking.

Deer hunting- sitting in my 10-year deer-producing stand.

Screened in porch - sight and sounds of Big Sugar Bush Lake.

Ice Cracking lake dinners - fun with friends and I didn't have to cook.

Changing of the guard - this one is hard for all of us, Ron and Janice leaving and more following.

Church meetings at the Richwood store on Sunday mornings - a few men, rolls, a lot of bull, what's not to miss!!

Cookie thief - David A. Yah, you know what I'm talking about.

Brownies from Linda B. and Joyce W. - the ones the bear didn't get.

Saturn-that was used as a drivers-training car - apparently Grandpa David A. was a little too short in the passenger seat to be of much help.

Squirrels being added to our yard - yes, I saw you Ken M. dropping off 17 of them from your four-wheeler.

Duck Hunting - not the sumac though, went through a bunch of it, years ago on Bear Lake, not pretty.

Bats - Appears they were roused out of B's and entered our place, many pails of water and 47 bats two days later. Payback was a plastic one on the visor of a certain car.
Summer Solstice across the lake - Be careful though, the hostess serves kerosene.
Otrio games with Sidney - not able to beat her, told her I was going to school to learn how to do that. School didn't work either!
Tamarac - Miss the drive and the people.
Feeding the deer - sorry road drivers, everybody has to eat!

THINGS THE STATUE OF LIMITATIONS HAS RUN OUT ON:

1. Got tired of chasing deer out of Kay B. flower garden, took two weeks for her to notice the plastic ones I planted in there. (deer don't eat plastic).
2. Enjoyed hiding stuffed animals for the Becker's grandkids to find when they would come, had to quit when their grandpa started to claim them. You really should give them back to the grandkids, Chuck.
3. Heard Kim G actually went to Becker Pets to find out what kind of food parrots eat, being there was a large one by her bird feeder.
4. I still owe George W. for the deer head I found all boxed up on my dock! I don't think he believed that it started with Gary M. throwing a dead rabbit on Dan M.'s barge and then Dan left it on George's dock and of course George jumped to the wrong conclusion. Not sure why?
5. It took over two weeks for Howard L. to notice the nice complete toilet on their back deck. What a waste of a good Baby Ruth candy bar. Fed Ex helped with that one.
6. I enjoyed giving my 3-foot tall bright green Shrek a ride on the back of my Polaris. He said he wanted to move, so I think he ended up at the Becker's. Thought that was the end of him until I decided to check my deer stand a couple of days before the season and low and behold there was something very bright green sitting there.
7. Enjoyed Dave and Mary's picnics. Especially the one with all the Obama signs in the driveway, never saw Mary run so fast up the driveway to take them down. We did hear she kept them so she could add them to her Clinton signs. They were lucky the guy with the donkey couldn't make it that day. Maybe next time.
8. And then there was Malcom. He made the rounds visiting numerous neighbors. Some of these trusting people gave me keys so I could check on their places while they were gone, big mistake! As they all returned Malcom decided to hide in a closet once, a bathroom once and various different places available so he could greet them like any good manikin would.
9. Had a great time moving scavenger hunt signs in the woods on Burke's kids. Good thing Bigfoot didn't show up.
10. A few additional lawn ornaments were added, from time to time, in neighbors' yards. Just trying to dress up the neighborhood.
11. George Rousu - turtle stew served over potatoes, I'll let you figure that one out. Think I got a new set of teeth from that one.
12. Gullible Wallman - What can I say, that guy will believe anything. Love ya George!
13. Janice misses the rummage sales, but trust me, she has found some in Moorhead.



Roadside clean-up finished in April on cty 142. Be vigilant on your residential roads and lake -remove any litter.

Jeepers Creepers, Where'd Ya Get Those Peepers?

by Jimmy Olsen

Some of us are familiar with the popular song and jazz standard “Jeepers Creepers”, originally written for the 1938 movie “Going Places” and later popularized by Haley Mills in 1962. The catchy question it posed was: “Where’d ya get those peepers?”. Well, Haley was singing about the hypnotizing eyes of a young man; but today we could ask a similar question about the resident frogs and toads around Big Sugar Bush. After all, if you are tuned in at the right time and place, you would find out the local frogs and toads have “peepers” too. The most noteworthy of the group would be the “Spring Peeper” – a tree frog that sings its tune in the early spring breeding season. But the “Peeper” is not alone out there in the marshes, swamps, and underbrush of the woods. It is joined by a number of other frogs and toads that sing similar, yet unique tunes during breeding season. They include:

<u>Family</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Breeding Season (Peak Calling)</u>
Tree Frogs	Spring Peeper	Early Season (April)
	Western Chorus Frog	Early Season (April)
	Copes Grey Tree Frog	Mid-Season (May)
	Grey Tree Frog	Mid-Season (May)
True Frogs	Wood Frog	Early Season (April)
	Northern Leopard Frog	Early Season (April)
	Mink Frog	Late Season (June/July)
Toads	American Toad	Early Season (April)

Our neighbors at Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge participated in the Minnesota frog and toad survey beginning in 1998. A sampling of their survey findings from 1998-2006 shows the relative abundance of each of these frogs and toads (see Figure 1 below). Which one would you think makes the most appearances on the spring set? Well naturally, it’s the Spring Peeper! It is followed closely by the Grey Tree Frog, and then the Wood Frog. For fisherman, their favorite frog is most likely the Northern Leopard Frog. This frog was also famous in school during biology dissection exercises as I recall. As you can see, the leopard frog has its years of ups and

downs in relative abundance likely due to a number of factors. The Mink Frog is a beautiful frog – and a good singer – but it is not too prevalent in our neck of the woods.

The Minnesota frog and toad survey was discontinued in 2017, and its final findings are yet to be officially published; however, from the study we can all grow in our appreciation for these sensitive amphibians that are an integral part of our environment. Their delightful calls give us a sure signal spring has arrived, and the assurance that life hidden in the woods, marshes and swamps is carrying on. It also reminds us of the wonders of Big Sugar Bush and our responsibility to be diligent in how we care for and treat it.

Now, recognizing some of these little fellas are not all that easy to spot, the following is provided with a picture of each:



Spring Peeper



Western Chorus Frog



Cope's Grey Tree Frog



Grey Tree Frog



Wood Frog



Northern Leopard Frog



Mink Frog



American Toad

The above pictures were retrieved from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources website, “Frogs of Minnesota”.

If you would like to hear the different sounds of these frogs and toad, you can listen to each at the Minnesota DNR website: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/living-green/frogs-minnesota>

Information and figures concerning study findings of the Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge were retrieved from each of their respective annual narrative reports.

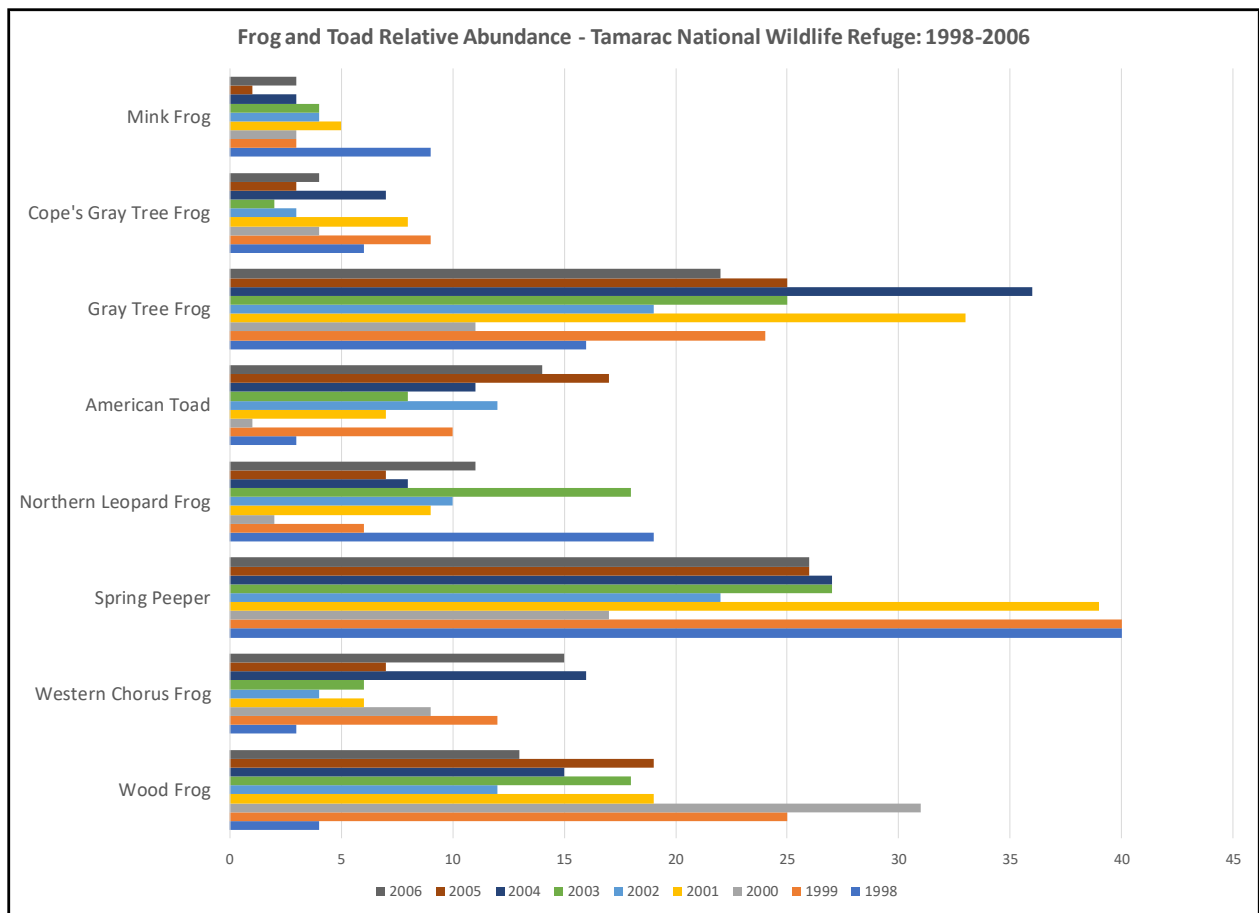


Figure 1. Frog and toad relative abundance – Tamarac NWR – 1998-2006 survey results.

FISHING BIG SUGAR BUSH WITH RAY

by Jim Jasken

So, I say to Ray Lacina, “You wanna catch some crappies this evening

I knew him as a great guy, the kind you’d want to hire as Santa for your grandkids. But I didn’t know if he could thread a worm or wind a reel.

“I’d love to do that,” he replied.

“You got a light rod? Light line?” I asked.

“I expect I can find one.”

When I picked him up from his dock, he had some pretty fancy gear, a couple of light rods as well as a large tackle box.

“You ever fished crappies?” I asked as we rode to my best spot on a warm calm summer evening. “It’s very specialized fishing,” I told him. Many people try, but just don’t get it.”

That afternoon, I had stopped by the Richwood store. At that time, I believed that “the best value in American sporting” originated from the tank of swirling water, **“CRAPPIE MINNOWS, BUCK A SCOOP.”** I took two scoops.

“Got some great minnows,” I shouted over the roar of the motor, “from the Richwood Store.” Ray gave an approving nod.

We tucked into the elbow of the weed line and began the peaceful whisper of the electric motor. Ducks were heading into the sunset to roost, one of those perfectly calm evenings.

“There are minnows in the bucket, help yourself,” I offered, handing him a special size and color BSB crappie jig.

“Thanks, on the jig,” he responded, as he began tying the lure to his ultra-light line. “but no thanks on the minnows,” he responded, “I’m going to try these,” he pulled a plastic jar from his tackle box. “when I worked at Cabella’s the guys used to tell me how good these GULP minnows worked.”

He dipped his fingers into an off-colored liquid and pulled out a stiff grey plastic minnow. No whirly tail, no wiggly skirt, not even any eyes. An annoying pungent fishy smell wafted into my nostrils.

“You’ve got to be kidding me!” I said, “Those are made out of recycled Chinese bicycle tires!”

I threaded a lively Richwood Store crappie minnow on my own special BSB jig. “Have it your way,” I cautioned, knowing just how independent some guys are. Some are their own worst enemy.

We edged along slowly without a bite. “The crappies really don’t start until near dark,” I assured him. “we just have to be patient.”

“Bingo!” I shouted, as the tell-tale bend in my light rod meant “*fish on!*” I netted a nice ten incher and tossed it into the live well. I threaded on another shiner. “Help yourself if you need a minnow,” I offered. “Can you come with me again tomorrow evening?”

Suddenly Ray began reeling, his rod well bent. *Probably a sun fish*, I told myself.

I netted it anyway, a fine foot long crappie. Ray gave me an approving nod, “Good net job,” he said.

Ray caught the next three, including a thirteen-inch dandy, all on the same disgusting piece of Asian wheelage. I ended the evening with five fish, Ray garnered eight. He caught the largest.

As darkness enveloped us, so did the mosquitos. Ray pulled up the bow-mounted electric motor. I started the big motor as Ray confirmed he’d like to go out again the next evening.

“Only this time, let’s go bass fishing,” he said, the guys at Cabella’s gave me a couple of a new rubber sensations called Scum Frogs.”

Big Sugar Bush Memories, the earlier days....-Jim Jasken

I have had a love affair that’s lasted seventy-one years. It began almost before Mary Ann was born, We have been married for 53 summers.

A 1930’s map, shared with me from Steve O. (I think), shows BSB as two lakes, Sugar Bush to the south and west of the northern smaller part, McGee Lake (or something close to that name). That incredible real photo shows that the island was connected to Ade and Donna Sponberg’s lot by dry land. And during those dry years on that strip of land grew a patch of twenty-foot trees, thickly positioned.

After the dry Dust Bowl, waters again returned to higher levels, leaving a tangle of bleached dead wood, both standing and fallen, in the water. Today we call this area the Big Channel.

How do I know this? On July 23rd of 1948, my uncle (and God Father) gave me a four-foot steel bait-caster filled with black twenty-pound nylon line, standard fare for all fishing at the time. It was my sixth birthday. On that day, Uncle Herbert rented a twelve-foot wooden rowboat (50 cents a hour) from Brewer’s Fish Bowl (now Jerry and Cheryl Amundson’s lots).

We fished amongst those sun-bleached dead trees in what is now the Big Channel. We caught sunfish, bass and northern pike. That was my first taste of heaven on earth. I fell into love with Big Sugar Bush. The bass were nothing special in size, but any bass was a trophy to me. The northern pike were, as my non-fishing dad would describe, *hammer handles*. I recall the sunfish were bigger than today’s general run.

Traditional talk was that the *Small* Channel (toward the westerly Island end) was dug by a couple of brothers for access to the bigger lake from McGee during dry times. I do not recall their names. Further, there may be no one alive who might remember...(?) McGee must have been a local settler’s name.

In the burg of Ogema there was a man everyone called Barb. Now, don't get ahead of me, here. He was *the barber*- a character that tops the list of unique folks whom I have ever met. Today we might say he was Attention Deficit or borderline Bi Polar, or? He was a teller of tales, after which he would laugh a howl that echoed the length of Main Street. There was very little he was not, he built winter spearing decoys, boats, invented small tools, was a taxidermist. Amor "Barb" Caspers would carry on, as we would sit for a few minutes each morning after we dropped off the cream at the creamery, listening and laughing.

In his shop was a wall of his fish and deer mounts. The two that impressed me were two sunfish from Big Sugar Bush: one pound one ounce, and another two ounces larger. The lake was one of his favorite places. My Dad and I loved Amor.

I was ambushed a year later. Our big four-square farm house had burned to the ground in 1948, my mother nearly died saving us two kids, her egg money and our family Bible. In the rebuilding process, my dad hired a plasterer name Rousu.

I fell under the spell of his teenage son, George, one of the great storytellers and myth purveyors in the history of Becker County (or, maybe the *world*). But I, a boy of great trust, fell into the limitless pit of his Big Sugar Bush tales. It elevated the mystique of the Lake to *fairy tale* status in this boy's fragile mind. Only later did I learn that George's tales were not BSB, but mostly BS...Many of you knew George in his later years and can attest to his superlative *gift*.

A trophy northern pike in the 1950's was 20 lbs. The same trophy level fish today is probably ten pounds. It seemed most big fish were hooked, then lost. Often, years back, I heard the worn-out mantra, "*He (She) broke my line.*" That was the excuse of a person who did not know how to "thumb" the spool of the old bait casting rods. Also, neophytes often tried to horse a big fish to the net before it was ready (too tired to continue the fight).

Today, there is little excuse for a broken line "by fish", because of the drag set on reels, which allows line to flow out when the fish challenges line strength (even though the fisher person continues to reel). Setting the drag too tightly does not mean the *fish* broke a line, it's *fisher-person* who broke it with shakey judgement (or faulty equipment). Why do I mention all of this? I digress.

Might Big Sugar Bush maintain a population of large northern pike? There are three factors that allow for trophy northerns:

One, the *genetics* in the existing population. Each lake has its unique potential.

Second, the *forage base* for optimum pike growth. Research show that lakes with oily flesh diets like smelt, tullibes and whitefish, support the largest individual pike.

Third, Northern populations do not fare well in lakes that are thoroughly fished. Possessing *voracious appetites* (eating most anything) is not a behavior for the maintenance of trophy fish.

I have seen two instances of BSB pike in the 5-6 lb. (approx. 28") range relegated themselves to eagle food by choking on a northern of 15 inches while attempting to swallow them. No one claims northerns are smart.

As a nine-year youngster (1951), our only newspaper came once a week from Detroit Lakes. It had a Fishing Report section. My only other fishing information came from a five minute Hank Walther's Fishing Report every afternoon at 5 on KDLM. Hank also wrote the newspaper report.

Imagine my eyes when, the first January edition of the DL RECORD showed a photo of a huge northern, held by a man I knew from Westbury who owned a café called *The Cozy Coach* (made from a 1930's rail dining car). Here was Ray Faltersack, holding a huge fish. The Headline read, **“Two Fifteen Pound Stabs.”**

I hurriedly read the details, “*from Big Sugar Bush Lake*” blasted into my senses. The story went on to say that Ray speared the big fish, it wriggled off his spear and he speared it again. At that moment BSB had achieved *Valhalla* proportions for me. My shadowy recollection is that his fish house was usually south from Reuben Jaster's place (now Darryl and Thea Zitzow's).

The BSB of the 40's and 50's was capable of and did produce a giant. No question. How about today? Though our family has caught trophy fish in most other categories, our hundreds of hours (all four seasons) spent fishing northern pike have not even produced a full ten pounder, though probably a dozen between seven and eight. We never even lost a bigger one (unlike George W. who claims he's never lost a fish *under* ten pounds...) That noise you just heard was his fishing friends, yawning.

There were no crappies in BSB in 1975. At the 1976 lake association meeting (chaired by Kermit Jordet), a visiting DNR representative was asked, “What effect would introducing crappies into BSB have on the other species in the ecosystem?” He responded he thought that there would be no apparent negative effect.

I know of two parties who introduced crappies in the following years from at least two different lake sources. Apparently the DNR guy was right. Today, we have a very healthy fishable crappie population, Our family's biggest crappies have been 15 inches, nearing two pounds. I do know for certain that some of the original stock came from Leaf Lake in Becker County.

Our family's first green sunfish from BSB was caught about 1984. Son Michael caught this odd-looking pan fish off our dock and excitedly showed it to me. Even at nine years Mike recognized this fish as something special. In the previous ten years of much sun fishing, we had never seen one. We brought the fish to an NDSU scientist who identified the fish. Today, the genetic blend of green sunfish into the general sunfish population is obvious. They are known to commonly crossbreed with pumpkinseeds and bluegills.

I see families and friends making history on the Lake at my every visit. But, with the passing of our older generations, we have lost much interesting information about this fantastic piece of wood country.

Past newsletters (many are on the BSB website) refer to significant content of our Lake's history. They are worth a (second) look, since that knowledge gives each of us a clearer definition of just how special this place is. And feel free to fall in love.

LOCAL WRITER PRODUCES THE FROG AND ME

When asked why a writer would use a frog on his cover, Jim Jasken had an interesting response.

“Writers are always looking for symbols. The frog is a perfect bearer of my message of the importance of solitude in a balanced life! Besides, I have never seen a frog with mental illness!” Jasken quipped.

“We have come to a point in society when busyness trumps all other life styles. Might we say ‘too busy’?” he asks.

The author uses fiction, poetry, memoirs and musings to emphasize his view, often with a humorous slant.

From kayaking with a frog on his bow to reacting to an over-zealous barber, Jim captures his points very well.

Harkening back to his growing up on the White Earth Reservation, Jasken examines the peace of earlier times compared to the hurried contemporary pace.

His book enumerates the positives of an “Up North Attitude,” as Jasken puts it. “Up North is just not a Minnesota phenomenon. It is a need for everyone, everywhere. Many, he points out, are not even aware of a need for a peaceful time to recuperate from life’s rapid pace.”

Available directly from the author at Box 151, Park Rapids, MN, 56470. \$20, including tax and postage. (mid-summer 2020)**Big Sugar Bush Lake**

Ice On Nov.12, 2019

Ice Out Sun. Apr. 26, 2020

Earliest Ice Out Mar. 23, 2012

Latest Ice Out May 10, 2013

Big Sugar Bush Lake Association

Treasurer-Kay Lommen

Board Members

President: Larry Michelson 2019-2022

Vice President: Ken Mattson 2016-2020

Secretary : Kent Anderson 2016-2020

Mary Kolhepp 2016-2020

Bob Backman 2017 -2021

Gary Mohlenkamp 2017-2021 (replacing Joanna Christianson)

George Wallman 2017-2021 (replacing Kay Lommen)

John Boots 2020-2022

Ken Bruess 2020-2022

Website bigsugarbush.net

Facebook page: Big Sugar Bush Lake Association

Submissions for fall 2020 newsletter are due Aug. 1, 2020. Email stories and photos to fnkmattson@gmail.com

