



SAND LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, P.O. BOX 690, DEER RIVER, MN 56636-0690 • WWW.SLPOA1.COM • SPRING 2016



## SAVE THE DATE

### Fish Fry

Saturday... 6-11 at 5:00 Pot Luck. Bring favorite dish and your favorite fish recipe.

### Annual Meeting

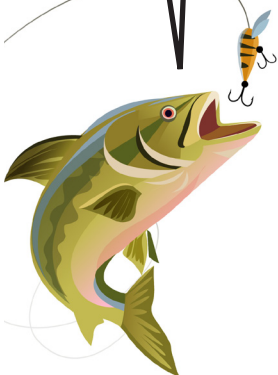
Saturday 8/20 at 12:00 noon.

Great Door prizes!!

**Both are at the Sand Lake community center.**

EssELPeeOh-A?

Is that some kind of code for GREAT FISHERMAN?



# OUR FIRST YEAR OF THE WALLEYE SLOT



## GREETINGS ALL!

It is that time of year when all the seasonal residents, residents that take vacations from the Minnesota winters, lake vacationers and year long residents start to gather around our beautiful lake! Everything is coming to life, ice has gone out of our lake, trees are budding and docks and lifts are going out. Those of us who live on gravel roads, survived another Spring with wet and muddy roads.

It is going to be another great year at Sand Lake! A number of new and improved changes will be taking place this year on our lake. The Walleye slot limit is effective as of this year's fishing opener.

Compliments of Sand Lake Property Owners Assoc.  
See the full Minnesota fishing regulations for complete info.

SAND LAKE Keepers... How Many & What Size		
<b>Walleye...</b> total in possession		
0"..... 17"	17"..... 26"	Over 26"
<b>Limit... 6</b>	<b>ZERO</b>	<b>ONE</b>
<b>Northern Pike...</b> total in possession		
0"..... 22"	22"..... 36"	Over 36"
<b>Limit... 9</b>	<b>ZERO</b>	<b>ONE</b>
<b>Perch...</b> 20 Per Day		
<b>40</b> ...total in possession		
<b>Sunfish...</b> 20...total in possession		
<b>Crappies...</b> 10...total in possession		
<b>Bass...</b> 6...total in possession (Combined Large & Small Mouth)		
<b>Turn In Poachers 800-652-9093</b>		



From left to right: Vic Warnement, Chuck Baker, Gary Weaver, Pat Sievertson, Carole Olson, Myron Hahn and Phil Thompson.

any fish.

Our lake continues to have Zebra Mussels. Anyone who took out a boat-lift or dock knows how plentiful they are. Fishermen are also finding them on vegetation, fish and any other items brought up from the lake. Zebra Mussels can damage lower units of motors left in the water. The Zebra Mussel shell is sharp and can cut unprotected hands and feet.

We continue to work in conjunction with the DNR and Itasca County and hopefully, some day, a cure for all Invasive Species will be found. This year, as in the past, we again are working with the

DNR and Itasca County at our public boat launch checking boats and trailers going in and out of our lake, checking for Invasive Species and making sure boaters are abiding and are aware of the laws. Itasca County will be furnishing a Decontamination Unit, on a scheduled basis, to power wash boats and/or trailers on a needed basis. We will again be furnishing our volunteers (Weed Cops) for assistance with both the DNR and Itasca County.

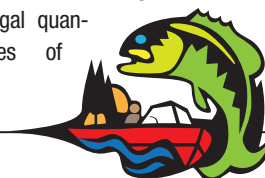
As in prior years, we are always in need of volunteers to help as Weed Cops, Ditch Cops (for the two portions of roadways that we pick up trash under the Adopt-A-Highway program) and Greeters for the Sand Lake Greeters program for new residents. Contact me or any Board member for information or volunteering. Also, as in most years, we will have 2 Board member seats needing to be filled by election at our annual meeting. Again, contact any Board member for information or if you are interested on being on the Board.

We have two functions scheduled for this summer. First is the annual Fish Fry, which will be on June 11 at 5:30. This has been a fun event with fish being supplied by our own lake fisherman. It is a potluck, so bring your favorite dish, and fish recipes, to share. As always, Door Prizes will be given away! Second is the annual meeting scheduled for August 20 at noon. This event will again be catered by our friends at Sportsman Café. Door prizes AGAIN! Both will be held at the Sand Lake Community Center.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Our goal, as your Board of Directors, as with all prior Boards, is to continue to make Sand Lake great. As we are in our 26th year of existence, I feel we have accomplished making our lake GREAT and are now working on making it GREATER!

illegal quantities of



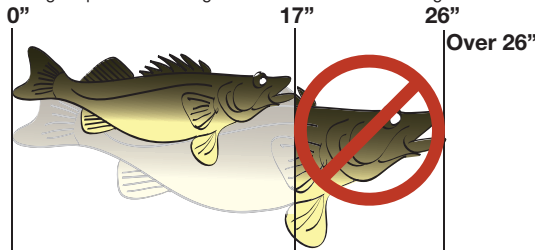
Vic Warnement

# Minnesota DNR

## Dave Weitzel

Sand Lake Fishery Update April 2016

Spring has finally come to the Northland & fishing season will soon be upon us. A 17-26 inch protected slot regulation for walleye will be in place on Sand, Portage, Little Sand & Birdseye lakes beginning in May 2016. Past assessments of Sand Lake have consistently shown few walleye over 17 inches, & the number of spawning-age females was low compared to other Minnesota lakes. This suggests that too many large walleye are harvested, resulting in poor size & age distributions. Limited age distribution is a concern for anglers, because it means that most walleye are from one or two year classes. Walleye year class production is variable, even in stocked lakes. By relying on such few year classes, poor fishing can be expected during times when weak year classes occur. Protected slot limits have been effective for improving age & size diversity in many Minnesota Lakes. Anglers may not encounter many "slot" walleye in 2016, but as time goes on, anglers will likely catch more walleye over 17 inches.



Hooking mortality has been a hot topic for discussion in recent conversations. I have received many questions over the years about how a slot limit can work when anglers have to release fish that may die. The fact is, some fish will die after being hooked & handled by anglers, but this percentage is relatively low. Annual mortality rates are expected to be around 5% in most lakes, based on past studies. Factors that impact hooking mortality include water temperature, hook location, handling by anglers, & water depth.

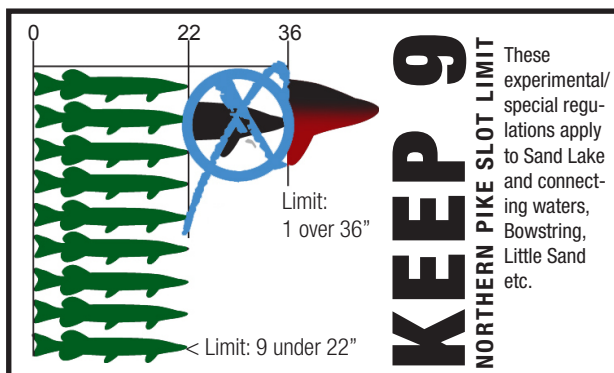
Walleye caught from deep water tend to have higher hooking mortality. Zebra mussels may indirectly impact hooking mortality by increasing water clarity. Walleye avoid sunlight, so they tend to move deeper in clear water, & this may mean more potential for hooking mortality in Sand Lake. Rainy Lake is famous for its deep water walleye fishing & provides a good example. Mortality on Rainy was generally low up to about 30 feet. At 30 feet, there was 8% mortality. At 40 feet, there was 18% mortality, & at 50 feet there was 35% mortality. The good news from Rainy is that enough of the released fish survived to change the size distribution & greatly increase the number of spawning fish. In fact, the regulation increased spawning stock to the point where there are more spawning fish than needed to maintain the population & the slot was relaxed from a conservative 17-28 inch slot to a 18-26 inch slot with a 4 fish bag limit. I suspect that Sand Lake will also see enough reduction in adult mortality to realize improvements in size structure & female spawning stock biomass. As an angler, I feel that releasing a fish that has a low likelihood of survival is a waste of a good fish dinner, so I try to avoid fishing in deep water. As a biologist, I know that nothing in nature is truly wasted & that a dead fish will quickly be utilized by all kinds of organisms, & that the nutrients from that fish will be recycled back into the lake.

The DNR will conduct spring pan fish netting on Sand in 2016 to assess the sunfish population. Past sampling showed that the lake produces a moderate number of sunfish with an excellent size structure, including blue gill over 10 inches. Lakes with low to moderate sunfish densities & quality size have become relatively rare in Minnesota & too much harvest is thought to increase sunfish numbers at the cost of reduced growth & smaller fish. The 2016 assessment will provide an important bench mark of the health of the fishery.

If you have any questions, contact the Area Fisheries Office at (218) 328-8835 or david.weitzel@state.mn.us

David Weitzel

Don't forget... Sand Lake also has the Northern Pike slot. Keep all those small Northern and help grow the average size of these fish in the lake.



### Treasurer's Report July 1, 2015 through April 30, 2016

Cash on Hand July 1, 2015 **\$48,760.43**

#### Income

Dues Received	2,115.00
Undesignated Donations	6,297.00
Stocking Donations*	900.00
Interest	63.50
Grant - IBM, Microsoft, DirecTV	<u>8,535.49</u>

**Total Income \$17,910.99**

#### Expense

Comm. Printing & Office Supplies	740.85
Postage	155.43
Insurance	274.00
Meeting Expenses	647.20
Gifts Given	1,025.45
Promotional Items	595.90
Misc.	<u>1,628.00</u>

**Total Expenses \$5,066.83**

#### Transfers

From checking to savings	-10,000.00
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Cash on Hand June April 30, 2016

**Checking: \$11,546.73**

**Savings: \$50,057.86**

**Total Cash and Investments \$61,604.59**

\*SLPOA stocking donations balance \$8,153.16

Respectfully Submitted: Gary Weaver, Treasurer



There was a fight at the seafood restaurant...  
Three fish got battered

### Sand Lake Property Owners Association

Board of Directors, Officers & Volunteers 2015/16

**President: Victor Warnement**, Phone: 218-659-4788

Email: maxievic@paulbunyan.net

**Vice President: Chuck Baker**, Phone: 218-659-2955

Email: cbaker@paulbunyan.net

**Treasurer: Gary Weaver**, Phone: 218-659-2707

Email: gkweaver@paulbunyan.net

**Secretary: Pat Sievertson**, Phone: 218-659-2157

Email: garden\_queen2004@yahoo.com

#### Directors:

**Myron Hahn**, Phone: 218-659-2668

Email: myron@paulbunyan.net

**Carole Olson**, Phone: 218-659-4757

Email: cncolson7@yahoo.com

**Immediate Past President: Phil Thompson**,

Phone: 218-659-2136

Email: philbeththompson@msn.com

**Volunteers: John Perkins** Sand Paper Editor & Web:

Phone: 218-659-4754 or 828-698-5897

Email: jfpc2@paulbunyan.net



# Catch And Release Properly To Help Fish Survive

Anglers can boost the odds of fish surviving catch and release with methods that avoid internal damage to fish.

"Fish can be injured by hooks, stress and being pulled from deep water," said Brad Parsons, central region fisheries manager with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. "As we head into the fishing season we remind anglers to keep the fish's survival in mind when planning to catch and release."

Fish hooked in the mouth almost always survive. Setting the hook quickly helps avoid hooking a fish in the stomach or gills. Jigs, circle hooks and active baits like crankbaits are more likely to hook a fish in the mouth. Barbless hooks or pinched barbs can help, but where a fish gets hooked is more important than the presence or absence of a barb.

Quickly landing a fish, minimizing its time out of water and handling the fish firmly but carefully all help it survive after release.

"By all means take photos, but it helps to have the camera ready and to have pliers that work well for taking hooks out," Parsons said. "Cutting the line and leaving the hook in the fish is also a good option."

The DNR encourages anglers to practice some restraint when the fish are really biting, especially during the summer or when fishing deep water. Fish pulled up from deep water can experience stress and injury, so anglers who plan on catch-and-release are reminded to avoid deep water.

"Deep water and also warm water temperatures increase the stress put on fish when caught and released," Parsons said. "Anglers tend to do more fishing and catch



more fish in warm weather, but these are also important times to take special care during catch and release."

## Here are a few more tips for successfully releasing fish:

- Wet your hands before touching a fish to prevent removal of their protective slime coating. Rubberized nets help, too.
- Unhook and release the fish while it is still in the water, if possible, and support its weight with both hands or with a net when removed from the water. Never lift them vertically.
- Hold a fish firmly but gently. Don't drop it. And don't hold a fish by the eyes.
- Do not place fish you plan to release on a stringer or in a live well.
- Revive a fish by cradling it under the belly

and gently moving it back and forth in the water until it swims away.

- Harvest a fish that can be legally kept if it is bleeding heavily or can't right itself.

"No good angler wants to see a released fish die," Parsons said. "Responsible catch-and-release fishing can help ensure we continue to have quality fishing throughout Minnesota."

**Phil Thompson**



It won't be long before the water warms up and everyone will start to enjoy the lake.

Swimming and boating are two popular past times most of us enjoy. A few safety reminders:

- Always tell someone where you are going
- Check the weather before you leave
- Always wear a life jacket when near the water. It is mandatory for children under 10 years' old
- When in a moving boat, please remain seated.
- Always swim with a buddy. Children should have adult supervision.
- If the boat should capsize, stay with the boat. Do not attempt to swim to shore.

**Gary Weaver, Itasca County Sheriff's Dive Team**

## Rich Anderson Report from the Landing

Last year was a busy fishing season on Sand Lake. There were stretches of great walleye, and great crappie bites that brought anglers from many other locations, and thanks to the volunteers from the lake association, many of them learned quite a bit about Aquatic Invasive Species. There were times when the access was slow, and I was able to interact with several of these volunteers, which was a wonderful way to pass an afternoon. Then there were times when the boating traffic was completely chaotic, and I can't express my gratitude enough for these same folk helping to direct traffic, educate boaters on what to look for on their boats to keep them legal, and provide information on Invasive Species while I could focus on decontaminating boats.

This year, I suspect that the first wave of Zebra Mussels will begin to die off and get washed up on the shores and beaches. Please wear some type of foot protection when in or near the water, and insure that the kids do as well, as these shells can be extremely sharp.

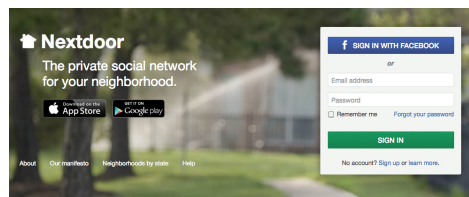
I was very impressed with the activity and knowledge of the people that own property on the lake, but would like to clear up a couple of grey areas.

***When a boat is taken out in the fall, it's not uncommon for there to be Zebs on it, & it was legal to transport directly home, to storage, or to a lake service provider. It is not legal to transport it back to the lake with Zebra mussels still attached. Please take the time to scrape them off before returning the boat to the lake.***

I look forward to working with the volunteers again this summer up on Sand, and meeting even more of the property owners up there. You folks have set a high bar for other lake associations, and are sure interesting to talk with.

**Rich Anderson**  
**Supervisor Itasca County Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program**





## It's Right Nextdoor

Who's got a fox in the backyard?  
When did the ice go out?  
Got something to sell.  
When's the next lake event?  
It's all on Nextdoor.

It's the place where we share information and photos of what's happening around the lake... summer & winter... year round. Jim Hansen is our most prolific poster... Thanks Jim. The more neighbors we have involved the better it will serve us all... **Go to the website and start posting!**

**www.nextdoor.com**

Join our very own Sand Lake Social Network.



The Sand Paper and a lot more is on the SLPOA website...  
**www.slpoa1.com**

### Contacts for Shoreline Regulation Questions

#### Wetlands adjacent to water bodies:

Itasca SWCD- Matt Johnson, matt.johnson@itascaswcd.org 218-326-0017,

**Shoreland alterations, fill, rip-rap, retaining walls, beach sand blanket:**

Environmental Services-Jim Gustafson, jim.gustafson@co.itasca.mn.us 218-327-2857

#### In water related questions:

DNR-Erika.Herr@state.mn.us 218-327-4106



### **Member Email Address... PLEASE**

We're doing better but we haven't got everyone's email address yet. Please include it on the Membership Application or send it to me direct. My email address is jfpc2@paulbunyan.net. Thanks for your help... John Perkins



For Better Address

If you want your mail delivered to the lake... write that address. If you have a different address... write that one in.

Thanks...Vic Warnement

**Remember this is your 2016 membership. Not 2015 or 2017**

TEAR OFF ON DOTTED LINE.

**APPLICATION FOR 2016 CALENDAR YEAR • RETURN THIS PORTION WITH YOUR PAYMENT**

# MEMBERSHIP

Voting members must be property owners on Sand Lake, Portage Lake, or Little Sand Lake in Itasca County. Sand Lake Property Owners Association is a tax exempt, non profit association whose purpose is to repre-



sent the members' common interest in the Sand Lake area and its environment. Our association is managed 100% by Lake Owner volunteers. There are no salaries. We operate completely on Dues and Donations.

**YES...SEND MY SAND PAPERS VIA EMAIL.** Check the box to receive future newsletters by Email.

## HELP!

When you send us this form, please volunteer for activities that maintain the health and beauty of our wonderful Sand Lake area.

Yes. Contact me... I'd like to help with:

- ☐ Weed Cops, Invasive species monitoring at the public landings
- ☐ Adopt a Highway... Trash pickup on Rt. 35 & Rt. 4 twice a year.

MAIL TO: Sand Lake Property Owners Association PO Box 690, Deer River MN 56636  
Your check is your receipt • Signed receipt sent on request.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ MAIN Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

(Alternate/Lake) Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

2016 DUES... ☐ \$15.00 ☐ DONATIONS \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ STOCKING DONATION \$ \_\_\_\_\_