



The Mel-Sal

President's Message by Mike Becraft

January 28, 2018
Friends,

The National Weather Service just issued a Weather Advisory for those of us who live in Fairfax County Virginia for Winter storms starting Tuesday evening with a low on Wednesday of 6 degrees. Now I just checked the weather report for Detroit Lakes and Tuesday the low will be -33 and Wednesday the low will be -35. I promise you, you will not be hearing any whining from this part of Virginia. It is during periods like this that our minds wander back to Summer at the lakes, and rightly so. I think by all accounts the 2018 season was pretty great, and I'm betting that 2019 will be a repeat.

Your Association, with your support, will continue to focus on those things that we do every year such as the 4th of July Boat Parade, focusing on fighting Aquatic Invasive Species in coordination with the State and County, the Labor Day Food Drive for the Becker County Food Bank which once again this past year we went over the top thanks to you all. We will continue to follow closely the further development of the Detroit Lakes Waste Management System, as well as any road improvements that may affect the normal routines of our members. You will see in an article further on in this Newsletter by Wanda Roden, our new Database Manager, that Becker County Soil and Water Conservation District will continue to fund Inspectors at our two launch sites. Lots of things going on that will keep the Association Officers and our many great volunteers busy this coming Summer.

This is an exciting new offer we have for our members as we advance in to the 21st Century. We will now have an on-line payment option available through a "GoMerchant" website hosted by Vision Bank in Fargo, ND. If you choose to have your dues, Foundation and /or Environmental donations completed online, these transactions will occur through an electronic fund transfer from your current checking account to a Mel/Sal Lake Association account. Information on this process has been included in this Newsletter. Of course, you always have the option to continue to pay/donate through our paper form which is also included in this Newsletter.

I would be remiss if I did not mention our neighbors and friends that we know of who so loved the lakes and passed away during 2018: Edward (Tom) Conmy III, Dr. Bruce Carlisle, Doris Worwa, Frank Winsor, Dr. Gordon Heller, Patricia Westerholm, Dick Herbst, Doris Fercho, Beryl Linnerooth, and Kathy Colman Swanston. We bid them farewell and send our condolences to their loved ones.

Finally, I want to take a moment to thank Hans Tronnes for his many years of service to the Association. Many of you know Hans personally, and know of his dedication to the Association, to Shoreham, and to all that our lake life stands for. As Database Manager he brought us out of the Middle Ages into modernity. As he now retires please take an opportunity to say thank you for his great service.

Happy Winter, see you at the lakes!

Warm Regards,
Mike Becraft
President

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Annual Newsletter Sandy Alinder
Office Manager Open
Property Manager Open
Archivist/Historian Bob Hatlestad
Septic/Water Quality Lead Open
AIS Ken Olson
Home Tour Judy Hatlie
Database Wanda Roden

**Spring Beach Captain's
Meeting: June 8th**

**Annual Meeting: Saturday,
June 15th Social 9:30am •
Meeting 10:00 am •
Shoreham Chapel**

**The Lakes Melissa Sallie
Improvement Association was
started in 1936. As a non-profit
organization, we exist to
safeguard our shoreline, water
front, and the recreational
advantages of Lakes Melissa
and Sallie.**

LMSA News

BEACH CAPTAINS ANNUAL MEETING

Greetings from snowy Annapolis, Maryland. Yes, we have our very own snow right here on the Chesapeake Bay! Of course, our 8" is a flurry compared to your snowfall but many snow persons and snow angels decorate our yards.

In preparation for Summer 2019, please note, our annual Beach Captains' meeting will be Saturday, June 8 at 9:30 at the Hotel. Refreshments will be served. If you are currently a Beach Captain, please plan on attending. If you are not a Beach Captain but would like to join our team, please come by and see what we are all about! We have a great deal of new information to share.

A big thank you goes out to our Head Beach Captains: Paul and Carole Schornack (Lake Melissa) and Rick and Kathy Michaelson (Lake Sallie). These folks work very hard all summer to ensure all our Beach Captains are up to speed with current changes and information.

Thanks, too, to all our Beach Captains! You are the glue that holds our MelSal community together. I look forward to seeing you all in June.

-Susan Roberts

ACTIVITIES REPORT

Once again, the traditions of the Melissa Sallie Association were in full swing last summer. The Fourth of July Boat Parade was a great success on both lakes. Boats were well decorated as were homes on the shores. It's now time to start planning for this year's Fourth of July events.

The Office, hereafter known as the "World Headquarters", was a busy place this summer. We had all new merchandise and most all of it was sold. We will be getting new and different clothing items

for this coming summer. Our lending library is well stocked and thanks to Mary Mahoney we now have a great selection of children's books.

Our end of season Food Drive to benefit the Becker County Food Pantry surpassed past years efforts. We collected over 3000 pounds of food for this worth-while charity.

Our Home Tour is an every-other-year event. Thanks to Judy Hatle and numerous volunteers and homeowners for the success of the Tour last summer. Our next Home Tour will be in 2020.

Lastly, I want to again thank all who volunteered in these efforts. Because of your participation the summer of 2018 was one of the best ever and I know 2019 will be even better.

Carolyn Becraft
Activities Chair

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The annual membership meeting is typically held the 3rd Saturday in June at the Shoreham Chapel. There is a social time where coffee and pastries are served. The association often has information tables on the lawn where people can pick up information about the lakes, pay dues, buy tickets (if it's a Home Tour year) and pick up directories before the meeting. Directories are typically published every 3 years, and new members can pick up the latest version printed. The Board of Directors and Committee Chairs present their reports and guest speakers may attend. Members vote for the Beach Captains, who in turn, elect the Board of Directors. We encourage you to attend and hear important information about our activities and plans. We have one of the largest lake associations in Becker County and your participation helps lead the future.

Winter Greetings

Thanks to the beach captains serving Lake Melissa for all the time you spent this past summer welcoming new residents to our beautiful shores and keeping all residents up to speed regarding lake developments and activities. Many changes occur each year and our job as beach captains is so important. Our directory is a visual tool for residents new and old to help us stay in touch and it is nice to distribute them to new homeowners. Thanks also, for all your work on the Labor Day drive for the Becker County food bank. They certainly appreciate the support our association provides.

BOAT PARADE 2018

Summer fun is never better than during the boat parade on the 4th of July on Lake Melissa. We have some tough competitors that express imagination and energy and certainly lots of red, white and blue. There were many many notable participants both on land and on shore.



This year's judges (who always remain a secret) had a very difficult time choosing the winners in both categories. The Feder clan of Linden Park (winner of best shore enthusiasm) and the Swenson family of Dakotah Beach (winner of "float" category) have been very productive in the past few years, each winning in their category many times. Thank you for your supreme interest in the boat parade and for sharing your expression of "fun on the Fourth".

The 4th is certainly a great time to share your parade ideas and enthusiasm with friends and neighbors all around lake Melissa. Thanks to all participants. So, fire up your family, bring your "A" game and win one of the marvelous trophies for your mantle or kitchen table in 2019!

Happy New Year
Paul & Carole Schornack



Check out the newsletter with photos in color and live hyperlinks on our website:

www.melissasallie.com!

An Amazing Winter Wonderland

-Lee Massey

As we all know, many property owners on Lake Melissa and Sallie have homes or cabins that are used seasonally – opened in the spring and closed in the fall – and many of those folks rarely make a trip to the lakes during the cold, stark winter months. And, while the warmth, beauty and fun of summer lake life is surely something we all cherish, those of us lucky enough to live here year-round also know that we live in an amazing winter wonderland. Snow and the occasional hoarfrost transform this glorious summer playground into one of the most beautiful winter recreational areas in the country.

Perhaps the most well-known and often discussed winter pastimes are snowmobiling and ice fishing. There are hundreds of miles of marked snowmobile trails around the Detroit Lakes area, and you're likely to see sled tracks in just about every ditch, roadside and farm field in the region. Villages of ice fishing houses pop up on most area lakes as soon as the ice is thick enough to support the weight of vehicles, and colorful portable shelters appear nearly every weekend. It's also quite common to see folks skating on homemade lake or pond ice patches or playing hockey in well maintained outdoor hockey rinks.

But our immediate lake area also offers many additional fun, exhilarating and beautiful wintertime recreational opportunities.

Five years ago, the Detroit Mountain Recreational Area reopened after being closed for a decade. Featuring a newly constructed full-service lodge that houses a café, saloon, and rental ski equipment area, along with occasional live music, the mountain offers two triple chairlifts, two high-speed tow ropes and two "Magic Carpet" lifts that service downhill Alpine skiing and snowboarding slopes including beginner "Bunny Hills" and the SCHEELS terrain park. There also is a tubing park and nearly 10 kilometers (about 6 miles) of groomed Nordic ski, snowshoeing and fat tire bike trails. Lessons and rental equipment are available for all mountain sports and all skill levels, and the staff at DMRA is extremely well trained, knowledgeable, courteous

and fun. A few weeks ago, on Sunday, January 6th, a record 2,200 plus folks participated in the various activities offered at DMRA.



But, right in our own "backyard" on the East shore of Lake Sallie, is one of the best kept secrets in lakes country: Dunton Locks County Park. While many Melissa-Sallie residents are familiar with the mechanical boat tram that transports boats, personal watercraft and pontoons between Muskrat Lake and Lake Sallie, allowing boat travel from Detroit Lakes to Shoreham, the 53-acre park also features two picnic shelters, hiking & mountain biking trails, a paved recreation trail, interpretive history signs and two fishing piers. But in the winter, the 6.1 kilometers of hiking and biking trails offer a heavily wooded (thus somewhat wind protected) haven for Nordic Skiing, snowshoeing, winter hiking and sightseeing.

According to the Dunton Locks website: http://www.co.becker.mn.us/dept/parks_recreation/dunton_locks.aspx

"the northern trails (of the park) wind through hardwood forested hills once a gathering spot for the Sioux Indians. Remnants of Indian burial mounds are still present throughout the park. In fact, much of the park area was a gathering area for netting tulabies, camping, and trading. The southern trails also wind through rolling, wooded terrain, however much of the trails are located on private land owned by the Soo Pass Ranch". That area is the Lake Sallie Campground used for camping during WE Fest. If

you cross the main entrance to the campground (West of Highway 59) and travel further South into the camping areas, you can easily add an additional 2 plus miles to a wonderful winter trail trek.



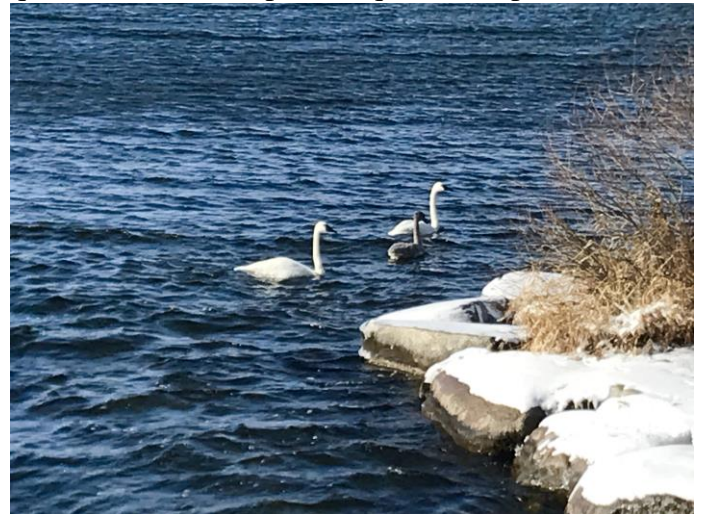
The South trail, accessible via a scenic bridge near the tram track, crosses over the Pelican River, which remains open and flows between Muskrat Lake and Lake Sallie all winter. It's not uncommon to see ducks, geese and swans paddling in the open water, and you're also likely to see deer, fox and rabbits along the wooded trails.

Unlike the Detroit Mountain or Mountain View Recreation Area trails (another park maintained by Becker County located along Tower Road, North of Detroit Lakes) the Dunton Locks trails are not groomed, but they are well marked, and typically within hours of a snowfall, the trails are in use and easy to follow. Dogs are allowed on the Dunton Locks trails, while snowmobiles and other motorized vehicles are restricted in the main park area. You may however encounter snowmobiles in the WE Fest camping area or along the Pelican River trail between Muskrat and Detroit Lakes.



The Dunton Locks parking area is usually plowed shortly after a snowfall, and there's even a well-maintained porta-potty for winter use.

The Dunton Locks winter trails previously were used as a training area for the Detroit Lakes High School Nordic Ski Team, but they now train elsewhere, so as a winter recreational area, this is a non-congested, quiet, beautiful and picturesque winter paradise.



Getting outdoors and enjoying activities in the winter truly does make the cold months fly by, and the physical and mental health benefits are many. So, love the lakes year-round

Becker County Coalition of Lakes Association (BCCOLA) 2018 Report:

BCCOLA offered many opportunities for members to attend numerous events, across the state, which focused on the control and management of AIS across the state and nation, maintaining water quality in our lakes, the effect of AIS on the native fish in MN, Becker County Zoning and Ordinance issues, and other interesting topics affecting our valuable water resources. Examples of some events attended include:

- The June 2018 Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) Summit held in DL.
- The 2018 spring Minneapolis AIS Summit
- Several MN COLA meetings
- The fall MAISRC Showcase held in St. Paul
- Starry Trek

BCCOLA is partnering with surrounding organizations, including local schools, Ottertail County COLA, Hubbard County COLA, The Pelican River Watershed District, and Becker County Soil & Water Conservation District, to work on projects that will educate adults and children on the importance of knowledge and involvement with issues surrounding our water resources.

We continue to work on the BCCOLA website which we hope to have “live” by the end of this April. This website will be a valuable resource for members and our individual lake associations. We also hope that we will be able to communicate better with our total membership, so that others will have the opportunity to be educated on the issues surrounding our MN lakes and rivers.

BCCOLA was an active participant in the planning and success of Becker County’s first Aqua Chautauqua, Festival held on August 9th at the Dunton Locks County Park. An Aqua Chautauqua incorporates science, arts, and history in creative ways to engage participants to learn, share, protect, and appreciate our water resources.

Karl Koenig, from Becker County Soil & Water Conservation District, provided the following report regarding AIS inspections on our two lakes.

“The 2017 Becker County AIS Plan allocated 751.88 inspection hours and 900 decontamination hours to Lake Melissa, and 751.88 inspection hours to Lake Sallie, for a total of 2403.76 inspection hours. In 2018, 1081.5 hours were completed at Lake Sallie and 1312.25 hours were completed at Melissa, for a

total of 2393.75 hours. The inspection season began on 5/12/18 and was completed on 9/30/18. The final report is located on our Mel/Sal website, which includes a breakdown of entering inspection results, activities completed in 2018 and plans for 2019.

For 2019, a total of 2310 inspection hours are allocated for Sallie and Melissa Lakes. This will provide enough hours to have decontamination services available at each access from fishing opener through early fall.

Lake associations have been very helpful with recruiting paid inspectors. This is a good opportunity for college students/anyone who are willing and able to work outdoors on summer weekends. We will be hiring around 35 inspectors for the 2019 season. For more information about these positions, please contact Karl Koenig at kikoeni@co.becker.mn.us.”

A copy of an AIS Identification Guide handbook was made available for each Lake Association. COLA purchased 30 books, with each Association to receive one copy. Becker County Soil & Water Conservation District shared in the price of these books. The website for ordering additional books is <https://www.bookstores.umn.edu>

2019 Becker County COLA Membership Meeting Dates:

Locations TBD

May	23
June	20
July	18
August	15
September	19
October	17

Please note that ANY member of a Becker County Lake Association is welcome at any membership meeting or ANY Executive Committee meeting. Executive Committee meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month in the 2nd Floor Conference Room in the Detroit Lakes Wells Fargo Building.

Submitted by Wanda Roden, Mel/Sal COLA representative

A Word of Thanks

I would like to thank the members and Board of the Lakes Melissa + Sallie Improvement Association for the opportunity to serve as your Secretary for the past 10 years. Some of you may be curious to know what it requires to be a board member. The Secretary is one of the volunteer Executive Board Members with voting rights. He/She attends meetings to record the minutes. The Secretary works closely with the other board members and keeps information accessible, such as minutes of previous meetings, current by-laws, and agendas. There are many opportunities to volunteer and I look forward to

transitioning into a more active role with Marsha Johansen. Together, we currently work on our Facebook site. It is rewarding to see thousands of people that interact with the page. We've reunited people with pets and property (those boats, cushions, and kayaks that float away in the wind). Neighbors are welcome to share their pictures, and we have had some beautiful posts! We are also adding information to our website. We hope that you will check them out as we continue to develop an easy way to keep up with the happenings at the lakes!
-Sandy Alinder

More 2018 Boat Parade pictures from Lake Melissa:



On-Line Dues and Donations:

We now have an on-line payment option available. If you are interested in donating through an electronic fund transfer from your current checking account to a Mel/Sal Lake Association website through Vision Bank, please go to this website:

*New: <https://secure.gomerchant.com/secure/custompayment/lmsa2/6825/default.aspx?>

Your payments will be automatically deducted through an ANNUAL recurring payment. You will receive an email receipt which will be your record of this annual payment.

A diagram of the user- friendly website form follows. Please note that we are asking that you have your electronic fund transfer completed **on either the 1st or the 15th of each month** so that we can consolidate payments and minimize fees which will be paid by the Association.

If you have questions regarding these payments, please contact Wanda Roden at wrnodak@outlook.com.



Thank you for your interest in donating online to the Mel/Sal Lake Association. We will be accepting payments and donations by electronic check, meaning that payment will be taken out of your current bank account. We are not offering a credit card/debit card payment option because it is too expensive for the Association. An email address is required, as it is our basic form of communication, and a receipt will be sent to you, through email, once an electronic fund transfer has been made from your bank account.

Please consider donating to the Foundation and Environmental funds. As we move throughout each year, if you would like to increase your donation to the Foundation and Environmental funds, please send me an email, and I will make the change.

To help in minimizing banking fees to the Association, please select your annual payment frequency to start and occur on the 15th of the month. This will be occurring on an annual basis. You will be notified when you will need to resubmit information.

Your Donation

Homeowner Fees (Type \$35.00 in box)

Foundation Fund Donation (Optional)

Environmental Donation (Optional)

Total Donation

Gift Frequency This will be an annual gift

Start Date Start on:

* Lake Address

Winter Address (if applicable)

Winter Phone Number (if applicable)

Note: This amount will be automatically debited from your bank account on an annual basis
**If you need to make changes, please email Wanda at wfnodak@outlook.com*

Select either the 1st or the 15th of the month

Billing Information

* Name

* Address

* Postal Code

* Email

* Please Confirm Email

Phone

Once you submit your payment, a receipt will be emailed to you at this address

Payment Information



Checking

ROUTING NUMBER (9 DIGITS) ACCOUNT NUMBER

Please check the box below and follow the instructions given:

I'm not a robot

[Submit Payment Now](#)



2019 Homeowner Fees and Contact Information Change Form

Payment by Personal Check. Please print information clearly and mail form and payment to:

MelSal Association PO Box 1003 Detroit Lakes MN 56502

Property Owner Name(s): _____ Date: _____, 2019

Lake Address: _____ Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

2019 Homeowner Fees \$ 35.00

The Association needs your continued support to finance various issues surrounding our mission to promote healthy lake environments. Please consider donating to the Foundation and the Environmental funds. Thank you.

MelSal Foundation Donation \$ _____

Environmental Fund Donation \$ _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

CONTACT INFORMATION: PLEASE DO NOT send again, unless you have made changes.

EMAIL ADDRESSES: If you are receiving our emails, PLEASE DO NOT send again. If you are NOT receiving our emails, please submit an email address, as this is our major form of communication.

Lakes Land Line - "X" if none: 218 - _____

Home/Winter phone (if changed): _____

First name & cell (if changed): _____

First name & cell (if changed): _____

Home/Winter Address (if changed): _____



Think Spring!