



# The Mel-Sal

## President's Winter Letter

### Board of Directors Current-June 2022

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 AIS . . . . . Gordy Knudsvig  
 Home Tour . . . . . Judy Hatlie  
 Database . . . . . Roger Demers

**Spring Beach Captain's Meeting,  
TBD**

**Annual Meeting: Saturday, June  
18<sup>th</sup> Social 9:30am • Meeting 10:00  
am • Shoreham Chapel**

**Melissa/Sallie Home Tour,  
Saturday June 25<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM -  
2 PM**

**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.**

Dear Members,

Folks it is cold, lots of ice on the lakes, lots of snow on the ground and on the lakes, and all of this is good if it helps prevent the drought of last Summer from reoccurring. Detroit Lakes is actively cutting ice for the largest Ice Palace they have ever built. Lighting will be on 11 February at 7:00pm on the beach next to the Pavilion. Polar Fest events are scheduled from 5 February to 27 February, check out the events at Polar Fest Detroit Lakes. All of this is needed given the extended pandemic we have been suffering through. I have personally known 24 people who have had COVID 19 and two of whom died from it. Please be careful, get vaccinated, and wear an appropriate mask when you feel you should.

As we look forward to Summer, I want to remind you of some of the events we can look forward to. First, the Beach Captain's Meeting normally held the second Saturday of June will happen on a Saturday after the Annual Meeting, more info to follow. The Annual Meeting will be held the third Saturday of June as usual at the Shoreham Chapel, coffee and goodies at 9:30am and the meeting promptly at 10:00am. We will have the Annual 4th of July Boat Parade, one of the highlights of our season. This year we hopefully will have our Home Tour which was postponed last year. I want to commend all of you who contributed money to our Becker County Food Pantry Drive over Labor Day Weekend. Last year your generosity provided \$7,000.

We will continue to work closely with the DNR, the Becker County Soil & Water Conservation District, the Becker County Coalition of Lakes Association, and the Pelican River Watershed District to ensure that our lakes get all the attention they deserve. We are very fortunate to have such supportive organizations working with us to maintain the quality of our lakes and their accessibility.

At the last Annual Meeting the issue of large tent covers for boats and pontoons was raised and it became a very emotion filled discussion. In July I sent out a letter saying incorrectly that there was no guidance from the County on this issue but I have subsequently discovered that there is guidance and it is explicit.

# LMSA News

In an email to one of our members from a member of the Becker County Planning and Zoning Department, the following was provided: The Becker County Zoning Ordinance does regulate the placement of docks from side property lines and the required setback is the same as a structure. Table 5-4 from the Becker County Zoning Ordinance lists the minimum side yard setbacks for structures. A ten-foot side yard setback is standard in both residential and general agriculture zones. Becker County Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 5, Section 2 sub part I, Docks and Piers: Docks and piers shall be exempt from the setbacks for shoreline areas except that any projection into the water shall maintain a minimum side yard setback equal to that required in the applicable zoning district and shall be parallel with an extension into the water of the side yard lot line. So if the lot width is greater than 100ft the setback must be 10ft. If the lot is less than 100ft then the setback is 10% of the lots width-no less than 5ft. If you have any questions about this, please call the Becker County Planning and Zoning Department at 218-846-7314, or contact Joseph Doll, Zoning Technician at [joseph.doll@co.becker.mn.us](mailto:joseph.doll@co.becker.mn.us). The County will send out a technician to walk the property and verify that the Tent Cover is at the proper setback. Clearly, we would hope that neighbors

would take their neighbor's concerns and views into consideration when placing docks, lifts, tent covers, and water equipment. We all want to enjoy the lake and build great memories for our families. Please give these concerns your consideration.

We are saddened to announce the loss of several of our lake friends this past year: Jim Dixon, -who left \$20K to the Melissa Sallie Foundation- Donata Neller-moe, JR McLaughlin, Gerry Heinle, Kathy Nelson of Dakotah Beach, Joyce Burnett Albert, Ron Herring, Connie Cook, Beth Ristvedt Albright, Carol Anderson Rudrud, Sunny Jones Crahan, Judy Koenlein, Steve Gorman, Jr., Chris Golding, and Rick Nelson. All of these people spent many happy Summers on Sallie and Melissa, and they will be missed.

To all have a great Winter wherever you may be, and remember Lake Season is only 4 to 5 months away. See you at the Annual Meeting at the Shoreham Chapel on 18 June at 9:30am. Be well and stay warm.

Warm Regards,  
Mike Becraft,  
President  
C: 571-213-0420  
[mikebecraft@verizon.net](mailto:mikebecraft@verizon.net)

## A Note from the Vice President

Happy 2022! While the snow doesn't seem like a blessing to some, it will certainly make our lakes more desirable and playtime with the boats, paddle boards, etc. way more fun!

We have decided to have the annual Beach Captains' meeting later in June after the Annual Meeting. That way folks who have not paid their dues will have an opportunity to do so at the Annual meeting or before. We will then have an updated list for each Beach Captain. Meeting details will follow.

I look forward to seeing everyone in June.

Susan

## MEL/SAL ACTIVITIES REPORT SPRING 2022

Summer is just around the corner and we look forward to many community activities including:

**Melissa/Sallie Home Tour, Saturday June 25th from 10 AM - 2 PM:** Judy Hatlie, ably assisted by her home tour committee, has lined up great homes for the tour. We are still looking for one more home to highlight on Melissa- a vintage home would be fun. We will also be looking for volunteers to work in the homes the day of the tour. If interested in assisting please contact Judy at [hatliejude@aol.com](mailto:hatliejude@aol.com) or text her at 310-291-3482.

The annual **4th of July Boat Parade:** Always a highlight of the summer, it's not too early to begin to plan your design for the boat parade and shore competitions.

**Mel/Sal Office:** The office will be open Memorial Day Weekend and close Labor Day Weekend. Last fall Linda Folk, Mary Rotter and

I ordered new merchandise for this summer so we should be fully stocked with clothing to enhance your summer wardrobes. A special thanks to Linda Folk for her care of the Jim Dixon Library. I also want to thank Judy Knudsvig for her work enhancing the beauty of the Shoreham Memorial Garden. There will be a call for volunteers later this spring.

**Food Pantry Drive:** Once again our Labor Day drive for the Becker County Food Pantry was a great success. We collected \$7000 in cash donations for this worthy charity!

Lastly, the strength of our Association lies with our volunteers. A special thanks to all who have volunteered in the past and to those who will continue to volunteer this summer.

Carolyn Becraft  
Activities Chair



Lake Melissa-Sallie Improvement Association Secretary Mary Rotter, left, and LMSA President Mike Becraft, at right, recently presented Becker County Food Pantry Executive Director Brad Carlson (center) with a check for \$7,000. The donation was made by LMSA members to help support the local food pantry. (Submitted photo)

Members of the Lake Melissa-Sallie Improvement Association closed-out the summer season by donating \$7,000 to the Becker County Food Pantry. Association secretary, Mary Rotter and president, Mike Becraft made the presentation to the food pantry executive director, Brad Carlson (center) October 12, 2021. In the past, LMSA members shared canned goods as well as money but when word spread that \$1 could purchase at least \$8 worth of goods, the drive focused on cash. For instance, Carlson said the price of one jar of peanut butter in the store could pay for 17 similar jars through bulk buying. The food pantry is located adjacent to the fairgrounds in Detroit Lakes and is open to Becker County residents the second Tuesday and Thursday of each month. Evening arrangements can be made by calling Carlson and his volunteer staff at the food pantry.

(Reprinted from DL Newspaper-Online edition)



The following form makes it easy to mail your 2022 Homeowner fees/donations along with providing updates to our database.

**PERSONAL CHECK payment:** Mail form and payment to the following address.

MelSal Association  
PO Box 1003  
Detroit Lakes MN 56502

Property Owner Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 2022

Lake Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

**2022 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:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**ONLINE payment:** Please see the following link to pay Homeowner fees and make donations to the Mel/Sal Foundation and Environmental funds. If you have participated in on-line payment in the past, you will receive an email following the payment transaction. Please consider paying/donating on the **1<sup>st</sup> of any month** to eliminate additional bank fees.

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

## 2022 DATABASE Information/Changes

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.**

We received many more email addresses from our members, which was great!

This is our main form of communication so THANK YOU for keeping us updated with your personal information.

If there are NO CHANGES from last year, please do not submit.

**EMAIL ADDRESSES:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**First name & cell:** \_\_\_\_\_

**First name & cell:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home/Winter land line phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home/Winter Address (if changed):**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**(Optional) Other Contacts associated with the property:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

[www.melissasallie.com](http://www.melissasallie.com)!

## On-Line Dues and Donations:

We again 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: <https://secure.gomerchant.com/secure/custompayment/lmsa2/6825/default.aspx?>

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

Please note that we are asking that you have your electronic fund transfer completed **on either the 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:wrnodak@outlook.com).

## Treasurer's Report

Financially things haven't changed much since the June 2021 meeting. We made a little money on the clothing sales this summer, and other than that, things were status quo.

Kristine Christensen



## **MN DNR Seeks Input on Future**

Jeff Forester - MN Lakes and Rivers Advocates

Dear Friend,

Over the last decade there has been a well-documented increase in use of Minnesota's natural resources by Minnesotans. The last two years we saw an estimated 30% increase in the number of boaters out on the lakes and this was mirrored in State Park attendance, county parks and even the Boundary Waters Wilderness.

Minnesotans are loving their beautiful outdoors and that is a very good thing.

Not only are more people getting outdoors to recreate, but the activities they pursue are broader and more diverse with burgeoning interest in bird watching, mushroom picking, snow shoeing, cross country skiing, hiking and other activities. **This increase in users of our natural areas has come even as the numbers of hunters and anglers decrease.**

Traditionally, much of the MN DNR budget for wildlife, fish stocking, and habitat projects has come from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses. The decrease in these activities, combined with increased costs due to a host of factors, has put into question the DNR's ability to do its work into the future.

In every institution, **budget drives focus. Already our lakes are underfunded. Every lake shore owner has gotten appeals for philanthropic giving to support Aquatic**

**Invasive Species programs, fish stocking, water quality projects and the like.**

**A study by Concordia College, Moorhead found that Lake Associations already contribute over \$6.25 million in charitable giving to support our lakes. As DNR budgets fall due to a decline in fishing license sales, more burden will fall on local revenue sources.**

The MN DNR needs to hear from citizens as to what the future of the agency will be, how to fund their efforts on our behalf. This discussion will be ongoing and your engagement at this point will make a difference in finding a fair and productive outcome.

You can sign up for updates and see the discussion that is occurring. There is a space for you to ask a question or offer an opinion.

MLR will be participating in this ongoing discussion. We expect this will be central to the 2022 DNR Roundtable and to listening sessions across the state. So make your voice heard now. As things progress we will make sure to keep you informed.

Stay warm everyone - and you lucky snowbirds, stay cool,

Jeff

## **Volunteer Opportunity**

Becker County Coalition Of Lake Associations (BC COLA) is interested in establishing a new group of young people with renewed energy and focus for leadership roles within the organization. If you are interested in supporting your Lake Association at a higher level, please contact Wanda Roden at [wrnodak@outlook.com](mailto:wrodnak@outlook.com) for answers to any questions/comments you may have regarding available positions. Thank you.

# Greetings from MAISRC!

Minnesota has seemingly countless lakes, rivers, and wetlands, and we each have our favorite. For me, it is Leech Lake, where my family has spent the summers since 1934. Although I was expecting it, finding the first adult zebra mussel this year was devastating. In addition, my young son found Eurasian watermilfoil, rusty crayfish, and mystery snails near our beach (with starry stonewort recently confirmed across the lake). He will grow up with a different lake than I remember, and a very different one from my great grandfather. This is just one lake, one of many, infested with aquatic invasive species.

Hope is not lost, however. I'm reminded and inspired by the oft-used quote from my son's other favorite 'Dr.'... "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." —The Lorax, Dr. Seuss. I believe that with ambitious management, a committed public, and innovative research we can make things better.

The Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) was created in 2012 with the mission to develop research-based solutions to our aquatic invasive species problems and advance knowledge to inspire action by others. As of 2021, we are well on our way. This last year was highlighted by major scientific advancements and continued progress on critical lines of research. Our research teams have worked tirelessly in the field, lab, and at their computers to generate and analyze data that is informing evidence-based decisions from the end of your dock to the State Capitol. The incremental steps are making a difference, leading to big wins, and eventually solutions for the seemingly impossible problems in front of us.

I have long been an advocate for team science – everyone is smarter than anyone. I am encouraged by the interdisciplinarity of our research teams, their willingness to think outside the box, and active engagement with managers and other stakeholders at every step in the process. This 'co-creation of research' has (and will!) improve the process from asking the right question to implementing the results. We acknowledge, however, that not everyone is at the table and are working to bring diverse perspectives into the conversations. I am looking forward to building on existing partnerships and creating new ones in the coming year.

On behalf of everyone at MAISRC, I would like to say "thank you!" to everyone that has supported us over the last year. We are all stretched thin, and your support means more now than it ever has. We are grateful to the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund and the Minnesota Legislature for their investments in sustaining MAISRC's research program. We are also thankful to the many lake associations, foundations, and individual donors for their generosity and commitment to finding research-based solutions to our aquatic invasive species problems. Lastly, we are thankful for the countless contributions of time, advice, advocacy, and words of encouragement. We are pursuing solutions together and could not do it without you.

The next year promises to be an exciting one and I look forward to seeing you all, in person, soon!

Dr. Nicholas Phelps  
Director, Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center

**2021 Research Report** <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/a5cdaa6b7b284c2ab8bb11dd7d4dc1c6>



Refining and optimizing copper methods for zebra mussel suppression

Building off of previous work, MAISRC researchers set up a lakeside mobile laboratory at Pelican Lake in Crow Wing County to test the effects of different copper concentrations on zebra mussels and native species. They pumped lake water into the mobile lab and used the unique water chemistry metrics to predict the lowest effective dose for zebra mussel suppression. Researchers plan to validate the results and further refine recommendations with an in-lake trial at a different site in 2022.



## Info from the Pelican River Watershed District:

The Sallie-Melissa Water Management Area is comprised of 11,400 acres, including Sallie and Melissa Lakes, the Pelican River (downstream of Little Detroit Lake), Ditch 14, and several small lakes called St. Clair, Muskrat, Mud, and Mill Pond. There are also numerous wetlands, many of which are associated with Ditch 14 and have been drained or partially drained.

There has been increased development pressure in this WMA. There is dense development surrounding Sallie and Melissa Lakes, with relatively small lots and extensive shoreline modifications. Little shoreline remains undeveloped, and in recent years, summer cottages have been converted to homes for year-round use. There is also residential development along the south side of Muskrat Lake and near the western shores of St. Clair Lake. Sallie and Melissa are the largest lakes in the Sallie-Melissa LWQMA, and together they account for about 90 percent of this WMA's surface water. Sallie and Melissa are relatively deep lakes and support important game fish opportunities and other recreational opportunities.

Water quality concerns in this WMA center around improving water quality in Lake Sallie and St. Clair. Lake Sallie is currently considered vulnerable to nutrient impairment, and experiences nuisance algae blooms most summers. Improving water quality in Sallie should also help water quality in Melissa because Sallie is just upstream of Melissa. Lake St. Clair is also listed as impaired by the MPCA for excess nutrients and has an approved TMDL. St. Clair's poor water quality is largely the result of its use as a receiving pond for partially treated sewage effluent for over 50 years. Thick, phosphorus-enriched sediments in St. Clair release phosphorus to the water column and cause severe algae blooms. An alum treatment in 1998 reduced phosphorus loading from to the lake, but after 20 years, the effectiveness of the alum treatment may be waning, as phosphorus concentrations are increasing back to impairment levels.

Aquatic invasive species are another big issue in the Sallie-Melissa WMA, particularly in Sallie, Melissa and Muskrat Lakes.

Emails and Facebook posts will notify owners of treatment dates for flowering rush as we are made aware.

**Did you Know?** Minnesota Statute 169.21 Subdivision 5 states that pedestrians walking along a roadway "shall, when practicable, walk or move on the left side of the roadway or its shoulder giving way to oncoming traffic". **Walk in the direction to face on-coming traffic so you can see the cars and stay safe!**