



The Mel-Sal

President's Message by Mike Becraft

Monday, January 20, 2020

Dear Friends,

Well Carolyn and I have made a major life change, we sold our home of 35 years in Fairfax, Virginia, and built a new home in Fargo. We are starting a new adventure at this point in life and we are very excited. The response from people is "why would you do that?" Carolyn grew up in Fargo, we have tons of friends here, it is a dynamic and growing city with lots of culture and easy to get around, we love our new home, and we are a short drive to Lake Sallie. But it is darn cold here and we have too much snow for these old Virginians, so we are already dreaming of opening the cottage in May and enjoying another great Summer at the lake. We hope you are excited too.

This year we will continue to focus on those things that are important to our members: the 4th of July Boat Parade; the 2020 Home Tour; we will continue to monitor the water quality of our lakes and fight against Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) in coordination with the County and State. Gordy Knudsvig has volunteered to be our new AIS Coordinator and we are delighted to have him on board. We will continue to have Inspectors at our two DNR Launch Sites with the help of the Becker County Soil and Water Conservation District, and we look forward to the Detroit Lakes Waste Water Treatment Plant being fully operational. We have lots going on this Summer and we will be relying on the support of the many volunteers who so kindly and unselfishly give their time and energy.

We are also saddened to announce the loss of several of our lake friends this past year: Dr. Clayton E. Jensen MD, who for years supported the Association as the Water Quality/COLA Coordinator on the Board, Laura Dixon Hinderaker, Maxine "Max" Davies, LaVerne Orma Halverson, and most recently Senator Jocelyn Birch Burdick, the first woman from North Dakota to serve in the US Senate. All spent many happy Summers on Lake Melissa, and they will be missed.

Lastly, I want to thank Sandy Alinder who after many years is stepping down as our Secretary, Sandy is truly one of the greatest supporters of this Association. She will continue to run our FB page, coordinate the Newsletters, and work on our website so she will be close by. And we can now welcome our new Secretary Mary Rotter who is very well known in this Community.

To all have a great Winter. Summer will soon be here and we will see you on June 20, 2020 for the Annual Meeting at the Shoreham Chapel. The Coffee Social begins at 9:30am. The Annual Meeting will follow promptly at 10:00am.

Warm Regards,
Mike Becraft
President

Board of Directors Current-June 2020

President Mike Becraft
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Activities Chairman. Carolyn Becraft
Membership Chairman Vicky Williams
Publicity Chairmen. Marsha Johansen/Sandy Alinder

Ad Hoc Committees

Annual Newsletter Sandy Alinder
Office Manager Open
Property Manager Open
Archivist/Historian Susan Dodd
Septic/Water Quality Lead. Open
AIS Gordy Knudsvig
Home Tour Judy Hatlie
Database Wanda Roden

**Spring Beach Captain's Meeting,
June 27th • 9:00 am
Detroit Country Club**

**Annual Meeting: Saturday, June
20th Social 9:30am • Meeting 10:00
am • Shoreham Chapel**

**Home Tour
June 27th • 10am-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.**

LMSA News

A Note from the Vice President

Welcome to 2020! Looking forward to a glorious summer at the Lakes! Your MelSal Lake Association Board has been working hard updating our Association database and publishing a new Directory. You will see reference to the new database included in this newsletter. The Directory will be distributed at the Annual meeting to those who have paid their Association dues. Many thanks to Wanda Roden, Database Manager and Bob Hatlestad and Tim Wolfe, our Directory creators/layout managers.

Additional thanks go to our head Beach Captains, Rick and Kathy Michaelson and Carole and Paul Schornack, as well as past and present members of the MelSal Board who pounded the pavements last summer and fall obtaining ads for the Directory to help defray printing costs.

The Annual Beach Captains meeting will be held on Saturday, June 27th, this year at the Detroit Lakes Country Club at 9:00. This is after the Annual meeting on June 20th. With the new database and updated Directory coming out this year, I think the Beach Captains will benefit from a later meeting date, in that you/they will have updated information from the Annual Meeting, as well as the new Directory and database.

If you are a Beach Captain, please plan on attending the meeting on June 27th. There is always a wealth of information presented as well as updated lists of those residents who have not paid their annual dues. Since many residents pay their dues at the Annual meeting, we are hoping each Beach Captain's lists of those residents who have not paid dues will be much shorter this year. If you are not a Beach Captain but would like to join our team, please come to the meeting and see what great work our Beach Captains do!

I look forward to seeing everyone in June.
Susan Roberts

ACTIVITIES REPORT 2020

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

Melissa/Sallie Home Tour, Saturday June 27th from 10 AM - 2 PM: Judy Hatlie, ably assisted by her home tour committee, is lining up homes for the tour. We are still looking for one more home each on Sallie and Melissa to highlight as well as volunteers to work in the homes the day of the tour. If interested in assisting please contact Judy (hatliejude@aol.com).

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. We will have new merchandise to enhance your summer wardrobes. A special thanks to Linda Folk for organizing the Jim Dixon Library. I also want to thank Judy Knudsvig for her work in caring for the Shoreham Memorial Garden. There will be a call for volunteers later this spring.

Food Pantry Drive: Once again our Labor Day food drive for the Becker County Food Pantry was a great success. We collected almost 2000 pounds of food and over \$880 in cash donations last year for this worthy charity.

Lastly, the strength of our Association lies with our volunteers. I want to thank all who have volunteered in the past and I look forward to working with you all this summer.

Carolyn Becraft
Activities Chair

A Short History on the Origins of Lake Breeze Cottage

-Marsha Johansen

With so many cabins on Melissa and Sallie in the same family for multiple generations, we can understand the pull this beautiful area had, and we can understand completely why they built here and why so many of us have stayed. The beauty of the area did not go unnoticed by a my great-great grandparents, The Van Kleeks, who purchased the property. Their son-in-law, a young Swedish immigrant named Albert Gustav Johnson, was given the opportunity to purchase what was basically the rest of the bay of Melissa in the late 1800's. For whatever reason other than he refused to buy Fern Beach because it was a "swamp" (something many current beach dwellers can attest to after a major rain) he settled on the land that became Rosevelt and later Roosevelt Beach.

We have been asked countless times when the cottage on the hill was built. My grandma was only able to speculate when she was alive, so several years ago I set forth on the quest to find out. I was able to find some good information at the Becker County Historical Society. The cabin was first listed in the records in 1897 so we know it is at least that old. Al apparently built the cabin after his in-laws, The Van Kleeks, purchased the property on the hill. The census listed them as living in Buck Mills, MN. We have pieced together a picture of the history through photos, stories passed down through the family, and my research.

The original cottage consisted of a kitchen, a living area, and a porch. We can still find where the kitchen stopped and the porch began in the floor of the kitchen today. Having his wife, his two daughters Marion (Vicky Williams' grandmother) and Edna (my grandmother) settled on their farm, he set to building a cabin for his in-laws. That cabin was located at the end of the beach towards the island. Al then set to building the rest of the cabins on the beach. Of the cabins on Roosevelt, many of them still have part of the original structures built by Al.



Life at the lake was challenging to say the least. As we all know, the only transportation to the lake was by steamship from what was then Detroit to Melissa where they were dropped off at the channel. Edith would then have to row over in a large wooden rowboat to pick up Al. That boat became infamous to us as kids as it was abandoned face down in the woods where Stedings now live. As kids we thought it was haunted and had a dead body under it!



Life in the cottage was difficult as well. Al had a very interesting way of building things, and anything

and everything was used. When replacing our bunkhouse step, we discovered that the form he used for the old one was an old iron stove. The walls were all insulated with newspapers and magazines. Al owned a gun shop in Fargo and had many shelving units made from Winchester boxes, and boy did we have an explosion when we burned those! In order to keep food cold in the summer they would have to come in the spring and cut chunks of ice to put in the ice box. The ice house they put them in is still standing on the hill. The land itself was and is still covered with rocks and boulders that they had to move by hand to clear the field to farm. We aren't certain if they used the cabin year 'round but we do have a picture of the original cabin with snow on the ground, but then around here that could be May! Masonic picnics were held for several years in the twenties and thirties, and we have pictures of the revelers standing and playing cards in their suits and ties. Fourth of July celebrations were held yearly, and our guest book dates back to the early 1900's

While it is easy to see why Al chose the land that he did, we can see that the times were simpler but by no means easier. That fact only makes us appreciate the beauty of Lake Breeze Cottage even more.



2019 Boat parade pictures



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

www.melissasallie.com!



The following form makes it easy to mail your 2020 Homeowner fees/donations along with providing updates to our database as we plan the **2020 Directory** (**Deadline date for directory information is March 1, 2020**).

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: _____, 2020

Lake Address: _____ Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

2020 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. The following link can be used for donating through our Gomerchant website:

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

2020 DIRECTORY/DATABASE Information

We are in the process of printing a new Mel/Sal Directory, which will be available in June of 2020.

We need to make sure that the information in the Directory is as up-to-date as possible. Therefore, we need the following contact information sent by **March 1, 2020** to make the printing deadline.

If we do not have this information by **March 1st**, information regarding your property will be printed based on the information that we currently have in our database. Please take time to communicate the following information.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.

Our main form of communication is through email, so we consider this to be a very important piece of your personal information.

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:

Reprinted in part with permission—to see more information, go to http://prwd.org/files/3915/7832/4366/Appendix_B_Lake_Report_Cards_1_2_2020.pdf

Overall Strategy: Maintain Water Quality
Impairment: Listed as impaired for mercury

Subwatershed Lake Cover/Use: 55.8% Open Water 9.4% Developed 3.9% Wetlands 7.7% Cultivated Crops 14.8 Forest 8.4% Grassland

Water Quality	10-Year Average (2008-2017)	Trend
Secchi	11.5 ft.	Improving
Total Phosphorus	20 µg/L	Improving
Ortho Phosphate	5.5 µg/L	Improving
Chlorophyll-a	5.5 µg/L	Improving

Note: Zebra Mussel infested water listing in 2015

Short Term Goals - Year 2025

- Maintain a 5-year mean summer phosphorus concentration at or below 20 µg/L
- Maintain mean summer Secchi depth no less than 10 ft

Long Range Goals – Year 2035

- Maintain a 5-year mean summer phosphorus concentration at or below 20 µg/L
- Maintain mean summer Secchi depth no less than 12 ft

Lake Melissa is the second largest lake within the Pelican River Watershed District. It totals 1,850 acres and reaches a maximum depth of 37 feet, with about ½ of its surface area is considered littoral. Lake Melissa is classified as a mesotrophic lake with good water quality. The Pelican River passes through the lake, entering on the north end from Lake Sallie, outlet into on the south end to Mill Pond. Late summer algal blooms have been observed, typically caused by nutrient movement from the borderline eutrophic Lake Sallie through the Pelican River.

The shoreline on Lake Melissa has been experiencing intense development in recent years to what was already a highly developed lake shore. There has also been a conversion from small, seasonal cottages, to larger, year-round homes. Residential lots are relatively small, which also contributes to the dense development and shoreline modifications.

Shoreline survey results comparing waterfront equipment between 2008 and 2017 showed a drastic increase in quantity of observed waterfront equipment present, which is consistent with the increased development. The amount of motorized watercraft present more than doubled from 225 (2008) to 433 (2017), which, with 399 parcels on the lake, accounts for more than one watercraft per parcel. Personal watercraft (PWC, jetskis) were classified separately for the study, where 172 were observed in 2017, a 300% increase from 2008. As to be expected with an increase on watercraft, there was also a significant increase in boat lifts, both covered and uncovered. Interestingly, the largest increase observed was with the non-motorized watercraft (including stand-up paddleboards, kayaks, paddle boats, etc.) which increase by 360% to a total of 276.

There are several water control structures in the Lake Melissa vicinity. The remnant of a lock and dam system is located approximately 100 feet upstream of Lake Melissa. This lock is no longer active and there are no water level manipulation abilities with the remnant structure, which does not inhibit fish passage. There is a bridge located at the outlet of lake Melissa that forms a slight hydraulic constriction. There are no other dam components, such as piers, stops, or concrete crest present. Approximately 300 feet downstream of the outlet is a large culvert below South Melissa Drive. There is a noticeable difference between the headwater and tailwater elevations at the culvert. Also, the velocity of flow in the channel from the lake to the culvert suggests that the headwater elevation at the culvert is slightly lower than the actual elevation of Lake Melissa.

Bucks Mill Dam is approximately 1.35 miles downstream of lake Melissa. Historically, a water wheel was utilized at the original dam for Buck’s Mill, which is no longer present. At a later date, a second dam was constructed approximately 100 feet upstream of the original. The new dam is used to adjust water level in Mill Pond, and provide water to a downstream MN DNR Fisheries rearing pond. Due to the difference in water lever, this dam has virtually no impact on Lake Melissa water levels.

Overall Strategy: Maintain Water Quality

Impairment: Listed as impaired for mercury

Subwatershed Lake Cover/Use: 46.2% Open Water 10.0% Developed 3.7% Wetlands 7.6% Cultivated Crops 18.0% Forest 14.4% Grassland

Water Quality	10-Year Average (2008-2017)	Trend
Secchi	7.5 ft.	Stable
Total Phosphorus	35 µg/L	Stable
Ortho Phosphate	7 µg/L	Stable
Chlorophyll-a	13 µg/L	Stable

Short Term Goals – Year 2025

- Achieve a 5-year mean summer phosphorus concentration at or below 30 µg/L
- Achieve mean summer Secchi depth no less than 6 ft

Long Range Goals – Year 2035

- Achieve a 5-year mean summer phosphorus concentration at or below 27 µg/L
- Achieve a mean summer Secchi depth no less than 8 ft

Lake Sallie is a 1,273-acre polymictic lake which reaches a maximum depth of 50 feet, with 45% of its surface area is considered littoral. Lake Sallie is classified as a borderline eutrophic lake vulnerable to nutrient impairment. The Pelican River passes through the lake, entering on the north end from Muskrat Lake, outlet into on the south end to Lake Melissa.

Historically, Lake Sallie has had poor water quality, partly due in part to the City of Detroit Lakes use the upstream St. Clair Lake as a discharge point for wastewater. Prior to the construction of the original wastewater treatment facility 1929, untreated wastewater was discharged in the Lake St. Clair, which resulted in phosphorus level in Lake Sallie to be approximately 54ppb, nearly 3 times that of nearby and similar lakes. In 1979, the facility was upgraded. Sallie responded with a decline in phosphorus levels ranging from 46 to 48ppb. The current facility, upgraded in 2002, further reduced load to Lake Sallie resulting in the current mean summer levels between 35 and 37ppb.

While it has greatly improved since the 1970's it continues to exhibit moderate to severe algal blooms are common, often continuous in July and August. These appear to be brought on in part by internal nutrient recycling, whereby nutrient rich water from the bottom layers are brought to the oxygen rich upper layers during lake mixing periods, often triggered by storm event and high winds.

Much of the nutrient load comes from upstream sources, specifically from nutrient rich water from partially drained Lake St. Clair via Becker County Ditch 14. An alum treatment in Lake St. Clair conducted in 1998 reduced internal loading to the lake, and in effect, reduced nutrient loading to the downstream Muskrat and Sallie Lakes. Stormwater Best Management Practices in the City of Detroit Lake has also aided in Lake Sallie improvements by reducing stormwater runoff loads to Little Detroit Lake, which outlets to Sallie.

In the fall of 2016, zebra mussels were located at the public access of the lake. By 2017, the infestation had spread lakewide. The District continues to monitor how the infestation impacts water quality. After only three years, the water clarity has increased to a record summer average of 13 ft. (compared to the previous 10-year average of 7 ft.).

A lock and dam system was installed during the depression era by a Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) crew between Lake Sallie and Muskrat Lake. This structure was removed in 2001 and replaced with a constructed rock rapids outfall at the historic water outlet elevation and no longer allows for any water level manipulation. The Pelican River flows out to Lake Melissa through a culvert under Becker CSAH 22 approximately 200 feet downstream of Lake Sallie. The velocity of flow between the outlet of Sallie and the culvert suggests that the headwater of the culvert may be slightly lower than the true water level in the Lake. There is also a slight hydraulic restriction that appears to control lake level.

Happy 2020 to all Becker County COLA and Lake Association members!

We've had late fall rains and 40 plus inches of snow. Expect water levels to be a little higher this year.

Maintaining the quality of our lakes is our passion and our mission! (See our mission statement below)

This past year we pontooned around Big Detroit Lake to view shoreline restoration and travelled to Lake Koronis to experience, first hand, the impact of Starry Stonewort on the lake and how their Lake Associations are working to stop the spread.

Our May through October monthly meetings were well attended. We hosted guest speakers from the Northland Country Trail, Becker County Museum, The Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC), Becker County Soil & Water, and Minnesota Lakes and Rivers. Stay tuned for our 2020 guest roster!

Other accomplishments include:

Completion of our website at <http://beckercola.org>
Lake Association and BCCOLA members attended area and statewide conferences, including the MNCOLA meetings.

Our mission statement includes:

Section 1. The Becker County Coalition of Lake Associations, hereafter referred to as Becker County COLA is organized for the purpose of facilitating cooperation among member Lake Associations to protect and enhance the quality of lakes and their shore areas.

Section 2. Becker County COLA will sponsor a water quality monitoring program, assist in the identification of environmental impacts to lakes, communicate information to association members and the public regarding the preservation of lakes as an important natural resource, develop and present recommendations related to shoreland development, coordinate and cooperate with County, State and other appropriate agencies in maintaining and improving water quality.

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.goemerchant.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 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.

Two of our Executive Committee members took part in zoning discussions for a possible new campground on Toad Lake that was finally voted down by the county commissioners. Thanks to Jennifer Heitman Thompson for countless hours of attending meetings and ordinance review!

The detrimental effect of wake boats on lake ecology has become a topic of discussion in our area and across the state. More information will become available as future studies are done and information released.

Your BCCOLA Executive Team hopes that you had a wonderful 2019 and that you have an even better 2020! THANK YOU for your continued support of our efforts and a sincere commitment to keeping our lakes and rivers viable for future generations.

Sincerely,
Rich Cieslak
BCCOLA President