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# THE Aerie

A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF THE BIG MANTRAP LAKE ASSOCIATION

## Are you a member of the Big Mantrap Lake Association?

Are you a member of the lake association? It only costs \$25/year. The lake association works to protect the lake by:

- AIS efforts - boat inspections, treatments, visual water inspections
- Water quality monitoring - monthly water samples, weekly clarity readings
- Placement of channel buoys
- Publication of the Aerie
- Maintenance of property owners list
- Twice yearly meetings
- Loon program
- Participation in Hubbard County COLA programs

If you are not a member of the lake association, please use the form on the back to join and submit your dues to help protect your lake and support your lake association.

If you haven't made your contribution to our AIS efforts, please send your check to Linda Zawacki (address on the form).

## Early Winter on Big Mantrap Lake October 2020

We picked an interesting year to stay on Big Mantrap later than usual. On October 17, we received about four inches of wet beautiful snow. This was followed by another three to five inches of much colder, dryer snow on Tuesday and again on Thursday. It was absolutely beautiful, but got a little old when we didn't see a temperature over 32 degrees for about ten days in October.

Even those neighbors used to Minnesota winters told us this was very unusual. We enjoyed seeing ice form at the edges of the lake, bear paw prints in the snow, snow on the trees and bushes. There are still juvenile loons on the lake and more swans to see. Otters have been more visible with fewer people around. We are somewhat

concerned with a bear or two who haven't taken cover in a den yet. We left in early November, but have enjoyed seeing a little more winter than in past years. This photo was taken on October 23, 2020 shows the view from Widow's Point Road with ice and snow in the foreground.



# Hubbard County COLA Updates

BY BURNEY FISCHER

I represent the BMLA on the HCCOLA Board and participate in all meetings, committees as appropriate and other activities. BMLA President Rich Halvorsen also participates in meetings as needed.

HCCOLA has had a successful 2020 with monthly meeting conducted via Zoom. The typical monthly meeting agenda is a guest speaker(s) and discussion, followed by a business meeting. Meetings are open and available for anyone to attend. Topics covered this year have focused on AIS programs, educational programs on loons and insects, lake preservation programs, the Kabekona Lake Aquatic Management Area program as well as continuing updates from active COLA committees.

The HCCOLA website (<http://hubbardcolamn.org/index.html>) is an excellent resource to see meeting schedules, follow activities and initiatives and just plain stay informed. A new initiative by the COLA is a monthly e-newsletter that is available to anyone who's interested. Here's a link to the October 2020 newsletter which also provides info on how to register for this free newsletter (<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IPpBzyxDTCZreVtkdvU8yTf0vySAFMkT/view>).

## Board members

Rich Halvorsen - President  
Jim Zawacki - Vice President  
Linda Zawacki - Treasurer  
Kathy Nevins - Secretary  
Barb Fischer - Aerie  
Brian Livingston - AIS  
Julie Mickelberg - board member

## Other program leads

Loons - Barry Guptill  
Water Quality - Burney Fischer  
Zebra mussel veliger testing - Dave Myhre  
Ice in/Ice out reporting - Sue Ryan

## Big Mantrap Lake Association Membership Form, please print

check one:  New member  Renew  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Mantrap Lake address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Do you receive mail at this address during July?  Yes.  No  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Winter address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

Membership dues are \$25 for full membership, or \$15 for the newsletter only. They are due in December. Make checks payable to **Big Mantrap Lake Association**, and mail them to Linda Zawacki, 2319 Moreland Court East, Maplewood MN 55119.

## Big Mantrap Lake ice in fall/winter 2020

The October cold temperatures, early accumulating snow and the hint that the lake will become ice covered early set me to wondering about the timing of the BML Ice In for 2020, might it set a new standard? So, I checked in with MN DNR's Lake Finder website at <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind> and found:

### Definition of Lake Ice In

The definition of lake ice in can vary from lake to lake. For the citizen observers reporting data, ice in occurs when the entire lake is frozen over for the first time and the ice cover remains through winter. Observers do not report ice thickness.

### Big Mantrap Lake Ice In History

Median ice in date: November 27      Earliest ice in date: November 11, 2018  
Latest ice in date: December 9, 2016      Period of record: 1977 to 2019  
# of observations: 8

### My summary and observations

I was surprised at the small sample size (8) for a 42 year time period. Interesting that the earliest (2018) and latest (2016) are both very recent, but not surprised that the two dates are 28 days apart. My recollection in talking with long term Big Mantrap Lake residents is that Thanksgiving is a good average date, and that seems to coincide nicely with this limited data set.

Since we live on Hoist Bay our observations are mostly of the east end of BML. My first observation of lake edge ice was the morning of October 19 in Pine Cone Bay near Fremont Point.

Finally, a reminder that the median Mantrap Lake ice out date is **April 25!**

## Forever a Mantrapper

**Fran Laske** died August 31, 2020. She was a year-round resident with her husband Lyle in their cabin on Junco Drive at Birch Point until a couple of years ago. <https://www.brenny.com/obituary/Francine-Laske>

**Marge Stell** died September 15, 2020 in Iowa. She was a summer resident until recently in her cabin on Jefferson Trail between Hoist and Steamboat Bays. <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/press-citizen/obituary.aspx?n=alice-margery-stell-marge&pid=196805825&fhid=31125>.

**Bob Landrigan** died suddenly October 16, 2020. His cabin is in the former Ladyslipper resort area of the lake. <https://www.parkrapidsenterprise.com/obituaries/obits/6723997-Robert-%E2%80%9CBob%E2%80%9D-Landrigan>

**Bruce Wolff** died May 8, 2020 in Scottsdale, AZ, where he retired from his Illinois dentistry practice. He has visited Big Mantrap annually at the former Lady Slipper resort since the late 1940s with his parents and family. He and his wife Sharon built their own place on Mirror Bay around 2000. Their place was sold to Joe and Kristi Crawford in June of 2017. <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/chicagotribune/obituary.aspx?n=bruce-lee-wolff&pid=196224877>