



PINE VIEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE
BIG PINE LAKES ASSOCIATION

August 2016

P.O. Box 190 Finlayson, MN 55735
<http://minnesotawaters.org/bigpinelakes/>

BPLA Board of Directors

- John Mueller, Chairman (6)
612-790-5795, Big Pine Lake
- Jim Stevenson, Co-Chair (2)
stevensonjc@comcast.net, Pine Lk
- Roger Olson, Treasurer (2)
rogero@advantagesgs.com, Pine Lk
- Dave Schinkoeth, Director (3)
651-777-5714, Big Pine Lake
- Jeff Lindgren, Director (2)
jeffreyd@frontier.com Big Pine Lk
- Greg Tavernier, Director (2)
tavernx2@gmail.com, Big Pine Lk
- Ron Redding, Director (1)
randsredding@frontier.com, Pine Lk
- Don Fornell, Director (1)
djfornell@yahoo.com, Pine Lake

(Years of service noted in parenthesis)

BPLA Committee Leaders

- Boat Parade:
 - North lake - Lisa Drake
 - South lake - Rick Meier
- Fireworks: Jim Stevenson
- Logowear: Roger Olson
- Membership: John Mueller
- Merchant Directory: Roger Olson
- Newsletter: John Mueller
- Picnic: Ken & Ardie Johnson
- Projects / Road Cleanup:
 - Roger Olson
- Volunteer Committee:
 - Don Fornell
- Water Quality: Dwight Benoy
- Fish Habitat: Dave Schinkoeth
- Website: Cathy Stevenson

Chairman's Column

John Mueller

The Labor Day Weekend is fast approaching, which for many will mean the end of summer around the lakes and back to school or the beginning of planning fall and winter travel. It's been a great summer around the lakes with much activity going on. After a great Memorial Day weekend, Don Fornell hosted a volunteer day in June, which helped set the tone for the summer. We followed up with July 4th weekend boat parades and fireworks, which were attended by many again this year. Ken and Ardie Johnson hosted the BPLA picnic at their house on July 16th, which was also the weekend many of us were dealing with 40" plus of additional water along our shorelines. Fortunately the water has receded and everything is starting to look normal again.

Our Labor Day meeting is just around the corner, so please set your calendars to join us. We will be meeting on Saturday, September 3rd at the Finlayson Community Center. Coffee and donuts will be available at 9:00 with the general meeting scheduled to start at 10:00.

The meeting agenda for Labor Day includes the annual election of our BPLA board along with updates from all the committee members.

The election process is fairly engaged this year as we will have a number of members who have completed their current 2 year terms, one resignation and one final year. Three current board members have completed their first 2 year term and have expressed an interest in continuing to serve:

- Pine Lake: Jim Stevenson and Roger Olson
- Big Pine Lake: Jeff Lindgren.

Their names will be included on the election ballot during the meeting to represent their respective lakes. Greg Tavernier will not be seeking a reelection due to extended travel plans forthcoming and John Mueller has reached his 6th year of serving and will not be eligible to continue on the board per BPLA by-laws for 1 year. Both John and Greg currently represent Big Pine Lake members. If you are interested in including your name on the election ballot for the 2 open positions on Big Pine Lake, or would like to be considered as a representative on the ballot for Pine Lake, please send an email to me with your name and I will include it on the election ballot.

Please plan on attending the meeting if you are interested in serving on the board.

If you are interested in BPLA logowear, it will be available for sale before the meeting starting at 9:00.



Pine Views

4th of July Boat Parades

Rick Meier / Lisa Drake

July 3rd was a beautiful day for the 2016 BPLA Boat Parade!! On the South Lake there were 10 families from around the lake showing off their creative energies.

1st Place Winners: Joe and Tammy Plasek, with the Tiki Bar inspiration, complete with a dancing hula... girl?

2nd Place Winners: Jerry and Nancy Ludwig for reminding us that winter is just around the corner with "Christmas in July!!

Other South Lake participants included:

- Elijah's Little Red Wagon – Olson Family
- Summer Olympics – Johnson Family
- Uncle Sam/July 4th – Dexter Family
- Red, White and Blue – Raddatz Family
- Old Glory – Shirley Family
- Happy 4th of July – Persuitti Family
- Boat Parade - Lou Beardsley
- Little Boat – Tim & Belinda
- Mary's 70th B-Day Bash – Meier Family

On the North Lake there were 8 families represented in the parade

1st Place Winners: The Pinestones boat by the Collova and Sorenson Families. Fred, Wilma, BamBam and Dino were enjoying a sunny day on the lake.

2nd Place Winners: The Carnival boat by the Zack Family was complete with dancing clowns and balloons.

Other North Lake participants included:

- The Minnesota Wild Hockey pontoon – Lee Family.
- Red, White and Blue – Corbo Family
- The Star Wars – Robins Family
- The Banana Boat Charter – Mueller Family
- Purple Rain – Hall Family
- Red, White and Blue – Shinkoeth Family

For pictures and additional details on the boat parade, check out Events tab on the BPLA Website!

Nextdoor

John Mueller

As reported at the Memorial Day meeting, we have established a community on **Nextdoor**, which is a free and private social network for neighborhoods. Our "community" is called Big Pine/Pine Lakes and includes approximately 300 homes and cabins in and around our 2 lakes. The purpose of establishing this community is to allow members to share information ("how high is the water", "I have a lawn mower to sell", etc) and to better connect with one another. Participation is completely optional and free. It is open to any individual(s) who owns property within the boundaries of our community that has a valid email address. Participation is not limited to BPLA Members only, so please encourage all your neighbors to join. To join Nextdoor, access their website on the web at www.nextdoor.com or download their app onto your mobile phone.

Audobon Center – Smithsonian "Waterways"

John Mueller

The Audubon Center of the North Woods (ACNW) on Grindstone Lake announced recently that they will be hosting an exhibit from the Smithsonian called "Waterways". Sandstone is one of 6 small towns and Minnesota is one of 5 initial states chosen by the Smithsonian to participate in this new touring exhibit. Four large presentation panels from the Smithsonian, as well as companion exhibits contributed by MN Pollution Control and a story-telling kiosk assembled by the MN Humanities Center, will be on display in their Crosby Lounge for the duration of the exhibit. The display will be available for viewing from November 19 through January 1. For more information, check out the events tab on their website:

www. <http://audubon-center.org/event/smithsonian-waterways-exhibit/>

August 2016

Call Before You Build- for Lakeshore Protection

*By: Caleb Anderson,
Pine County Planning and Zoning*

If you own land within 1,000 feet of Pine or Big Pine Lake you will be subject to shoreland zoning requirements. Though the term "zoning requirements," can induce headaches and/or comas for most people, zoning is an important tool to keep our lakes healthy and neighborhoods valuable in these treasured environments. The best advice we can give shoreland property owners is to call your permitting authority before constructing a building, doing significant dirt work, installing rip rap, clearing brush and trees for a lake view, changing the use of property (ie. turning your residential home into a business), or constructing any impervious surface such as a deck, patio, sidewalk, driveway, or stairway. Some of these activities may not require a permit but will still be subject to a few design guidelines to help protect the integrity of the lake.

The biggest change we have made this year in Pine County is that we now require a permit for driveways and parking areas, as well as patios placed within the required building setback for the given lake. For example on Big Pine Lake you would need a permit to construct a patio within 100' of the lake. The reason this requirement was added is because we also have a requirement that lots may not exceed 25% lot coverage with impervious surface. By requiring permits for driveways, parking areas, and patios we will be able to keep a closer monitor on property development so that lots do not exceed 25% lot coverage with impervious surface, which helps reduce surface runoff and improves water quality.

The Pine Lake area is unique as it is right on the county border. Pine County Planning and Zoning is the permitting authority for lake property owners within Pine County and we can be reached at 320-216-4220. Aitkin County Environmental Services is the permitting authority for lake property owners in Aitkin County and they can be reached at 218-927-7342.

Invasive Species

Shared by Ron Redding

Here is a recent article from the Pine County Courier.

Boaters need to know invasive species laws

Minnesota boaters and nonresident anglers renewing their licenses will now need to sign a card affirming they know the state's aquatic invasive species laws.

Watercraft owners and nonresident anglers must read and sign the affirmation during their regular license renewal, then keep it with them, along with their license. The affirmation demonstrates understanding that Minnesota law requires license holders to:

- * Clean aquatic plants and prohibited invasive species from watercraft.
- * Drain lake or river water from all equipment and keep drain plugs out during transport.
- * Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash, not in the water.

"No one needs to renew their license earlier than usual, and there is no additional cost or training involved," said April Rust, DNR invasive species coordinator. "This is a simple way of making sure more people using our lakes and rivers know how to follow the laws designed to protect them."

"The affirmation is another positive step in the state's proactive efforts to keep 95 percent of Minnesota lakes off the infested waters list," said Heidi Wolf DNR invasive species unit supervisor. "This season, the state also implemented mandatory training for anyone convicted of violating invasive species laws. Minnesotans are serious about preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species and the recreational, environmental and economic harm they cause."

Details about the affirmation and other measures that support Minnesota's aquatic invasive species laws are at www.mndnr.gov/affirmation.

Pine Views

Project Day – June 18

Don Fornell

We had a good turn out with 11 volunteers on Saturday, June 18. We worked on cleaning up the buffer zones by the landing and the picnic area by the narrows. We replaced and/or repaired signage on the Scenic Overlook and Narrows due to vandalism and cut down and removed dead falls from an earlier storm. The trail system was weed-whipped and cleaned up without harming Mother Nature's beautiful array of ferns. If you have never taken the time to walk the trail and see the lake from a higher than normal vantage point, grab the hand of a child and take a walk and get a birdseye view. Rocks/boulders were removed from the Narrows, so it could be navigated safely between the lakes once the water is at a normal level. All in all we had a good day, accomplished many things and made a list of other things to do on the next Project Day this summer. Come join us make the Pine Lakes a better place and share a "box" of homemade cookies.

See you next time! Thanks again to all the volunteers.

Telephone Tower Update

Jeff Lindgren

GOOD NEWS: As many of you have probably noticed, Verizon has begun service on the new cell tower at the northwest corner of Big Pine Lake on the north side of Highway 18. The service began Thursday, July 14. This is great news for all Verizon customers but not so much for people with other service plans. I called the owner of the tower recently to find out if there are any plans to add AT&T, T-Mobile or other service providers. He indicated they have received no requests from any of the other carriers but that people could call their provider and tell them a tower was just built in our area with service from Verizon.

On another note I recently had a call from a supervisor at Frontier Communications. Frontier provides internet access to many people on our lakes through the phone lines and as you may know, service is not that great for a LOT of people. He said that the Finlayson area will receive upgrades to its infrastructure in our area beginning next year, that the vast majority of customers will have a minimum of 5 Mbps download speeds and that faster speeds will be available.

Local Businesses

Please patronize the businesses
that support the BPLA!
They are important to our success!

A&M Pumps	320-676-3386
Aitkin County Sheriff	218-927-7435
American Septic	320-384-7300
Bjorklund & Sons Construction	320-245-2879
Chris' Food Center	320-245-2229
D&E Heating/AC	320-384-0066
Double W Tree Service	320-279-1472
East Central Energy	800-254-7944
Federated Co-ops	320-245-5576
Finlayson Ag & Hardware	320-233-7372
Geise Bed & Breakfast	888-220-0234
Hayland Woods Native Nursery	320-983-2584
John Andreason Heating	320-233-6068
Lake State Federal Credit Union	320-245-5251
Lampert Lumber	320-245-2276
LaRose Greenhouse & Nursery	320-233-7455
Man's Mowing	320-630-5336
Maple Run Orchard	320-279-1306
Marce Hemming Real Estate	651-387-3874
Matt's Sanitation	320-384-7137
MJC Equipment, Inc	320-245-5127
Moose Lake Implement & Sport	218-485-4486
Mora Marine	320-679-1262
MPJ Enterprises	320-245-5127
Northview Bank	320-233-7575
Paul's Portables	320-245-6802
Peterson's New & Used	320-233-6429
Pine County Sheriff	320-629-8380
Pine Lake Mini Storage	320-233-6394
Purple Pumper	320-384-0655
Rapit Printing	651-633-4600
Sandee's Salon	320-233-6192
Sandstone Ace Hardware	320-245-2235
Schoenrock Construction	320-233-6192
Septic Check	320-983-2447
Town & Country Insurance	320-233-6684
United Country Real Estate	320-245-2235