



PINE VIEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE
BIG PINE LAKES ASSOCIATION
MAY 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

Welcome back to the lake to all of our winter snow birds! It's been a great start to our year at the lakes and summer is shaping up to be a beauty. The association board has been actively working with the DNR and the State of Minnesota on the water levels on the lakes. Dave Schinkoeth has been engaged in conversation with the DNR Hydrologist in Brainerd in regards to replacing the missing boards on the dam on the north outlet of Big Pine. The objective is to maintain a water level in the lake at a level of 1082.40 feet, which the state has prescribed for Big Pine. For reference, last fall, the lake recorded a record low level of 1081.60, approximately 9" below what is considered normal.

We have also been engaging a trapper to attempt to remove the beavers that have been continuously causing damage in and around the dam area on Big Pine.

If you've had the opportunity to drive by the dam this spring at all, you've probably noticed the significant pile of debris that has been accumulating on the dam. The state had a contractor remove all the existing debris in early May and is in the process of replacing the missing boards on the dam.

As a reminder, our Memorial Day Membership meeting is right around the corner. The meeting is scheduled for May 28th at the Finlayson Community Center - social time starts at 9:15 with donuts and coffee, the actual meeting starts at 10 am. Our guest speaker at the meeting will be Leslie George, our new DNR Conservation Officer assigned to the lakes.



BPLA Picnic

A special Thank You also goes out to Ken and Ardie Johnson as they have volunteered to host the BPLA picnic at their house on **July 16th.**

More details on the picnic will be shared at the Memorial Day meeting.



Pine Views

Pine County 2016 AIS Education and Prevention

Roger Olson

In the last newsletter I did a recap of the Pine County AIS planning meeting last December. In this article I would like to give an update on what Pine County is doing this summer to combat AIS in the county and our lakes. In 2016 the county has hired 6 watercraft inspectors (up from 4 in 2015) to spend time at public landings on weekends, inspecting boats coming and going from the main lakes in the county. Last year they were only on Big Pine Lake twice over the summer. They hope to increase that this year with the additional staff. Inspectors are a great educational resource showing boaters how to clean the weeds from boats and trailers. The county has asked the lake associations if they would have members interested in volunteering at the boat landings to educate boaters. We will be discussing this at the meeting but please contact me if you are interested. The county is working with the DNR on a training class for new volunteers. They do offer an online refresher training class if you have attended an in-person training session in 2014 or 2015. In person training is required every 3 years. More details will be available at the meeting.

The county has received the results of an AIS risk assessment from RMB Environmental Laboratory. RMB looked at Pine County's major lakes and evaluated such things as water chemistry, substrate, lakefront property density, and public boat launch presence. These variables were all scored to help us understand how susceptible each lake is to an AIS infestation. There is very good information about Big Pine Lake included in this report.

This document is shared on Pine County's homepage www.co.pine.mn.us.

The county is also offering free educational seminars on AIS in May in our area. To learn more and to register, please contact Angelique Dahlberg, Invasive Species Coordinator, at angeliqued@scramail.com or 715-483-3300.

Topic: AIS plants
May 24, 2016; 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Tobies Restaurant & Bakery
404 Fire Monument Road
Hinckley, MN 55037

Topic: AIS Animals & Fish
May 26, 2016 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Sturgeon Lake City Hall
3084 Farm to Market Road
Sturgeon Lake, MN 55783

4th of July Weekend

Jim Stevenson

The BPLA Boat Parade and Fireworks display this year will be on **Sunday July 3rd**.

The **Boat Parades** will start at 5:00, with registration starting at 4:30. The South Lake registration is at the boat launch by the Narrows. The North Lake registration is at Drake's dock on the last point on the NW bay towards the narrows. Everyone is invited to participate with participation prizes being awarded to all. First and second place prizes will be awarded to the most creative and enthusiastic crews!

The **Fireworks** will start at dusk (approximately 10:00 PM) near the public landing on the south lake. Once again we have engaged Pyrotechnic Display, Inc to provide the fireworks and this year's show will be longer than recent years.

Did you know that the fireworks are paid only from funds donated for that purpose? If you enjoy the fireworks and you have not already done so, you can still make a contribution at the May membership meeting or you can send a check to the BPLA.

A word about safety: Please stay behind the buoys which are placed in the water to keep boats at a safe distance from where the launching site. Please also remember to have the proper lighting on your boats when navigating back to your home after the show.

Advance thanks go out to Pat and Don Makela for allowing the BPLA to launch fireworks from their property, to Rich and Mike Karel and their families for providing the torches to guide you through the narrows, and to Rick Meier and Lisa Drake for hosting the Boat Parades.



May 2016

HOW TO USE YOUR CELLPHONE IN AN EMERGENCY

Ron Redding

As we wait for the Big Pine Lake area to have improved cellular service it is important to know what to do if an emergency occurs and you need to contact 911 using your cell phone.

When making a 911 call a landline phone is your best choice. When a 911 call is made from a landline phone, emergency personnel can immediately pinpoint your exact location. With a cell phone, calls must be routed to the nearest emergency call center and then GPS is used to determine your location.

With the growth in cellular communications over 70% of 911 calls made today are on wireless phones. This shift has created challenges, but despite the challenges, cell phones can be a great tool in an emergency.

What you need to know

1. "No Service" doesn't always mean no service. The FCC requires network providers to transmit 911 calls regardless of whether you use that carrier's service or not. So what does that mean? If your provider doesn't have coverage in the area, your cell phone will show that it has no service, but another provider may offer coverage in that area and will transmit your 911 call.

Old cell phones that are no longer under contract with a carrier will also make 911 calls as long as the cell phone has power and can reach a signal. Calls cannot be returned to the cell phone because there is no longer a number associated to the device. So if the call is disconnected, you will have to call back.

2. "Know your location". When using a cell phone tell the emergency operator your location right away. This will help to ensure the nearest emergency response team is sent. Many times the call may have been routed to an emergency operator in a location further away than the nearest response team. There are two pieces of information the operator will want to know immediately:

- a) The closest city you are calling from
- b) The type of emergency you have (police, fire or ambulance)

3. Keep calm and speak slowly.

- Call takers are trained to get information from you. They will be asking all of the relevant questions. Listen carefully and answer as concisely as possible. Responders can only respond if they know where they are going. Make sure you get the location as detailed as possible. Know your 911 address.

- Finally, do not hang up until instructed to do so. Anything can happen and the emergency services needs to know your situation at all times.

Membership Committee

John Mueller

Our 2016 Membership campaign is well under way. To-date, we have 190 families who have submitted their association fees. In addition to their annual membership fees, members have also helped by making contributions to our Water Quality Projects fund, 4th of July Fireworks fund (to be held Sunday, July 3rd) and the Food Shelf fund. Thanks to each of you for your contributions and commitments to-date.

For those who have yet to renew/join the 2016 BPLA family, find our annual membership form on our web site at www.minnesotawaters.org/bigpinelakes/. Please complete the form and mail it with your check to Big Pine Lakes Association, PO Box 190, Finlayson, MN 55735 or bring it with you to the May membership meeting.

As an added benefit to joining the BPLA association we will provide all attendees at the upcoming May 28th Membership Meeting copies of our 2016 Membership Directory, a listing of all BPLA members and their lake addresses. If you are unable to attend the meeting and would like a copy of the directory, please send an email to johnmueller17@gmail.com with your request.

Pine Views

Logo Wear Available at Meeting!

Roger Olson

BPLA logo-wear will be available at the May membership meeting. Come and checkout the variety of items you can purchase to promote our lake association. We have pullover and zip hoodies, T shirts, polo shirts and hats. Youth sizes are also available on several items. We will have a new Camo Hex pull over that you will want to see.

Keep your beverages cold with our can coolers or serve your drinks in the **BPLA** insulated tumblers.



Telephone Tower Update

Jeff Lindgren

There have been quite a few people asking about the new cell tower that was built on Highway 18 near the northwest corner of Big Pine Lake. I recently contacted both the land owner and the company that built the tower and they don't have any news about when a cell phone service provider will be installing the antennas that would provide service.

The tower is a multi-tenant tower for up to four providers, not only for Verizon as has been suspected. I was told that if any provider wanted to bring service to the tower that they would be able to without any exclusive period for one provider. Verizon was the reason the tower was built now but if AT&T or T-Mobile wanted to expand service here they could without delay.

The company that built the tower reminded me that the squeaky wheel gets the grease and to call your provider and complain about the service at your cabin and that there is a tower nearby waiting for antennas. If we hear anything new we will certainly let you know at our next meeting or in our next newsletter.

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