



# PINE VIEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE  
BIG PINE LAKES ASSOCIATION

May 2017

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

## BPLA Board of Directors

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(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

Jim Stevenson

Welcome back to the lake. I know we are looking forward to another great summer on the Big Pine/Pine Lakes.

A person recently stated to me that an association is only as good as its members. I've been very impressed with the members of the Big Pine Lakes association. I believe that we have higher than average participation. You may have noticed on our calendar that we have a "work day" scheduled every month. I strongly encourage you and your families to participate in these weekends. Each of the projects is designed to improve the lake and surrounding areas. These work weekends are also a great way to stay connected with other members of the association. There are many opportunities to share time by being involved in the various committees.

I'm also very impressed by the generosity of our members with contributions to the food shelves, fireworks and water quality projects. Thank you for those contributions. Remember that we are a 501(c)(3) organization and all donations are tax deductible.

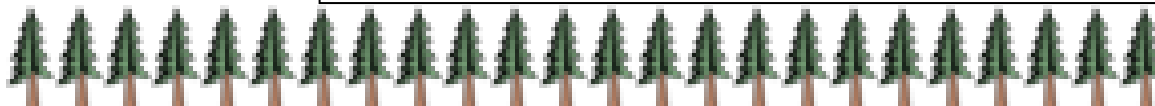
This is your association and the board is here to serve you. Please let any board member know if there are any projects you would like considered or issues that need to be solved. We do take all matters seriously and do our best to address your concerns.

I look forward to seeing each of you at our spring membership meeting on May 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:00. Come early to enjoy coffee and donuts with your neighbors, buy your raffle tickets, and purchase your Big Pine logo wear.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer at the lake.

### Membership Meeting

May 27<sup>th</sup>, Membership Meeting at the Finlayson Community Center- social time with donuts and coffee starts at 9:15am, meeting starts at 10am.



# PINE VIEWS

## Next Door

Roger Olson

Have you checked out Next Door and our Big Pine/Pine Lake community site?

To date we have almost 100 families that have joined our community to share ideas and helpful information with their neighbors. People are using Nextdoor to:

- Quickly get the word out about a break-in
- Find out who does the best paint job in town
- Ask for help keeping an eye out for a lost dog
- Sell or give away an outgrown bike
- Spread the word about local events
- Provide support to neighbors in need

Those are just a few of the ways to use NextDoor to connect with neighbors at the lake.

For the lake association, it is one more way to help everyone be aware of upcoming meetings, roadside clean up days, project days and 4<sup>th</sup> of July activities. If you haven't signed up, check it out at Nextdoor.com or download the NextDoor app on your cell phone.

## BPLA Volunteer Days

Don Fornell

**June 17, 2017**

**Project Day**

**July 15, 2017**

**Project Day**

**August 19, 2017**

**Project Day**

**September 16, 2017**

**Project Day**

**September 23, 2017**

**Roadway Clean-up**

*All volunteer events start at 9:00 am  
Meet at the South Lake Boat Landing  
Snack & beverage provided during each event!*



## Golf Outing

Jeff Lindgren.

There will be a 9-hole golf tournament June 10 at the Sandstone Golf Course for anyone interested. There will be a signup sheet at the BPLA Association meeting on Saturday, May 27. If you cannot make the meeting, please call Gail at 320-233-6258 and she can add your name to the list.

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## Membership Committee

John Mueller

Our 2017 Membership campaign is well under way. To date, we have 192 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 Saturday, July 1) 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 2017 BPLA family, find our annual membership form on our web site at [www.minnesotawaters.org/bigpinelakes/](http://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 27th Membership Meeting copies of our 2017 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.

Please encourage your neighbors, families and frequent lake guests to also support the BPLA so that we can continue to enjoy the activities around the lake and invest in its future.

BPLA Mailing address is PO Box 190, Finlayson, MN 55735

# May 2017

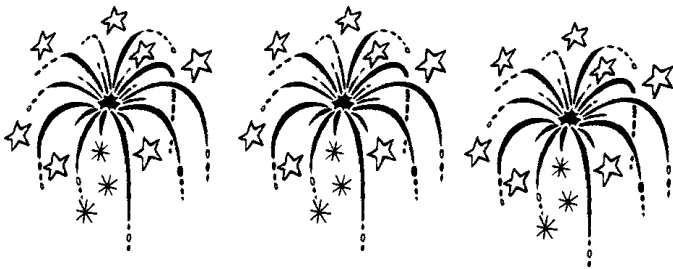
## 4th of July Festivities

Jim Stevenson

The 2017 **4<sup>th</sup> of July** festivities on Big Pine Lakes will be on Saturday July 1<sup>st</sup> this year.

Registration for the **BPLA Boat Parades** begins at 4:30 PM with the parades beginning at 5:00 PM. 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. If you are not participating in the parade, be sure to sit on your docks and show your appreciation for the amazing creativity. Remember that the BPLA provides a "goodie" bag for all families who participate.

The **Fireworks** will be that same night at 10:00 sharp on the south lake. Please stay behind the buoys which are placed in the water to keep boats at a safe distance from the launching site. Please also remember to use your lights when navigating in the dark. There will be many boats out there and we want everyone to be safe.



## BPLA Picnic

Ron Redding

Mark your calendars for the 2017 BPLA picnic which will be held July 15<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 PM at Ken and Ardie Johnson's home on Pine Lake located at 12375 104<sup>th</sup> Place. Ken and Ardie have graciously offered to host the picnic again this year after having outdone themselves last year. We had approximately 60 people attend last year's picnic which unfortunately coincided with some of the highest water levels we had seen on our lakes in years. Many of you may have been unable to attend since you were probably looking for dock sections, boats, pontoons or small children or pets that may have floated away. (Hope you found everything).

Tables and chairs and a great yard for socializing are provided by Ken and Ardie. BPLA will provide the burgers, hot dogs and sodas. You just need to bring yourself, family and friends, a side dish or dessert to share and your own cooler if you prefer something other than sodas to drink. Looking forward to a great summer and a chance to see everyone on the lake and at the BPLA picnic.

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## BPLA LogoWear

Roger Olson

Plan to check out all the BPLA logo wear items we have available at the spring Lake Association meeting coming in May. We have hoodie sweatshirts in sizes from youth small to 3XL. There should be something to fit everyone. Also available are hats, T shirts, cups, koozies and towels. Make a list for all those summer birthdays.

Currently the only time to buy the BPLA logo wear is at the spring and fall meetings. I have heard a few people comment that it would be nice to have access around the 4th of July for guests to be able to purchase merchandise. I am looking into that option (not sure how exactly) but if you have interest please let me know at the spring Lake Association meeting.

## Strawberry Creek

Dave Schinkoeth

Last summer the Strawberry Creek area experienced some heavy wash out along the shores during the heavy rains in July causing mass amounts of sediment to reshape the water flow. Since this stream is one of the major spawning areas for walleye in the lakes, we have begun conversations with DNR fisheries, DNR stream restoration people, the DNR water hydrologist staff from Brainerd and the Aitken county commissioner to discuss options for addressing the changes and the impact to the spawning areas. There are no immediate updates as of this writing. Hopefully there will be more information to share at the Memorial Day BPLA meeting.

## Internet Service Update

Jeff Lindgren

As a Frontier phone customer, I get my internet service from them as well. Many of you are well aware of the intermittent and sometimes really poor speeds we see on their network. The service for the entire Big Pine Lake area originates at the little white hut on Big Pine Cutoff, or Co. Rd. 37, about a quarter mile east of Big Pine Road. For some customers in the area it is three miles or even further to their home along the copper wire serving their homes. This is a really long distance for DSL, the most common method of internet access, to work, resulting in less than 1 Mbps (mega-bit per second) bandwidth, below the minimum for what many consider to be high speed internet.

Frontier had told me last fall that they were going to be upgrading their system starting this year and from what I was told, speeds would be a minimum of 5 Mbps depending on how close you are to the new "node". They were also going to offer enhanced speeds at additional premium costs for those interested. The latest news is that we are not going to be upgraded this year, but maybe next year

## Local Businesses

A&M Pumps	320-676-3386
Aitkin County Sheriff	218-927-7435
American Septic	320-384-7300
Chris' Food Center	320-245-2229
D&E Heating/AC	320-384-0066
DB Cleaning	320-233-0878
East Central Energy	800-254-7944
Finlayson Ag & Hardware	320-233-7372
Finlayson Storage	612-229-9205
Geise Bed & Breakfast	888-220-0234
Hayland Woods Native Nursery	320-983-2584
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
Matt's Sanitation	320-384-7137
Moose Lake Implement & Sport	218-485-4486
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
Round and Round Farms	320-233-7234
Sandy's Salon	320-233-6192
Sandstone Ace Hardware	320-245-2235
Schoenrock Construction	320-233-6192
Town & Country Insurance	320-233-6684
United Country Real Estate	320-245-2502

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