



# PINE VIEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE  
BIG PINE LAKES ASSOCIATION

**August 2018**

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

## Chairman's Column

John Mueller

Summer is quickly coming to a close as we approach the Labor Day holiday weekend and back to school time for many families. It's been a great year around the lakes again in 2018, with much excitement throughout the months. After a late ice out in April, the BPLA team was able to deploy our loon nesting platforms in 4 areas around the lakes. Memorial Day arrived shortly after and memories of a long winter quickly dissipated and turned into summer fun; I don't think I even remember seeing spring.

We enjoyed our July 4<sup>th</sup> Fireworks and boat parade during the last weekend in June to accommodate a mid-week July 4<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped bring the fireworks and boat parade activities together for all to enjoy. It helps make memories of a great summer for both young and old.

Mother Nature challenged us in mid-July with 6+ inches of rain in a 24 hour period, which caused the lakes to reach some unusually high water level marks again. Interestingly this was 2 years to the week when we had the heavy rainfall in 2016 that set high water level marks that year. Thanks to everyone around the lakes for respecting the no-wake efforts during the high-water time to help reduce shoreline erosion from wave action. It should also be noted that during this "crisis" time our Next Door and Facebook groups were active with messages back and forth regarding floating dock parts, loose boats and lost articles. It's great to see a community come together in a time of crisis.

Our final group event in July was the BPLA picnic. Ron and Sue Redding worked with Ken and Ardie Johnson to host the picnic July 14 which turned into a beautiful Saturday afternoon event.

Thanks also to the numerous volunteers that helped with roadside clean ups and the miscellaneous projects that were addressed around the lakes throughout the year, your contributions are appreciated.

Our Labor Day meeting is just around the corner, so please set your calendars to join us. We will be meeting on Saturday, September 1st 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. For 2018, we have 3 current board members who have completed their 2<sup>nd</sup> two year term and have expressed interest in continuing to represent their respective lakes.

*(Chairman's comments continued on page 2)*

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rbolson55@gmail.com, Pine Lk

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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: Rick Meier

Picnic: Ken & Ardie Johnson

Projects / Road Cleanup:

Roger Olson

Volunteer Committee:

Don Fornell/Ron Redding

Water Quality: Dwight Benoy

Fish Habitat: Dave Schinkoeth

Website: Cathy Stevenson



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## Boat Parade

Rick Meier

This year, the annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July boat parade was held on Saturday June 30<sup>th</sup>. We had some interesting entries with the Loon theme represented on both lakes. In total we had eleven entries with three on the north lake and eight on the south lake.

First Place South Lake – the Beane Family with the Ice Cream Truck.



Second Place South Lake – The Plasec Family with the GhostBusters



Third Place South Lake – the Onischuk Family with the Pine Lake Fire Boat



North Lake parade winners:



First Place – Mueller Family – Big Pine Lake BooFest



Second Place – Erickson and Moskalik Families – Rub-A-ub-Dub



Third Place – Corvo Family – The Loonies

Thank you to all entrants which included the Beardsley family, the Beane family, the Beehl family, the Plasek family, the O'Neil family, the Onischuk family, the Kropp family, the Meier family, the Mueller family, the Erickson and Moskalik families, and the Corvo family.

We also thank all the judges and spectators along the shores. From the south lake, a special thanks to Dan Frey for being the official photographer!

(Chairman's comments continued from page 1)

Rich Helms has announced his intention to leave the board after serving for the last 2 years. If you are interested in submitting your name to be considered as a candidate for Rich's open position on the north lake or as an alternate option for the other 3 positions to be voted on at the meeting, please send a note to me prior to the meeting so your name can be included in the election process.

**BPLA Board Members who have completed two year terms**

- Pine Lake: Jim Stevenson and Roger Olson
- Big Pine Lake: Jeff Lindgren and Rich Helms (resigning board-open position)

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

One last note to share, as many of you are aware, there were many volunteer hours put forth to build and deploy our 4 loon nesting platforms over the past 13 months. During the high water weekend of July 14, Denise and I had the opportunity to deploy our kayaks around the lakes with little interference of other boats due to the no-wake posting. We managed to work our way around the lakes, checking out the bridge area and a couple of the nesting platforms along the way. We observed a female loon sitting on one our deployed platforms which I believe is the same bird that we saw numerous times on Big Pine earlier in the year accompanied by a small loon chick. It appears our efforts are working.

Thanks for supporting the BLPA, see you around the lakes, *John*

**BPLA Logo Wear**

Roger Olson

BPLA logo-wear will be available at the Labor Day membership meeting. We had some new give away items this year, tote bags and key ring floats that were handed out at the May meeting. If you didn't get one come to the meeting Saturday September 1<sup>st</sup>. We had boat coolers this year that were a big hit! Great for your beverages on the boat or pontoon, only a few left so get them while you can!

Come and checkout the variety of items you can purchase to promote our lake association. We have pull over and zip hoodies, T shirts, polo shirts and hats. Keep your beverages cold with our can coolers or serve your drinks in the BPLA insulated tumblers. Youth sizes available on several items. Hope to see you at the meeting!!

**BPLA Nextdoor**

Roger Olson

The BPLA Nextdoor membership continues to grow, we have over 145 cabin owners that have signed up and used the network to communicate with friends and neighbors at the lake. It was a great way for people to communicate about the high water earlier this year. Thanks to all that put updates on Nextdoor as the water was rising. Great real time information that helped keep everyone informed. I know people found contractors and painters, sold items and recovered lost dock sections from posts on the Nextdoor network.

It really is a great way to connect and communicate with other cabin owners! Check out Nextdoor.com and join the Big Pine lakes site.

**BBPLA July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration**

By Jim Stevenson

The rain held off and again this year the fireworks were a big success. Due to the generosity of our membership, we were able to add more fireworks this year. If you enjoyed the display, keep this in mind next year when you are submitting your dues and have the opportunity to contribute to the "Fireworks Fund". The Big Pine Lakes Association is a 501(c)(3) and all donations are tax deductible.

A big thank you to Don and Pat Makela for allowing us to use their property for the launch site. I also want to thank Steve Karel for putting the torches out to light the channel.

Mark your calendars for Saturday July 6, 2019 at 10:00 sharp for next year's fireworks display.

**Membership Meeting**

As a reminder, our Labor Day Membership meeting is right around the corner. The meeting is scheduled for September 1<sup>st</sup> at the Finlayson Community Center – social time starts at 9:00 with donuts and coffee, the actual meeting starts at 10 am.

See you there!



## **BPLA Picnic**

Ron Redding

The BPLA picnic was held on Saturday, July 14<sup>th</sup> and was coordinated by Ron and Sue Redding and Ken and Ardie Johnson. A sincere "Thank You" to Ken and Ardie for hosting the picnic at their lake home for the third year in a row now and for everything they do to help make the picnic a success. This year we changed up the menu and instead of hotdogs and hamburgers we had pulled pork along with broasted chicken which went over very well and no one had to stand over a hot grill. Thank you to Scott Oswald for cooking the pork and to Crazy Mary's Café for the broasted chicken. This year we had over 70 people attend the picnic, the largest group yet in the last three years. Appreciate the support of the members for taking time out of their weekend to socialize and meet others in the BPLA.

## **Volunteer/Road Clean-up Days**

Ron Redding

By the time you get this copy of the BPLA Newsletter we will be down to just one volunteer day left for the season which will be Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup>. Plan on meeting at the South Lake Public Landing at 9:00 AM snack and beverage will be provided. We will be doing Road Side Clean-up and working on a few fall projects. There are some trails that need to be cleared up and sign posts to be straightened. If you have other projects that you think the BPLA should be working on please contact Ron Redding at [randredding@fronteir.com](mailto:randredding@fronteir.com) with your ideas.

## **Water Quality Update**

Dave Schinkoeth

In July I hosted a rep from the St. Croix River Assoc while she took water and deliver testing on our two lakes. Results of those tests have not been received at this time.

A vegetation survey was conducted in July on both of our lakes by the DNR. These surveys are performed on a scheduled basis.

On August 29 the Mn.PCA will be holding a meeting to discuss the watershed Restoration Strategy project for the Kettle and Upper St.Croix watershed. All are welcome to attend this meeting. Further info please contact me.

## **Local Businesses**

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

Aitkin County Sheriff	218-927-7435
Pine County Sheriff	320-629-8380
A&M Pumps	320-676-3386
American Septic	320-384-7300
Brett Paige Construction	320-630-6270
Chris' Food Center	320-245-2229
D&E Heating/AC	320-384-0066
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
Members Cooperative 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	320-245-680
Old and New Property Services	218-341-0870
Peterson's New & Used	320-233-6429
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