



PINE VIEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE
BIG PINE LAKES ASSOCIATION

May 2018

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

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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

Chairman's Column

John Mueller

Welcome back to the Lakes! After an extended winter and late ice out it's great to see everything greening up and all the activities starting up around the lakes. The summer is shaping up to be a great one. As you begin your summer cycle of activities I would encourage you to allocate time to participate in BPLA sponsored activities. As you review the schedule of activities, you will see days devoted to volunteering for cleanup days and project days; the July 4th Boat Parade and Fireworks display, the July 16 BPLA Picnic and our Memorial Day and Labor Day association meetings. Each of these events is a great way to meet your neighbors and make new friends, while supporting the lakes with your stewardship for the future.

BPLA has been actively engaged the past couple of years working closely with Hayland Woods Nursery and Aitken County to assist cabin owners in Aitken County to tap into available Clean Water funding to conduct shoreline restoration projects on their properties. Over the past 3 years, we have been able to collect more than \$20k from Aitken County to assist on 16 projects around the lake. BPLA continues to be in discussion with Aitken and Pine County towards identifying additional funding opportunities for future projects. We continue to see steady improvement in water quality in both lakes on a yearly basis thanks to the continued support of all property owners in helping reduce water run-off into the lakes.

I look forward to seeing you at the lake! *John*

As a reminder, our Memorial Day Membership meeting is right around the corner. The meeting is scheduled for Saturday, May 26th at the Finlayson Community Center. Social time starts at 9:15 with donuts and coffee, the actual meeting starts at 10 am.



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Membership Committee

John Mueller

Our 2018 Membership campaign is well under way. To-date, we have 185 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, June 30) 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 2018 BPLA family, you can find our annual membership form on our web site. 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 26th Membership Meeting copies of our 2018 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.

BPLA Website:

www.minnesotawaters.org/bigpinelakes/

Water Testing Update

by Dwight Benoy

How many of you have participated in an Earth Day event? I helped pick up trash in my hometown on the first Earth Day in 1970. Each year on April 22nd we're reminded that we should be good stewards of this wonderful planet on which we live. Our lake association is a great way for us to think globally and act locally as good stewards of our lakes.

Our lake association has worked toward effective stewardship of our lakes through promotion of vegetated buffer zones, semi-annual roadside clean-ups, education about septic systems and invasive species, along with working closely with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and county agencies.

I've been monitoring the water quality in the lakes the past four years with sampling and testing to determine if the association's efforts have been fruitful. I'm happy to report that the water quality in the lakes has been fairly constant. While there are variations from month to month, as one would expect, the average levels of phosphorus, nitrogen, chlorophyll and clarity over the past four years have shown consistent results. The recreational quality of the water remains good. Sampling and testing of the water will continue to be conducted and supported by BPLA.

We can all be proud of the results and efforts made over the years to protect our lakes. While this is good news, we can still do better. Think about ways that you can make a positive impact. Maybe you can plant a buffer zone, minimize fertilization of your lawn or have your septic system checked and cleaned. You don't have to wait until the next Earth Day.

Project Days and BPLA Picnic

By Ron Redding

Project Days - Several times during the cabin season BPLA hosts project days for our members to help with various projects around the lakes. One of the most successful projects to date, as far as member participation, has been the loon nesting platforms. This year we have set aside the following project dates. Saturday, June 16th, Saturday, July 14th and Saturday, August 18th. On project days members meet at the South Lake Public Landing at 9:00 AM. This year we will need to do some work on our kiosks located near the boat landings on the lakes, as well as some landscaping and clean-up around the creeks and trails and maintenance on the signs around the lakes. We are also looking for project ideas from our members. If you have an idea for the BPLA to take on as a project, please submit your project ideas to Ron Redding at randsredding@frontier.com.

BPLA Picnic – For the third year Ken and Ardie Johnson have graciously offered to host the annual BPLA picnic at their home on 104th Place. The picnic is scheduled for 12:00 on July 14th. BPLA will provide the meat, buns, condiments, soft drinks and water. Bring a dish to share if you would like and plan on spending part of your afternoon with family, friends and other association members.

4th of July Activities

Fireworks *by Jim Stevenson*

The fireworks display on the Big Pine Lakes this year will be on Saturday June 30th at 10:00 PM on the south Lake near the boat Launch.

We heard a lot of positive comments the past two years about the fireworks display which was longer than previous years. Because of the generosity of the membership, we have purchased more fireworks this year. The length of the show will remain about the same but they will be increasing the intensity of the display. We believe this will be the best show ever on our lakes.

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 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 and to Steve Karel and his families for providing the torches to guide you through the narrows

Boat Parade *by Rick Meier*

This year, the annual 4th of July boat parade will be held on Saturday June 30th. Registration for the parade begins at 4:30 pm with the parade beginning at 5:00pm. North lake registration is held at Drakes' dock which is on the last point on the NW bay going south to the narrows. South lake registration is held at the BPLA dock by the narrows. You must register before entering the parade to become eligible for the prizes. A prize package is provided for each boat registration. Cash prizes are awarded for 1st and 2nd place. Creativity and Enthusiasm hold equal weight in the judging. The judges will be stationed at a dock along the route so keep up the efforts.

We have had excellent participation over the past several years so let's keep it up! Please direct any questions to rmmeier46@gmail.com.

BPLA Logo Wear *by Roger Olsen*

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 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. We have some new items this spring, BPLA tote bags, boat coolers and key ring floats. Hope to see you at the meeting!!

Loon Nesting Platform Update

by Ron Redding

At the BPLA meeting last Labor Day weekend our members recommended that our association work on placing floating loon nesting platforms on the lakes. This recommendation resulted in 4 Loon Nesting platforms being constructed last fall. Loons begin nesting early in the season and best results are attained by getting the platforms as soon as the ice is off the lakes. This year the ice went off both lakes on May 1st. The two platforms on Big Pine (North lake) were in the water that afternoon. One is in a cove coming out of the channel from the boat landing at the NE end of the lake and the other is located at the SW end of the lake. The two platforms on Pine Lake (South Lake) were placed in the water on May 4th and are located at the SW and NE ends of the lake. Our goal is to help provide a nesting habitat that can survive the high water levels that we have seen the last two years. Buoys have been placed near the platforms to ensure people know where the nesting areas are. We ask that you respect the areas and observe from a distance so as not to disrupt any loons that we hope will make the platforms their homes. Loons usually lay one to two eggs in late May or early June and incubation is normally about 28 days. If nesting is successful we could see loon chicks on the lake in late June or early July. Thanks to all the members that participated in the project.

BPLA NextDoor

by Ron Redding

We have set up a Big Pine/Pine Lakes site on Nextdoor.com. This website is a place to share helpful information with your neighbors. People are using Nextdoor to:

- Quickly get the word out about a break-in
- Track down a trustworthy babysitter
- 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
- Discuss community issues
- Organize a Neighborhood Watch Group
- Spread the word about local events
- Provide support to neighbors in need

We now have 135 cabin owners that have signed up to use NextDoor to communicate with friends and neighbors at the lake. People are finding painters, handymen and carpenters references from others on the lake. Have seen many different items for sale. Great way to let people know about events on the lake. Check out Nextdoor.com and join the Big Pine lakes site.

Historic Ice Out Dates

by Jeff Lindgren

The official ice out date on Big Pine Lake and Pine Lake this year was **May 1st**. This was the fourth latest ice out since records of the BPLA have been kept starting in 1965. The latest date was on May 8, 2013 and at one point this spring, it appeared we may set a new record but with the week of warm temps and high winds the ice went out in a hurry! The other two late dates were both on May 2nd, in 1975 and 2014, 39 years apart!

For the record, the earliest ice out was on March 24, 2012. That gives a span of 44 days that the ice has gone out in the past. The other early dates were March 29 and 31. There has never been an ice out on April Fools Day! Other dates that have never seen the ice go out are April 4, 9, 14, 27, 29, or 30th. For you contrarians, next year may be the year one of those dates comes up.

The most common day the ice went out is April 23 with five occurrences in '67, '74, '79, 82, and '95. There was one date with four, April 8th, and there were four dates with three on the same day, April 19, 20*, 21 and 25th. For the conformists out there, it looks like dates between April 19th and the 25th are the ones to pick! There have been ten dates with two occurrences. The average ice out date, even though they seem to be bunched up between the 19th and 25th of April, is April 17th. Half of the dates are before then, and half are after. I hope that makes it easier for you to pick your date next year!

* I used April 20th as the date for 2010. For some reason we do not have a record of when the ice went out that year. If someone has the date it went out in 2010 I would appreciate if you could forward that information to me at the meeting or send me an email at JeffreyD@Frontier.com. Thanks!

There were four people who picked May 1st this year and their names will be put in a hat and drawn at the meeting on May 26th. The meeting starts at 10 AM with coffee and rolls starting at 9:15. You **MUST** be present to win! Good luck next year!

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
Chris' Food Center_____	320-245-2229
D&E Heating/AC_____	320-384-0066
DB Cleaning_____	320-233-0878
Degerstrom & Sons Construction LLC_____	320-630-0584
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

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