



PINE VIEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE
BIG PINE LAKES ASSOCIATION

August 2019

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:

John Mueller/Rick Meier

Picnic: Ron Redding

Road Cleanup: Roger Olson

Projects: Ron Redding

Water Quality: Dwight Benoy

Fish Habitat: Dave Schinkoeth

Website: Cathy Stevenson

Chairman's Column

John Mueller

What a great summer! After a relatively wet spring, Mother Nature provided us a pretty normal summer weather pattern, bright sunny days and enough rain to keep everything green. BPLA has been active throughout the summer supporting the lake activities and helping maintain the beauty of the lakes. We had a volunteer group on hand in mid-May to work on the Narrows Buffer zone, straightening the fence and completing the weeding that was started in Fall 2018. With Ron Redding's leadership, we were able to secure a replacement dock from the DNR for the Narrows picnic area. It has since been deployed and is being used regularly for fishing. I attended some meetings hosted by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency on the Kettle River/St. Croix River watershed. They are currently working on an analysis of the entire watershed, which our lakes are part of, to determine the best long-range plan towards improving overall water quality. There are additional meetings forthcoming before a final plan will be completed.

We enjoyed the BPLA hosted July 4th holiday fireworks and boat parade in somewhat overcast skies, but a great time seemed to be enjoyed by all participants for both activities. We continue to see growing interest in the boat parade and many boats on the lakes to enjoy the fireworks.

More recently, BPLA board members met with Pine County Soil & Water contacts to discuss a pilot program to support buffer zone development around Big Pine for Pine County addresses. Every indication is pointing to a positive conclusion to our discussions.

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, August 31st 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 updates from all the committee members; Ron Redding will also provide an update on activities/news connected to the Norsemen group's acquisition of property south of Pine Lake. We also will conduct the annual election of our BPLA board. For 2019, we have 2 current board members (Ron Redding and Roger Olson) who have completed their 2nd two year term and have expressed interest in continuing to represent their respective lakes. We also have 2 immediate openings for the BPLA Board, one for each lake.

Chairman's column continued-page 3



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Fourth of July Fireworks

By Jim Stevenson

Once again, the fireworks were a big success. The high water did prevent many people from the north lake from coming under the bridge but many of you were able to enjoy them from the north end of the narrows or from the road. If you enjoyed the display, keep this in mind next year when you are submitting your dues and can 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 and his family for putting the torches out to light the channel. I also want to thank Ron and Robb Redding, Liz Murray (and her dog Emma), Dan Frey, Don Fornell, Lou Beardsley and all my family for helping to clean up the launch sight the next day. Many hands made light work.

Mark your calendars for the 2020 fireworks display which will be held on Friday July 3rd at 10:00 PM sharp.

Buffer Zone update

Maria Gobely

During 2019 BPLA has continued their efforts in supporting BPLA members in developing buffer zones to their landscapes. In Aitken County, 2 more properties have been enhanced in 2019, the Lemay's and the Redding's. For BPLA Pine County residents, the BPLA board met with Pine County Soil & Water contacts recently to discuss developing a partnership in supporting buffer zone development around Big Pine Lake. After showing the Pine County S&W team what BPLA has developed in Aitken County, they have agreed to move forward in supporting a similar program with Pine County properties. They have made a financial commitment in their 2020 budget of \$8k to support our efforts. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity or signing up to have a buffer zone added to your landscape, please plan on attending the upcoming BPLA Membership meeting on Saturday, August 31.

Norsemen Motorcycle Club

Ron Redding (ransredding@frontier.com)

There has been a lot of interest in what is happening on the South end of Pine Lake with the Norsemen Motorcycle Club. The group purchased 180 acres of land near what many in the area remember as the trout farm. The property is located at 12912 100th Street which borders Aitkin and Kanabec Counties. The area is well known by the local residents for the natural springs which feed our lakes.

The group currently consists of 80 members with plans not to exceed 120 members. The actual number of people that could be on property at any given time is unknown since a member and their immediate family would all have access to ride on the property. The goal of the group is to have and develop property that members and their families can ride ATVs, dirt bikes, and mini bikes in a location that is only available to Norsemen members.

The Norsemen will be working with Aitkin County through a Conditional Use Permit as they move forward with their plans for the property. As a Lake Association our most important concern is the protection of our natural resources and the impact to our water quality on the Big Pine Lakes.

We will have a brief update at our BPLA meeting on Labor Day weekend and will continue to provide information as it is made available.

BIG PINE LAKE AREA HISTORY

Jeff Lindgren- Bungalow Park

In our last issue I mentioned a story, in the book Long Winters and Other Short Stories, about Dosch's Pavilion and this time it's a story (from Part III) about a couple that met there!

The Otto Behrman family children relate the story about their dad, Otto, who used to tend bar at the Tony Dosch Dance Pavilion and enjoyed the life here. In 1936 he cleared the land he owned and built five cabins. The cabins were made from balsam poles and drop siding with windows from the streetcars. The cabins were one story with low, sweeping lines, like a bungalow and that is how it got its name, Bungalow Park. During WW II, Otto built a dance hall of his own to accommodate the soldiers coming home on leave who wanted a place to have fun.

In 1939 they needed to expand so a two-story building was built which had a larger tavern and dance area with living quarters upstairs. There was electricity for lights supplied by a generator but no refrigerators, so during winter months they would cut ice out of the lake and store it in sawdust in the ice shed. Water came from a hand pump, and everyone had to get their own water. Regular customers would rent a cabin for two or three weeks a summer, which with a boat the cost was around \$14.00 per week. For bait, The kids would net minnows and sell them to the cabin renters. The Behrman's sold Bungalow Park in 1947.

Chairman's column, cont.

Rick Meier (Pine Lake) has elected to leave the board after 1 term and Dave Schinkoeth (Big Pine) is wrapping up his 3rd and final term. If you are interested in submitting your name to be considered as an alternate option 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

- Pine Lake: Ron Redding (completed 2nd term, starting term 3)
- Pine Lake: Roger Olson (completed 2nd term, starting term 3)
- Pine Lake: Rick Meier (completed 1st term, not continuing with board)
- Big Pine Lake: Dave Schinkoeth (completed term 3, last term per by laws)

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

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

John

2019 Boat Parade

by Rick Meier & Lisa Drake

We had 17 boats participating in the 2019 BPLA boat parade. This is a constant improvement over previous years. Judging factors included creativity and displayed enthusiasm. We had great weather and a great time. All participants and observers seemed to really enjoy the event! A great big thank you to all participants. Here are the first – third place winners on each lake.

Big (North) Pine Lake

There were 7 entries on Big Pine Lake. Thanks to all the participants but we will show only the top three:



1st Place goes to the **Zack Family** with a red and white classic car complete with fuzzy dice, juke box and music.

Second Place – Shark Sighting by the **Corbo family**.



Third Place winner was the Pine Lake Patriots by the **Meier family**.



We also thank the Leshner Family, The Christopherson, Erickson and Schroeder Families, The Johnson Family, and The Mueller Family

South Pine Lake

There were 10 entries on the south lake:



First place goes to the **Dan Beane Family** with "The State of Hockey"

The second-place winners are the **Jeff and Sandy Orishuk** family



The third-place winners are the **Rengo Vermilia Family**

We also want to thank the Lou Beardsley Family, The Mark and Sheila Andersen Family, The Jenny Dotzler Family, The Ron Dexter Family, The Brian O'Neil Family, The Roger & Mary Olson Family, and a family in a 1959 Crestliner.

Upcoming BPLA Events

Membership Meeting Saturday August 31, 2019 @ 10:00 AM, coffee & roll service starts @ 9:00 AM, Finlayson Community Center.

Project Day & Roadway Clean-up Saturday September 21, 2019 @ 9:00 AM, meet at South Lake Public Landing

Bear Sightings

By Jim Stevenson

For a couple week period around the end of May and beginning of June many of our neighbors along 116th Lane on the south Lake reported signs of troublemakers such as bird feeders torn down, grills destroyed and a screen house broken in to. Others, including me, had trail cams out and were able to find out exactly who was causing all this trouble. What we discovered is a mother bear along with three yearling cubs. From what we can tell they were just moving through the area because she hasn't been spotted since that time.

After spotting this family on our camera, we did a bit of research. Black bears mate in June and the cubs are typically born in January after approximately 7 months of gestation. The cubs stay with the mother for about 17 months at which time she becomes intolerant and chases them away and the mother is ready to mate again. These three yearlings were born in January 2018 and were just weeks (if not days) away from going off on their own.

So, should we be worried about bears in the area? Of course not. Black bears are typically more afraid of us than we are of them. They usually will not hang around long when they discover there are people around. I found the following list of what you should do if you encounter a bear when enjoying your time at the lake:

- Stand and face the bear directly. Never run away from or approach him.
- Make yourself look as big as possible by spreading your arms or, better yet, a coat.
- Make as much noise as possible by yelling, banging pots and pans or using other noisemaking devices.
- If the bear approaches and you have bear spray, spray the bear as he approaches.
- In the very rare case that a black bear does attack you, fight back (don't play dead).
- After the bear leaves, remove whatever attracted him to the location (barbecue grill, bird feeder, pet food or garbage)



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
Brett Paige Construction_____	320-630-6270
Brown's Beans and Greens _____	320-245-0329
Chris' Food Center_____	320-245-2229
Complete Cabin Care _____	763-898-0474
DB Cleaning_____	320-233-0878
East Central Energy_____	800-254-7944
Finlayson Ag & Hardware_____	320-233-7372
Finlayson Storage_____	612-229-9205
Grace Construction _____	320-279-1552
Hayland Woods Native Nursery____	320-983-2584
Jessie Kodiak Construction _____	320-279-3307
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
Members Cooperative Credit Union	320-245-2502
Moose Lake Implement & Sport____	218-485-4486
Paul's Portables_____	320-245-6802
Pine County Sheriff_____	320-629-8380
Pine Lake Mini Storage_____	320-233-6394
Purple Pumper_____	320-384-0655
Rapit Printing_____	651-633-4600
Sandy's Salon_____	320-233-6192
Schoenrock Construction_____	320-233-6192
Town & Country Insurance_____	320-233-6684
The Vintage Pub _____	320-838-3232
United Country Real Estate_____	320-245-2502