



# PINE VIEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE  
BIG PINE LAKES ASSOCIATION

**February 2020**

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

## Chairman's Column

John Mueller

## BPLA Board of Directors

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Dan Frey, Director (1)  
[dnrfrey@gmail.com](mailto:dnrfrey@gmail.com) Pine Lk

(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/Dan Frey

Picnic: Ron Redding

Projects / Road Cleanup:

Roger Olson

Volunteer Committee:

Ron Redding

Water Quality: Dwight Benoy

Fish Habitat: Dave Schinkoeth

Website: Cathy Stevenson

Welcome to 2020!

This year marks the 40<sup>th</sup> year that BPLA has been in existence. Thanks to the efforts of a group of concerned home owners in 1980, the association took root and became the first stewards of "the quality of our lakes". The original name of the association was "Save our Lakes" eventually migrating to "Big Pine Lakes Association" in 1987. Thanks to the efforts of concerned members of the lake association over the years, we continue to enjoy 2 beautiful lakes and to reap the benefits of their efforts with a great association.

As we begin the next year of our journey, BPLA continues to be active "Preserving and Enhancing the Quality of our Lakes". Through the efforts of our membership, we support project work around the lakes, buffer zone enhancements, annual fireworks events, boat parades and a picnic. We work to bring our members closer together to foster a great lakes community. Additionally, BPLA leaders are currently involved with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency as they complete work on the Upper Kettle River/St. Croix River watershed review. The watershed review will help define the water quality improvement plan for our lakes and the balance of the watershed for the next 20 years. We continue to provide input to the MPCA to assure our lake water quality improvement strategy is a tangible/executable plan for the future.

I want to share a couple of additional updates. Based on feedback from our membership, a survey was taken at the fall membership meeting regarding association meeting dates and times. We solicited feedback from the meeting attendees and collected a survey recap from all attendees. Based on their responses, we will be moving the Saturday morning meeting dates off the Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends and starting them a bit earlier to allow everyone more time at the lake. The spring meeting will now be Saturday, May 30 and the fall meeting will be Saturday, August 29. Both meetings will start at 9:15, with social time starting at 8:30 am.

*Chairman's Column continued on page 3*



# PINE VIEWS

February 2020

## Volunteer Project Days

Ron Redding ([randсреdding@frontier.com](mailto:randсреdding@frontier.com))

Thanks to all of the BPLA members for your involvement and support of our lake association. I would also like to thank everyone that has gotten involved with our volunteer days. A few of the projects from last year were:

- Removal of beaver dams and the removal of downed trees and branches in Strawberry Creek to keep an open path for the spring spawning of walleyes.
- Repair and clean-up of the fence and buffer zone at the BPLA picnic area.
- Added a picnic table to the Pine Lake overlook area on the South lake.
- Placed a new dock which was donated by the DNR at the BPLA picnic area.

This year we will continue to monitor areas that need our attention and will focus on replacing worn or damaged signage around the lake. We will also be adding water level signage on both sides of the bridge so that people can determine if the water level allows them to pass under the bridge. Any members with suggestions for additional projects should contact Ron Redding at 404-433-7396 or at [randсреdding@frontier.com](mailto:randсреdding@frontier.com)

We also have a planned date of July 18th for our annual BPLA picnic to be held at the BPLA picnic area, weather permitting.

### BPLA Calendar of Events

- Roadway Clean-up** Saturday April 25
- Project Day** Saturday May 23
- Membership Meeting** Saturday May 30
- Project Day** Saturday June 27
- Fireworks** Friday July 3
- Fireworks Clean-up** Saturday July 4
- Boat Parade** Saturday July 4
- Annual Picnic** Saturday July 18
- Project Day** Saturday August 22
- Membership Meeting** Saturday August 29
- Project Day** Saturday Sept 19
- Roadway Clean-up** Saturday Sept 19

## Buffer Zones

Maria Gobely

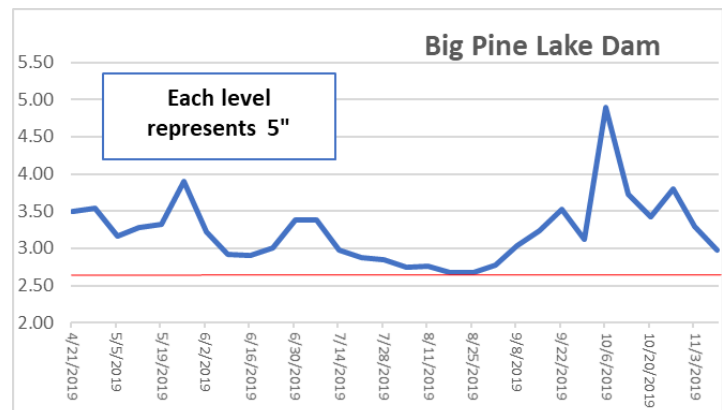
Throughout 2019 work continued on Buffer Zones around the lakes. Two projects (Lemay's and Redding's) were completed in Aitken County.

BPLA leaders worked in partnership with Pine County to develop the foundation for a future program with them for Pine County lake owners. They are now budgeting \$8,000 in 2020 to BPLA Pine County projects. Since this is new to Pine County, we're working out the process and requirements for owners to receive some help. Three property owners have expressed interest. We visited two of those sites last fall.

If you're interested in additional information on Buffer Zones, please reach out to Maria at [gobely@hotmail.com](mailto:gobely@hotmail.com).

### Did you Know???

Thanks to the efforts of Ron Redding, we are able to maintain a record of lakes levels over the year. Ron checks the dam on the north lake every week and maintains a record of water height by auditing the water depth using the measurements along the pier next to the dam. In reviewing the details from 2019, you can clearly see the impact our late September major rain events caused to the water levels.



## Chairman's Column, continued

During our fall meeting in 2019, we said good bye to two BPLA Board members, Dave Schinkoeth (6 years served) and Rick Meier (2 years served) and welcomed Dan Frey to the board. Both Dave (fish habitat) and Rick (boat parade) will continue to support BPLA as Committee Leaders. We thank each of them for the volunteerism and time spent supporting BPLA as board members. Dan will be representing Pine Lake on the board.

We do have an open position on the board for a representative from Big Pine. If you are interested in meeting more association members and helping make an impact to our lakes, please contact one of our current board members to learn what is involved in serving on the board.

John



## Membership Committee

John Mueller



In 2019, BPLA membership included 214 families from around the lakes. BPLA members receive 3 newsletters annually; have their names included in the BPLA Membership Directory which is available in hard copy at association meetings and is also shared electronically; and have access to the BPLA supporting Business Directory of local craftsman and businesses in the lake community. The membership fees collected help support activities around the lakes. In addition to the annual membership fees, members also donated over \$2300 to the Sandstone food shelf managed by Family Pathways. These donations will help many families in need. Additional donated funds were also earmarked for water quality projects and for our annual July 4<sup>th</sup> Fireworks display.

This year's membership forms are included with the mailing of our first newsletter of the year which is sent to all families living on the lakes. To join the BPLA, please complete your registration form and return it in the envelope provided. For those who act early, you have the opportunity to participate in our annual **ICE OUT CONTEST**. To participate, simply identify the "official" date that the ice will be gone. If you donate to the Fireworks fund with your submission, you'll have the opportunity to submit 2 date submissions. All Ice Out entries need to be post marked prior to March 31, so act fast. If the Ice goes out prior to March 31, only entries postmarked prior to the official Ice Out date will be considered. The Ice Out "official" date will be determined by BPLA. If multiple submissions are received for the "official" Ice Out date, a drawing will be held to determine the winner. The winning submission will be identified at the BPLA Memorial Day meeting with the winner being awarded \$25 in BPLA logo wear. For those keeping track, in 2019 the Ice Out date was April 21<sup>st</sup>.

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

For additional information regarding BPLA, check us out on our website at:

[www.minnesotawaters.org/bigpinelakes/](http://www.minnesotawaters.org/bigpinelakes/)

Thank you for your continued support and confidence in BPLA!

## BIG PINE LAKE AREA HISTORY

*Jeff Lindgren*

### Waldheim Resort

Last time I had a story about Bungalow Park, one of the resorts that used to be on our lakes. Today it is about Waldheim Resort, just south of the old Bungalow Park and the only resort left on our lakes. I spoke with one of the owners to find out some fun information.

Waldheim Resort was built a short time after the start of the 20th century by Joe Splinter as a fishing camp. Back in those days there wasn't a lot of equipment available to the average person so Joe dug out the building pads by hand and moved dirt with a horse and wagon. The hillside there is really steep and the dirt had to all be hauled up the steep slope to make way for the cabins. He then used his own sawmill to make the boards and siding needed for the cabins, along with any scrap wood he could find.

In approximately 1913 he started renting cabins and opened as Splinters Fish-A-Lot Inn. With the invention of the Model T, Big Pine Lake became a very hot spot being so close to the Twin Cities. This was up north and soon had restaurants, dance halls and even a general store and gas station! In 2013 Waldheim's observed their 100th anniversary!

The current owners had no experience running a resort when they took over in 1993 and learned everything firsthand. Now, they are looking forward to their 27th season! They are a family and pet friendly resort with cabin rentals from 3 days to 14 days from May through mid-October depending on the weather. They also have campsites for rent, most of which are for the season but do have some short-term campsite rentals as well.

## 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 & Sports_	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