



PINE VIEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE
BIG PINE LAKES ASSOCIATION

May 2020

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

BPLA Board of Directors

John Mueller, Co-Chair (3)
Johnmueller17@gmail.com, Big Pine Lk

Jim Stevenson, Co-Chair (6)
stevensonjc@comcast.net, Pine Lk

Jeff Lindgren, Secretary (6)
jefflbpla@gmail.com Big Pine Lk

Roger Olson, Treasurer (6)
rbolson55@gmail.com Pine Lk

Ron Redding, Director (5)
randredding@frontier.com Pine Lk

Maria Gobely, Director (2)
gobely@hotmail.com Big Pine Lk

Dan Frey, Director (1)
dnefrey@gmail.com Pine Lk

Al Droubie, Director (1)
droubie@comcast.net Big Pine Lk

(Years of service noted in parenthesis)

BPLA Committee Leaders

Boat Parade:

North lake - Lisa Drake

South lake - Rick Meier/Dan Frey

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

Chairman's Column

John Mueller

What a way to start 2020! Since our last newsletter, the world has changed. Social Distancing has become the norm as we search for ways to deal with the Covid-19 virus. Certainly, the future will be different than what we have experienced in the past. As spring rolls into summer, many of us will be looking for ways to adapt to a new world where handshakes and closeness with neighbors turns into elbow bumps and 6 foot conversations. From a lake association perspective, we are adapting also. The BPLA Board recently successfully held our spring board meeting remotely using video conferencing technology. We were able to address the open issues for the association while making some decisions as to our immediate future events. We have postponed our spring meeting this year and will be mailing to all current association members an informational packet in lieu of the meeting. Please make sure you are current in your 2020 BPLA membership dues to ensure receiving this information. We continue to leave on the schedule our Clean-up days and Volunteer days and remain optimistic for a July picnic, all which can happen outdoors while allowing individuals to remain "socially distant". Each of these events will remain fluid on the calendar with adjustments made as appropriate. Our July 4th parade and fireworks weekend festivities will remain on the schedule as planned. Our efforts will continue in developing buffer zones around the lakes. Please check on Maria's information in this newsletter to learn more about our plans for 2020.

At our recent board meeting, the board appointed Al Droubie as the 8th member of the board filling the open position we had, representing Big Pine Lake. Al's family has been on the lake for over 40 years and currently has a cabin on the east side of Big Pine. We look forward to Al joining the board!

As we received the 2020 BPLA membership submissions, we did receive a call out from an association member asking everyone (and their guests) who travel the various dirt roads around the lakes to be respectful of their vehicle speeds. Many lake residents have their windows open during the summer months; lower vehicle speeds will help mitigate dust and residue associated with travel around the lakes.

Thanks for your support of BPLA and making the lakes a great place to be.

I look forward to seeing you at the lake!

John



2020 Project Days and BPLA Picnic

Ron Redding

Project Days – BPLA will have some Saturday additional volunteer days that will be communicated through email as they are ready to proceed. Some of the projects will include replacing the old and faded signs as you cross under the bridge between the two lakes, adding a water level marker on both sides of the bridge to allow boaters to determine if the water is low enough to pass under the bridge, and we will do some clean-up around the BPLA picnic area and dock on the South lake. We will also need to update and do some minor repairs on the informational kiosks near both landings. The three loon platforms went into the water as soon as the ice was out of the bays and we had open water to put them in. Thanks Don Fornell and Dan Frey for your help in getting the platforms in the water.

BPLA Picnic – The BPLA picnic is scheduled for Saturday, July 18th weather pending. Please mark that date in your calendars and bring your family. BPLA provides the meat, soda, and other needed items.....you bring a chair, a dish to pass and other refreshment if soda is not your drink of choice.



Norseman Update - The Norseman Motorcycle Club purchased property south of Pine Lake which they plan on developing riding trails for club members. At this time Aitkin County has declined their Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to use the property as an off highway recreation area until they complete an Environmental Assessment Worksheet or EAW. The EAW is required since the area they plan to use is in excess of 80 acres. The EAW is completed by Aitkin County to determine any negative environmental impacts and is made public allowing for input in support of or against the project.

Next Door, Logo Wear, and Food Shelf

Roger Olson

Nextdoor – Nextdoor.com continues to be an excellent way to connect, communicate and share information with people at the lake. If you are looking for a recommendation or referral for work; reach out to your neighbors at the lake on Nextdoor. Use it for selling or items that you want to give away; someone on Nextdoor might be interested. We currently have 219 Nextdoor people listed in 162 households, that is half the people on the lake. With those numbers, someone will be able to help!

Logo Wear – BPLA has embroidered logowear available for sale! We have a variety of T shirts, polo and sweatshirts to choose from. We also have cooler totes, insulated glasses, and coffee mugs. Many ways for you to show your support of our lakes and the association. Since we are not having a spring meeting it will be a challenge this year to find ways to offer these items for sale. We will have some available at the BPLA picnic in July. We will try to find another time to have the logowear available. Watch your email this summer.

Food Shelf - Thank you to all the BPLA members who have donated so generously during our membership drive to the Family Pathways food shelf in 2020. We have already surpassed all of 2019 in donations at over **\$2,600** given so far. The need is even greater than usual in these difficult Covid times with many families that have never had to use the food shelf service now looking for help. It is heartwarming to see how the BPLA members stepped up!

Business Directory - BPLA will have business directories available again this year. They will be distributed to all current BPLA members through a direct mailing in late May. This can be a valuable resource if you are looking for septic, plumbing, or need electrical work done. If this is the year for that construction project you have been thinking about there are several business to choose from. Also, if you need help with your dock or want someone to cut the

Water Quality Update

Dwight Benoy/John Mueller

We continued our lake monitoring program throughout 2019. There appears to be a slight downward trend for our average phosphorus and nitrogen readings over the past 5 years, which is good news. Our average water clarity (Secchi Disc) readings also improved in 2019 versus 2018, also good news. There are factors like weather conditions, especially rainfall prior to the sampling dates that can significantly affect the results.

Overall, I think the recreational quality of the water remains good. Efforts to minimize nutrients going into the lake should be continued, like good septic system maintenance, eliminate or minimize fertilization of lawns and installation of shoreline buffers.

We will continue to monitor our results for 2020 and will be prepared to share our findings at our future meetings.

ICE OUT 2020

Jeff Lindgren

The official ice out date on Big Pine Lake and Pine Lake this year was **April 16th**. There was a lot of warm weather leading up to the week of April 5th and I'm sure many people who guessed a date in that week were thinking they had a shot at the prize but cold weather starting around the 9th stopped the melting. The north lake was ice free on the 10th but a stubborn slice of ice along the east shore of the south lake refused to cooperate and remained until it was gone on April 16th. The official policy for ice out is the ice must be gone from both lakes. Thanks to our spotters for helping with observations!

Last year's ice out was on April 21st and the last time it was on April 16 was in 2009. All of the 15 people who picked April 16th for ice out will have their names put in a hat and the winner will be drawn at our meeting this fall on August 29, the Saturday before Labor Day weekend. You **MUST** be present to win!

Good luck next year!

The Show Will Go On!

Jim Stevenson

While many communities are trying to make decisions on whether or not to hold their annual 4th of July fireworks displays in an effort to avoid crowds, we believe that the Big Pine Lakes Community has had the social distancing concept mastered for years. The vast majority of us enjoy the fireworks either from our boats or from our own docks. In the spirit of keeping the Finlayson area safe and healthy, we ask that you continue social distancing by staying a safe distance from other boats while viewing the fireworks. Unless you are from the same household, it is recommended that you do not attach multiple boats together. If you choose to view the fireworks from the road, please either stay in your vehicles or remember to be respectful of spacing if viewing from shore.

Just as a reminder, this year's fireworks will be on **Friday, July 3rd at 10:00 PM**. They will be launched from Pat and Don Makela's property which is next to the public landing 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 have the proper lighting on your boats when navigating back to your home after the show.

Again, I will be looking for volunteers on Saturday July 4th (or in case of rain) Sunday the 5th to clean up the launch sight. Watch the Nextdoor app for times.



Buffer Zones

Maria Gobely

Summer 2020 plans are taking shape. We have 5 property owners in Pine County that have expressed an interest with 4 visited in April. There are 3 interested property owners in Aitkin County that will have site visits scheduled soon. Aitkin has very limited funds available that we're hoping to stretch to do 2-3 small projects in 2020.

The next step in our process is for our Shoreline Consultant (Shelley) to work with owners to design, estimate, and create proposal for county determination of which projects will be funded. Once all approvals, permits, etc are completed, projects will be scheduled. Please help out if you can when we send out the schedule. Both counties have been generous with BPLA buffer zones because of our great membership involvement and commitment to lake quality.

If you're interested in additional information on Buffer Zones, please reach out to Maria at gobely@hotmail.com

Boat Parade

Dan Frey

This year's annual boat parade will be held on Saturday July 4th. It is always amazing to see the work and creativity that participants put into this annual event. The BPLA Directors are recommending a Patriotic theme for boat decorations and have decided to discontinue the prize money this year. All participating boats will receive a prize package when they register.

Registration for the parade begins at 4:30 pm with the parade beginning at 5:00 pm. 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 boat landing by the Narrows.

We have had excellent participation over the past several years and hope that will continue again this year. If you are unable to join the parade, make sure you get down to the dock to watch and cheer on your lake neighbours and this special event!

Please direct any questions to me at: dnefrey@gmail.com.

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



Zack Family

Beane Family



BIG PINE LAKE AREA HISTORY

Jeff Lindgren

Last time I had a story about Waldheim Resort, one of the resorts that used to be on our lakes. We received some feedback from one of our members, Lee Uldbjerg, that some of the information was "not quite accurate" which is to say, I got it wrong! My apologies for that. The fact is "Joe Splinter didn't do all that work; he was probably about 2 years old when that was being done. His dad Carl Splinter was the one." Thanks to Lee for his comments!

Today's article is about a property which some people refer to as the gangsters' house. This article first appeared in our newsletter in August 2008 from research done by Pat Schwietz. A big thanks to Pat for all of his efforts and information!

The Lupino Property

The Property (over 1000 ft of lakeshore- AKA Lupino's Bay) just to the north of Callahans as well as acreage on the east side of Big Pine Rd was owned by Georgette (1922-2002 in Florida) and Tony (1912-1984) Lupino. They lived in the Cities, owned restaurants and bowling lanes, and later lived at the lake.

There was always excitement in the area when Tony's brother, the infamous Rocco Salvatore "Rocky" Lupino (1916-1982), a big time Chicago and Minnesota gangster, would visit the cabin with a few of his colleagues. Rocky kept his attorneys quite busy, including the Minnesota charges for kidnapping and murder of Anthony De Vito, which allegedly occurred September 28, 1953. He was indicted for kidnapping December 8, 1959. After a four week trial in April 1960, the jury found him guilty and he was sentenced to 5 years in prison. His appeals regarding convictions under the Fugitive Felony Act for fleeing Minnesota (to South Carolina) to avoid prosecution were appealed all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1959, where certiorari was denied (would not hear the case). Unsuccessful appeals in the 1960's and beyond help fill many law books.

In 1971, after serving his sentence for the earlier conviction, Rocky was charged and convicted again, this time on federal gun charges. He was charged as a convicted felon acquiring a .38 caliber revolver, through a friend, at the Great Northern Trading Post, which was used by an associate to commit an armed robbery at the Bungalow Bar in Minneapolis on November 16, 1970. The heist netted \$8000. A couple of his close friends squealed on Rocky to help their own cause. May Rocky rest in peace without a piece (a gun)!

Rocky hung himself in the Greene County jail in Springfield, Missouri on February 1st, 1982. He was fighting a transfer to Indiana where he was wanted for trial in connection with the killing of a jeweler. He had quite a sordid past and his life certainly makes for interesting history of the lakes!

The Lupinos sold lakeshore lots south of their residence starting in 1960. Laverne & Jack Nafus purchased a lot in 1961, built a cabin and sold it to the Gerlachs in mid 1990's. Robert and Darlene LeMay purchased a lot in 1962 and built the cottage they still own, making it three LeMay families in the immediate area. John and Myrno Osborne also purchased at that time. The Rollinger family purchased an additional lot from Georgette. Note the timing of the sale of the lots (starting 1960-1962) possibly relates to the brother's legal bills. We all know (or have heard) criminal defense attorneys cost **a lot**, and sometimes more than one. (Sorry, I couldn't resist.)

Art and Carolyn Olstead purchased the Lupino home from Georgette in 1990. Art found a professionally prepared sign, "The Lundeen's Hillview Acres" in an outbuilding.

As for Ida Lupino - The movie star was unrelated and died in Los Angeles, 1995.

Membership

John Mueller

Thank you to our members who have submitted their annual dues in 2020. As of mid-May, 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 Friday, July 3) and the Food Shelf fund. Thanks to each of you for your contributions and commitments to date.

As current members of BPLA, they will receive a direct mailing in the upcoming weeks that includes a listing of all our association members, a business directory of local businesses, and a synopsis of the 40-year BPLA history. If you haven't sent your 2020 membership in yet, please submit it soon so you are eligible to receive this informational mailing. You can also find a BPLA 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.



Did You Know???

In 2019, BPLA membership included **212** of the 350 individuals connected to Pine or Big Pine Lakes on the BPLA mailing list that have properties on the lakes.

Of the addresses currently included in that list, here are some interesting tidbits of where everyone hails from:

- **70** list Finlayson as their primary mailing address.
- **11** list addresses from outside the state of Minnesota (AZ-FL-TX-WI-MI)
- **120** list addresses from St. Paul and surrounding suburbs led by St Paul (19), Shoreview (8) and White Bear Lake (8)
- **68** list addresses from Minneapolis and surrounding suburbs led by Blaine (7) and Coon Rapids (6)

Fisheries Update

Dave Schinkoeth/John Mueller

The DNR announced in April that they will not be conducting any egg takes of any species this spring. They cannot be conducted safely given social distancing guidelines. This means that the State will not be raising Walleye fry or fingerlings in 2020. According to Leslie George, Area Fisheries Supervisor | Division of Fish & Wildlife, there a lot of unknowns regarding the future of the fish stocking plan for 2020. Big Pine and Pine Lakes are on a biennial Walleye stocking frequency and were scheduled to have fish stocked in 2020. There may be options to collect walleyes from existing ponds or perhaps through a partnership with the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibway, all yet to be determined. As a result of the current situation, whether or not we will see walleye stocking in our lakes in 2020 remains very much in a fluid situation.



2020 BPLA Calendar of Events

Membership Meeting Saturday May 25 – has been CANCELLED

Fireworks Friday July 3 - South Lake at 10:00 PM

Boat Parade Saturday July 4– Register at 4:30 PM, parade starts at 5:00 PM

Fireworks Clean-up Saturday July 4 –meet at Makela's property. Watch the NextDoor site for times

Annual Picnic Saturday July 18 @ noon, BPLA Picnic Area near landing at South Lake

Project Day Saturday August 22 @ 9:00 AM, meet at the South Lake Public Landing

Membership Meeting Saturday August 29, @ 9:15 AM, coffee & roll service starts @ 8:30 AM, Finlayson Community Center.

Project Day & Roadway Clean-up Saturday September 19 @ 9:00 AM, meet at South Lake Public Landing