



PINE VIEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE
BIG PINE LAKES ASSOCIATION

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

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- Boat Parade:
 - North lake - Lisa Drake
 - South lake - Rick Meier/
Dan Frey
- Fireworks: Dan Frey
- Logo wear: Don Roepke
- Membership: John Mueller
- Merchant Directory: Roger Olson
- Newsletter: John Mueller/Dan Frey
- Picnic: Ron Redding
- Projects / Road Cleanup:
 - Ron Redding / Dan Frey
- Volunteer Committee:
 - Ron Redding
- Water Quality: Dwight Benoy
- Fish Habitat: Don Roepke
- Website: Cathy Stevenson

Chairman's Column

John Mueller

Once again, it's been a great summer around the lakes. The weather has been hot (maybe a bit too much!!) and the activity around the lakes has been in full bloom. We held our spring meeting in person the last Saturday in April (the week before Memorial Day!) and also simulcast the meeting via a Zoom call. We had 75 people in attendance with 8 joining via the Zoom connection. It certainly was great to be able to get back together again after our challenges in 2020.

BPLA has been active throughout the summer. We helped sponsor the July 4th weekend festivities which included our annual boat parade on each lake and the fireworks on the evening of July 3rd. On July 17th, BPLA hosted its annual membership picnic at the Narrows Picnic area. We had 60 people attend the picnic to enjoy the great food and mingle with their neighbors at the lake. A special shout out to Ron Redding for coordinating everything and to Dan Frey for helping bring it all together on Saturday.

Buffer Zone activity is in full gear with projects planned on both lakes. Maria has details on the activities further outlined in her section in the Pine Views this month. BPLA also partnered with Aitkin County and numerous volunteers to update the plantings in the existing buffer zone near the picnic area by the Narrows. We added 120 new plants into the area after removing a number of trees and unwanted plants. In July, BPLA also had the opportunity to host a COLA (Coalition of Lake Associations) meeting on Big Pine Lake to share our buffer zone development story with other lake associations in the area. We had attendees representing Grindstone Lake Association, Wyndemere Lake Association, and Pokegama Lake Association on hand, in addition to attendees representing Pine County Soil & Water. They were impressed with BPLA efforts to date and asked many questions about how our buffer zone development process works.

Our Fall Membership meeting is right around the corner. It is scheduled for **Saturday, August 28th** at the Finlayson Community Center from 9:15 – 11:00. Doors will open with coffee and rolls at 8:30 am. We will also be offering a ZOOM call in for those who would like to join remotely. Details regarding the Zoom call will be distributed to association members via email the week prior to the meeting. If you have questions about the meeting, please reach out to one of your BPLA Board members. The meeting will include updates from your BPLA board on key topics of information related to the association.

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Volunteer Days – Project Days

Ron Redding

Thanks to everyone who has volunteered their time assisting with projects to benefit our lakes. We have held two project days so far this year with two more planned before the end of the year.

Our remaining project days will be held on **August 21st and September 25th**, which is a change from the original date of September 21st. September 21st is the date for the St. Urho festivities in Finlayson so put that on your calendars and come into town for a full day of events and activities.

With the help of our volunteers on our first two project days we have cleared the hiking trails around the lake, updated the BPLA kiosks, placed our loon platforms, made improvements to the buffer zone at the BPLA picnic area and removed weeds around the BPLA dock so people could use it for fishing. Our next project day will consist of pulling the loon platforms and determining if any repairs are needed prior to putting them back in the water next spring. Clearing the lake weeds around our dock on the South lake and checking the hiking trails for debris. If anyone has additional projects that you think would be beneficial to our members pass them on to me for consideration at randstredding@frontier.com.

As always we will meet at the BPLA picnic area on the South lake at 9:00 am with snacks and refreshments provided.

BPLA Picnic

Dan Frey for Ron Redding

This year's BPLA picnic was held on Sat. July 17th. We had a great turnout, with an estimated 60 folks bringing their fabulous side dishes and delicious desserts to share. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet new lake neighbors or catch up with old friends and share all sorts of lake and family stories. Thanks for coming out to socialize and we hope to see you all again soon.

Special thanks to Ron and Sue Redding! Although unable to attend, they had everything ordered, organized and ready to go! From the fantastic chicken (only 1 piece was left), to the potato salad, coleslaw, and rolls from Chris' Foods in Sandstone, to the tables, plates, cutlery and cooler full of iced beverages, they did it all. Thanks also to John and Denise Mueller, Don Roepke, and my wife Renee for helping set up, organize, clean up, and tear down.

Buffer Zones update

Maria Gobely

Buffer Zone activity is ramping up. The BPLA landing work was done June 26th as part of the Volunteer Project Day. Other completed projects: July 24th – Duffy's and Aug. 7th – Leshor's



Willow cutting for wattles (above) was done July 11th. We were able to squeeze it in last minute with the property owners using willow wattle in their projects. This allows time for the willow to dry before using.

Calling on Buffer Zone volunteers!

Here is the remaining 2021 schedule:

Aug. 17th at 8am: Hemming's – 11238 - 116th Lane

Aug. 20th at 9am: Klaustermeier's – 11293 - 117th St.

Sept. date TBD: Gobely's – 66700 Northridge Rd.



Projects in the works:

Gobely's – If you're wondering what all the plastic on the hill is (photo above) – it's me trying to kill the day lilies so we can plant native plants with long roots and save the firepit hill.

Murphy's – (Big Pine Rd) this one will be pushed to 2022 because bigger equipment prep will need to be done to the site before wattle and planting.

If you have interest or questions about buffer zones, helping, or projects on your place, please contact Maria Gobely at: gobely@hotmail.com I'm happy to get you on the list, answer questions, or send info your way.

Chairman's column, cont. from page 1

If you have specific questions that you would like addressed during the meeting, please email them directly to me at johnmueller17@gmail.com.

We also will conduct the annual election of our BPLA board. For 2021, we have 2 current board members (**John Mueller** (Big Pine) and **Dan Frey** (Pine Lake) who have completed the 2nd year of their current two-year terms. Dan has expressed interest in continuing to represent Pine Lake and I am interested in continuing to represent Big Pine on the BPLA Board. We also have 2 openings forthcoming on the board. **Al Droubie** (Big Pine) has completed year 2 of his 1st term and indicated that he plans to not continue on the board due to family commitments. **Ron Redding** (Pine Lake) has completed his 3rd two-year term, per BPLA by-laws he is required to take a year off from the board. Ron has been an integral part of the BPLA Board the past 6 years championing our volunteer efforts, planning and hosting the BPLA picnics and many other association activities. He has been a great asset on the BPLA Board; we will be lobbying Ron to continue his involvement with BPLA efforts going forward. During our upcoming fall meeting we will be voting on Ron and Al's replacements and the other board members future involvement. If you are interested in submitting your name to be considered as a board member candidate, please send a note to me prior to the meeting so your name can be included in the election process. 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*

Walleye Stocking Update

Don Roepke

I recently contacted the stocking vendor we selected to supply walleye fingerlings. The company is located in the Spicer-New London area of Minnesota. Because of this year's drought conditions, he is experiencing problems raising this year's walleye fingerlings. He has had to move some young walleyes from ponds that were drying up. No rain has increased Filamentous algae growth. Also, clear water has encouraged heavy lake plant growth. Both of these will cause low oxygen levels later in the summer as they die off, potentially killing off the walleyes in the ponds affected. He plans to aerate the ponds but indicates its more to make him feel like he is doing something to increase the oxygen for the walleyes then supplying enough oxygen to help. They are currently checking the walleye in the ponds to find out how they are surviving these difficult conditions. The walleye are currently small so counts are not possible. They are looking for schools of the small walleye fry. He reassured me that his intent is to stock our lakes with the fingerlings we ordered. I will keep following up on their status.

As a reminder, our Fall Membership meeting is right around the corner. The meeting is scheduled for Saturday, August 28th at the Finlayson Community Center. Social time starts at 8:30 with donuts and coffee, the actual meeting starts at 9:15 am.



Water Quality Update

Dwight Benoy

Thank you for your dues and other financial contributions. This allows us to continue the water testing to monitor the water quality of our lakes. My wife Pat and I have been sampling the water at six locations in our lakes and creeks since September of 2013. We have it tested for the nutrients nitrogen and phosphorus, which are indicators of the amount of nutrients available for algae and plant growth. Chlorophyll is also tested, which is an indicator of the actual algae in the water.

In general, the test results show a trend toward better water quality over the past few years. We've done sampling twice this year so far, which revealed some surprisingly good Secchi Disc readings, which is a measure of water clarity. These readings have been up to twice the depth of readings in recent years (11.5 feet in the south lake, for example). This is likely an anomaly due to weather conditions which can affect test results. The drought this summer may have something to do with that. The recreational quality of the water remains good. It is likely that the trend toward improved water quality is due to the efforts of many of you through good septic system maintenance, minimizing or eliminating fertilization of your lawn, and installation of shoreline buffers. Ongoing efforts like these by everyone around the lakes will help to keep the recreational quality of our lakes in good shape.

2021 Boat Parade

Lisa Drake, Rick Meier, and Dan Frey

We had a total of 11 wonderfully decorated boats participate in this year's annual BPLA boat parades. Prize money was back on the line, on a hot, humid, and very windy July 4th afternoon. While the number participants were down slightly from last year, the creative ideas, decorations, and enthusiasm of all entrants was amazing. Thank you to all participants and the supportive spectators around both lakes for another fun parade!

Below is a list of all entrants and pictures of this year's 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners. If you would like a photo of your boat entry, please email me at: dnrfrey@gmail.com. We hope you will consider joining in the fun, with your crew' in 2022!

Big Pine (North) Lake

There were six parade participants on Big Pine Lake. A big thank you to the **Bjerke, Mikulak, Grover** and **Drake** families for helping make this year's parade another success! The 2021 Boat Parade North Lake participants were: *The Goebly Family, The Buchholz Family, Outlaw Trucking, The Corbo Family, The Leshar Family, and The Mueller Family.*

1st place: the **Mueller Family** with:
Fireworks Rock!



2nd place: the **Leshar Family** in their:
Paddleboat!



3rd place: the **Corbo Family** in their:
Toro mower!



Pine (South) Lake

We had five parade participants on Pine Lake. A big thank you to the **Meier** and **Herrmann** families for helping make this year's parade another success! The 2021 Boat Parade South Lake participants are: *The Olson Family, The LaFave Family, The Orv Redding Family, The Dexter Family, and The Dotzler Family.*

1st place: the **Dotzler Family** with:
Ugly Ducks!



2nd place: the **Dexter Family** with:
Uncle Sam!



3rd place: the **Orv Redding Family** with:
God Bless America!



Saint Urho in September? Varmasti!

Jim Corbo, Secretary

First off, I would like to pass along an invitation: It's the Annual Celebration of Saint Urho's Day! To be held in Finlayson on Saturday, September 18, 2021. Thinking ahead, some of you may have closed up the cabin for the season and bid farewell to the Big Pine Lake community until next year. Locals may be celebrating the "noise" of summer finally quieting. Still, others may look forward to continued visits to the lake and the many activities to be had in fall and winter. Here is another exciting event to mark on the ol' calendar. But Saint Urho in September?

During a normal year, one would hardly think about Saint Urho in September. In fact, this fictional saint of Finland is actually celebrated on March 16, making it a popular date to many Finnish Americans living in northern Minnesota. There are several historical references that share how this legend was created. One of those stories centers on Richard Mattson and Gene McCavic of Virginia, Minnesota. In 1956, these men created Saint Urho and attributed his success to saving the Finnish grape crops from an infestation of frogs. Saint Urho would be saluted for ridding Finland of 'those frogs' with his loud voice.

Now March 16 was not even the initial date set to celebrate Saint Urho. Some sources, including his original Ode, suggest May 24. Yet, Mattson and McCavic frequently compared Saint Urho and his actions to those of Saint Patrick, who is celebrated for, among other things, having driven snakes out of Ireland. So, the date was later moved from May to March and falls one day before Saint Patrick's Day... now the Finns would start celebrating (and drinking green beer?!) one day earlier than the Irish.

As with many legends, they evolve over time and become a mixture of truth, myth, and symbolism. One noteworthy difference in the modern day legend is that Saint Urho drove out grasshoppers instead of frogs to save the grape crops. His loud voice was developed by drinking sour milk and eating fish soup. He carried a pitch fork to chase away any grasshoppers who were not scared of his voice.

Regardless of differences, the legend lives on to represent a means to celebrate the Finnish heritage and the Finlayson-Giese Lions Club is known to be the primary sponsor of our local event, which was first held in 1985.



For those unaware, Lions International was developed in 1917 with a common mission to serve. Lions International includes nearly 48,000 local clubs and 1.4 million members who "give their valuable time and effort to improving their communities and the world." The Finlayson-Giese Lions Club was chartered in 1983 and has contributed countless volunteer hours and financial support to the local community and has helped raise awareness for many national causes such as diabetes, childhood cancer, and disaster relief. Stop by the Finlayson Community Center, or visit Finlaysoncommunitycenter.com, or look for their Facebook page to learn more.

But, Saint Urho in September? Well, we all know that the past 18 months have been difficult with many public events cancelled. So, it is with great excitement that the Finlayson-Giese Lions Club announces the rescheduling of the 2021 St. Urho's Day Celebration - complete with the Antique Car & Motorcycle Show, bake sale, outdoor game tournaments, and lots of other activities for the entire family. It should be noted, again, that this event is a reschedule and the 2022 celebration is still on its normal schedule for March 19, 2022. Per local tradition and as a means to give more people a chance to experience the tradition, Finlayson-Giese celebrates St. Urho the Saturday following the actual day.

So about that invite... definitely an experience to consider as summer winds down, boats and docks get put away, your favorite new swimsuit gets tossed deep into the drawer, and you prepare to put Santa back up on the roof. Okay... too much too soon? Just remember to keep all your green and purple attire accessible. Make sure your favorite cape is washed and pressed. Tell Alexa to wake you up early on the 18th so you can get the family together and come celebrate a legend. But Saint Urho in September? Varmasti (Most certainly)!

For reference, websites including Finlayson Community Center, Wikipedia (and related sources), and Lions International were used to write this article.

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Local Business Spotlight

American Septic

Tamera Eiffler

American Septic would like to thank all our customers. We are a small family-owned company that grew from the ground up. We have adapted over the last 20 years to meet our 5,000+ customer needs. We do septic tank pumping, holding tank and camper clean outs, Roto line cleaning, thawing frozen lines, pump replacement, riser and lid replacement, and portable toilet and sink rentals. We try our best to meet our customers' needs as quickly as possible. Thanks for keeping us in business.

Fourth of July Fireworks

Dan Frey

What another wonderful night of fireworks this year. The "pre" and "post" firework displays were the perfect bookends for the ***BPLA Main Event***, which was very impressive once again! The ooh's and aah's carrying across the lake from the flotilla of anchored boats, led me to believe you felt the same. Remember that it is all of your generous donations that make this possible. If you enjoyed the show, please keep this in mind when you are submitting your dues next year and contribute to the "Fireworks Fund". The Big Pine Lakes Association is a 501(c)(3) and all donations are tax deductible.

Special thanks to Don and Pat Makela for once again allowing us to use their property for the launch site this year. We couldn't do this without their generosity. I also want to thank Steve and Taffy Karel & family, for placing the warning buoys around the launch site, as well as the torches to light the channel for the return trips to the North lake. A big thank you to Lou Beardsley, Dave Brandt, Rick Meier and Jim Stevenson for coming out to help clean up the launch sight the next day in the July heat. You're the best!

Mark your calendars for the 2022 fireworks display which will be held on **Sunday July 3rd** at 10:00 PM.

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
Ausmus Floor & Furnishing_____	320-384-6101
Brett Paige Construction_____	320-630-6270
Chris' Food Center_____	320-245-2229
Complete Cabin Care _____	763-898-0474
DB Cleaning_____	218-341-9935
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
Leach Electric_____	320-532-3277
Lindgren Land Surveying_____	651-303-9217
Man's Mowing_____	320-630-5336
Maple Run Orchard_____	320-279-1306
Matt's Sanitation_____	320-384-7137
Members Cooperative Credit Union	320-245-5251
MJC Equipment_____	320-245-5127
Moose Lake Implement & Sports_	218-485-4486
MPJ Enterprises_____	320-245-5127
Northview Bank_____	320-233-7575
Old & New Staining & Painting__	218-341-7590
Paul's Portables_____	320-245-6802
Pine County Sheriff_____	320-629-8380
Pine Lake Mini Storage_____	320-233-6394
Purple Pumper_____	320-245-6812
Rapit Printing_____	651-633-4600
Sandstone Ace Hardware_____	320-245-2235
Sandy's Salon_____	320-233-6192
Schoenrock Construction_____	320-233-6192
Town & Country Insurance_____	320-233-6684
United Country Real Estate_____	320-245-2502
Xtreme Custom Canvas_____	763-647-0316

***Business Directories handouts are
available at Membership meetings***