



# PINE VIEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE  
BIG PINE LAKES ASSOCIATION

**February 2021**

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

## BPLA Board of Directors

John Mueller, Co-Chair (4)  
[Johnmueller17@gmail.com](mailto:Johnmueller17@gmail.com), Big Pine Lk

Ron Redding, Co-Chair (6)  
[randsredding@frontier.com](mailto:randsredding@frontier.com) Pine Lk

Maria Gobely, Treasurer (3)  
[gobely@hotmail.com](mailto:gobely@hotmail.com) Big Pine Lk

Jim Corbo, Secretary (1)  
[james.a.corbo@gmail.com](mailto:james.a.corbo@gmail.com) Big Pine Lk

Dan Frey, Director (2)  
[dnrfrey@gmail.com](mailto:dnrfrey@gmail.com) Pine Lk

Al Droubie, Director (2)  
[droubie@comcast.net](mailto:droubie@comcast.net) Big Pine Lk

Don Roepke, Director (1)  
[drgrouse@yahoo.com](mailto:drgrouse@yahoo.com) Pine Lk

Jim Lauer, Director (1)  
[margsag6@aol.com](mailto:margsag6@aol.com) Pine Lk

(Years of service noted in parenthesis)

## BPLA Committee Leaders

Boat Parade:

North lake - Lisa Drake

South lake - Rick Meier/

Dan Frey

Fireworks: Dan Frey

Logowear: 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: Jim Lauer

Fish Habitat: Don Roepke

Website: Cathy Stevenson

## Chairman's Column

John Mueller

Welcome to 2021!

2020 was definitely an interesting year for all of us as we struggled to adjust our lifestyles to accommodate the Covid 19 virus. Over the course of the year, it seemed like more and more of us found ways to enjoy outdoor versus indoor activities; our lakes are the perfect destinations to accomplish this. The BPLA organization has also adjusted to accommodate changing times, cancelling our in-person meetings and relying on ZOOM conference calls to connect people remotely and to discuss association issues while making plans to continue "Preserving and Enhancing the Quality of our Lakes". In early September we hosted our association meeting remotely via ZOOM, addressing Association topics and electing 3 new Board Members. The following individuals have now joined the BPLA Board, replacing outgoing members and will be stepping into key association support roles: North Lake: Jim Corbo- Secretary; South Lake: Don Roepke -Fisheries/Logowear & Jim Lauer – Water Quality. We look forward to each of these individuals contributing to our association success in the future. Additionally, Ron Redding has been elected Co-Chairman and Maria Gobely has been designated Treasurer.

Throughout 2020, your BPLA board has continued to be involved in outside committees and groups representing as a voice for our lakes. These have included the Coalition of Lake Associations (COLA) in Pine County, the Kettle River-Upper St. Croix Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy development with the State of Minnesota, and the Conditional Use Permit application in process within Aitkin County for the Norsemen Motorcycle Club property.

Although we adjusted our group activities in 2020 per state recommendations, BPLA continued our outside activities including Volunteer Days, Roadside Clean ups, the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend activities and our Buffer Zone efforts. Please look for updates in the Pine Views from each of these project leads throughout the year. In 2021, we will continue our efforts to encourage a robust association of members focused on "Preserving and Enhancing the Quality of our Lakes". We look forward to your support and participation in BPLA.

See you around the lakes.

*John*



# PINE VIEWS

February 2021

## Volunteer Project Days

Ron Redding

Thanks to everyone who has participated on past BPLA Volunteer Days and I look forward to seeing everyone that has some spare time to help us this year. In 2020 we faced many challenges, but the number of people that participated with our Volunteer Days were some of our highest to date.

### Some of our completed 2020 tasks:

- Placed new signage around the lake including bridge clearance signs between the two lakes
- Removed beaver dams and debris in Strawberry Creek
- Placed the three loon platforms in the water after ice out and removed them in the fall
- Added some new tables at the picnic area on the South lake
- Cleared the overgrowth at the boat landing on the South lake to provide better visibility

### Planned tasks for 2021:

- Repair the kiosks on the North and South lakes and add updated information
- Repair the cement picnic tables at the BPLA picnic area on the South lake
- Clear the hiking trails near the South lake boat landing
- Remove any invasive plants growing in the buffer zones maintained by the BPLA
- Please contact me if you have ideas on any other projects for the BPLA.

Volunteer / Project Days dates below (meet at 9:00 am, South lake boat landing)

### **BPLA Calendar of Events**

- Roadway Clean-up** Saturday April 24
- Project Day** Saturday May 15
- Membership Meeting** May (to be determined)
- Project Day** Saturday June 26
- Fireworks** Saturday July 3
- Fireworks Clean-up** Sunday July 4
- Boat Parade** Sunday July 4
- Annual Picnic** Saturday July 17
- Project Day** Saturday August 21
- Membership Meeting** Saturday August 28
- Project Day** Saturday Sept 18
- Roadway Clean-up** Saturday Sept 18

## Buffer Zones

Maria Gobely

Even though we had a late start last summer, we completed a group willow cutting session (the main material used in willow wattles that the majority of projects needed) and **6** projects, 3 in Pine County and 3 in Aitkin County. It's going to be neat to watch the rapid growth of the plants and stabilization of the shoreline over the year(s). I'll be sharing pictures in the future to show the progress.

We're hoping to have similar buffer zone activities/success in 2021. Site visits will be scheduled as soon as the snow is gone. Plans, estimates, grants, and scheduling will then be setup for earlier summer projects. Please contact me at [\*\*gobely@hotmail.com\*\*](mailto:gobely@hotmail.com) to get on the buffer zone project list. I'm also happy to field questions, provide information, or add you to the volunteers list. More hands make light work!



## Fisheries Update



Don Roepke



Leslie George, DNR Hinckley Area Fisheries Supervisor/ Division of Fish and Wildlife, updated me on their Walleye stocking efforts for 2020.

The 2020 COVID Pandemic affected the DNR Fisheries Department Walleye stocking program and the normal walleye egg collection was canceled because DNR Staff was unable to collect the eggs while staying masked and socially distanced per health guidelines.

However, the Fisheries Department did not give up on stocking our lakes and was able to purchase walleye fingerlings from the private sector. The fingerlings were stocked on October 7 with: Pine Lake receiving 125 lbs. and Big Pine Lake receiving 176 lbs. This stocking met the full planned stocking totals.

The next planned walleye stocking will be done in 2022. A fisheries survey of fish populations for both lakes is also scheduled for 2022.

## BPLA LOGO WEAR

Don Roepke

There is one major change for BPLA Logo Wear this year. After many years of doing a great job, Roger Olson has passed the opportunity to help BPLA Members with their Logo Wear needs to myself, Don Roepke.

The COVID-19 Pandemic restrictions has been a challenge for BPLA members to view or purchase items and we all look forward to the end of the Pandemic..

The current stock includes a variety of T-shirts, Polo-shirts, hooded sweatshirts (1/4 zip, full zip, and pullover), can coolers, hats, towels, mugs and cooler totes.

If someone wants to purchase or view Logo Wear items, feel free to contact me by email at: [drgrouse@yahoo.com](mailto:drgrouse@yahoo.com) We can line up a socially distanced meeting to select from the items available

The Logo Wear will also be available at official BPLA events.

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## Membership Committee

John Mueller

Our 2021 BPLA Membership enrollment is officially starting with the distribution of our early Pine Views newsletter. We ask that dues are submitted in a timely fashion to help support BPLA efforts around the lakes. By joining BPLA, Members help support the development and printing of 3 newsletters annually; have their names included in the BPLA Membership Directory which is distributed in late May; 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, last year members also donated over \$3000 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 owning property 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. Members who also donate to the Fireworks fund are eligible to submit 2 guesses for the contest. 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. All winning submissions will be identified in a future Pine Views Newsletter. Members submitting a correct submission date will be eligible for a free 2022 BPLA membership (\$25 value). For those keeping track, in 2020 the Ice Out date was April 16th.

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!



## Local Business Spotlight



### Complete Cabin Care

Cassidy Vanvleet

We are a locally owned and operated partnership, who pride ourselves on quality of work and great customer service.

We started our business in 2018, looking to service the smaller lake communities that other companies don't have the time for.

Services we provide: - Yearly dock & lift services, sales & repairs, - Shoreline restoration including rip-rap, - Tree trimming and old lake junk removal, - Deck & lake stair construction/repair/ exterior painting

Complete Cabin Care can be contacted at:

Office: 320-237-3496 Cell: 763-898-0474

Email: [cabincaremn@gmail.com](mailto:cabincaremn@gmail.com)

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## CELL TOWER UPDATE

Jim Corbo

Competition is Good! Remember, almost six years ago when our lake community lived in a dead zone – as it related to cell phone service? Many BPLA members petitioned (or complained to) their cell phone companies to install antennas on the tower located on the northwest side of Big Pine Lake. Those efforts proved successful in mid 2016 when Verizon installed the first antenna in our area. The question remained, however, if and when other carriers would follow suit.

It appears one has. In November 2020, I noticed crews were back working on the tower again installing what looked to be another antenna. I am excited to report that AT&T confirmed that they have completed installation of a new antenna on that tower and it is now fully operational. According to the coverage map on ATT.com, the majority of the service in the area looks to be 4G LTE; however, there appears to be some support for the new 5G. In any case, it is very nice to see more options and more providers.

As always, if you have service from a company other than Verizon and AT&T, keep reaching out to express the need for more service up here. That tower is capable of accommodating up to four different providers.

### Local Business

Please patronize the businesses  
that support 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_____	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
Hiway Federal Credit Union_____	651-291-1515
Lampert Lumber_____	320-245-2276
LaRose Greenhouse & Nursery__	320-233-7455
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 Un._	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