



PINE VIEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE
BIG PINE LAKES ASSOCIATION

May 2021

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

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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

Welcome to Spring! The ice is off the lakes, docks are being set up and water activity has begun. The BPLA volunteers have also been active; our Roadside Clean-up was accomplished on April 24 and the loon platforms have been deployed. The BPLA board met in April to begin discussing our 2021 activity and communication plan for the year. All and all, a great start to a new year. In the May Pine Views we have updates on the buffer zone activity around the lakes, plans for volunteer activities and schedules for the other BPLA activities. Please make sure to mark these dates on your calendars.

We are well into the process of our annual membership drive which includes opportunities for association members to contribute to our Fireworks fund, BPLA Projects and the Food Shelf.

We are also moving forward with hosting an in-person BPLA Spring Membership meeting on May 22 at the Finlayson Community Center. The meeting will start at 9:15, with coffee and donuts being served at 8:30. All attendees are asked to wear masks as they make their way into the Community Center to support the current Covid guidelines and to respect other attendees. We will have the tables spread out throughout the facility to allow as much distance as possible between attendees. We have established a ZOOM dial in number (312-626-6799) that interested members can use to participate in the meeting via phone in lieu of attending the meeting in person. The ZOOM meeting detail information and video link will be forwarded via email a couple of weeks prior to the meeting.

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

BPLA has embroidered logo wear available for sale!

We have a variety of Tee 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. Logo Wear will be available at the upcoming BPLA meeting on May 22 and we will have some available at the BPLA picnic in July.



PINE VIEWS

May 2021

2021 Project Days

Ron Redding

April showers bring May flowers, but it seems like we are seeing more snow flurries at the lake in April than anything else. Hopefully May brings warmer weather and we can get outdoors to enjoy what our lake has to offer. We have Project Days scheduled for:

- May 8th which replaces the May 15th date
- June 26th
- August 21st
- September 18th

All Project Days are held on Saturdays and start at 9:00 am with everyone meeting at the BPLA dock on the south lake.

Projects planned for this year; Repair the kiosks at the boat landings, putting in the BPLA dock and repairing the picnic tables at the south landing, clearing weeds and debris on the BPLA hiking trails, adding native plants to the buffer zone at the BPLA picnic area on the south lake and any recommendations from our members.



BPLA Picnic

Ron Redding



The BPLA picnic is scheduled for **11:00 Saturday, July 17th** to be held at the BPLA picnic area on the south lake. All you need to bring is your refreshments, a chair and you and your family. Hope to see a lot of you there.

Highway 25 Construction

Jim Corbo

For those interested, the Aitkin County website has this to say about the remainder of the Highway 25 construction project in their most recent update:

"All construction operations required under this contract have now been completed. Bituminous paving of the road will be done under a separate construction contract currently planned for the 2021 construction season. Thank you for your patience and cooperation throughout the past five-month construction period."

Membership

John Mueller

Thank you to our members who have submitted their annual dues in 2021. As of early May, we have 190 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 Saturday, July 3) and the Food Shelf fund (over \$4000 contributed to date!). Thanks to each of you for your contributions and commitments to date.

As part of the annual membership drive, renewing members can submit a guess as to when the Ice Out will be each spring. In 2021, we had 270 submissions with the renewals. (March = 19; April = 242; May = 9). 5 members identified **March 30** as their date, which was the correct date. These families will receive a free 2022 BPLA membership for their efforts. They are: **Mark & Mary Jaeger, Robert & Rebecca Moser, Sue Prill, Lonnie & Jacqueline Ness, and Thomas & Donnelle Grover.** Congratulations!

If you haven't sent your 2021 membership in yet, please do so soon so that you continue to receive BPLA communications and informational updates. If you need a BPLA annual membership form, they are available on our BPLA web site. www.minnesotawaters.org/bigpinelakes/

Boat Parade

Dan Frey



This year's annual boat parade will be held on Sunday July 4th. All parade participants will receive a prize pack and everyone is welcome to join in the fun. This year the prize money is back and up for grabs to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners on both lakes. You can decorate with a theme of your choice or go with the good old "Red, White and Blue". Enthusiasm and creativity hold equal weight and judges will be stationed at docks around the lakes. We are asking that you please refrain from throwing water balloons or other items that may end up in the lake and harmful to wildlife. You must register before the parade to be eligible for the prizes.

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. The South lake registration is moving this year and will be held at my dock. It is the first dock in the NE corner of the South lake, directly across from the boat landing by the Narrows.

Please join in and continue to help us grow this special event! If you are unable to join the parade, make sure you get down to the dock to watch and cheer on your lake neighbors as they parade by!

Please direct any questions to Dan Frey at: [dnrfrey@gmail.com](mailto:dnrrey@gmail.com).

BPLA Fireworks Celebration!

Dan Frey

Our annual fireworks display will take place on **Saturday July 3rd at 10:00 PM**. Thanks to the generosity of Don and Pat Makela, the fireworks will again be launched from their property which is next to the public boat 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 maintain a safe distance between other boats and have proper lighting on your boats when navigating back to your home after the show.

I will be looking for volunteers on Sunday July 4th at 9:00 AM to help clean up the launch sight. Watch the Nextdoor site for reminders or time changes.



Roadway Clean-up

Dan Frey

Many thanks to the 12 twelve dedicated and hardy souls who came out Saturday April 24th for the spring roadway clean-up. They walked and patrolled the roads, ditches around our lakes picking up trash in 30-degree temps and 1.5 inches of wet, melting snow. Hopefully the weather will be better for our next clean-up event on Saturday September 18th.



Buffer Zones

Maria Gobely

We're off to a busy 2021 Buffer Zone summer. Site visits are scheduled for mid-May so that designs and plans can be put together in time for June SWCD board approvals. Both Aitkin and Pine County SWCD have set aside similar funds as last year for us. There are 5 prospective projects for Aitkin and 3 in Pine County.

For those that have willow wattle on their buffer zones, please check that the wood stakes and the willow are still in place. With the high winds at the same time as the ice melt, it pushed stakes out and the willow was getting loose at my place. I just rearranged the willow and pounded the stakes deeper.

Please contact me at gobely@hotmail.com to get on the buffer zone project list, ask questions, and/or would like to help out on projects this summer.



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_____	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 Union	320-245-5251
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

**Business Directories handouts will be
available at upcoming Membership
meetings**

Water Quality -Aqua Thrusters

Don Roepke

Recently I noticed a post on the "Big Pine Lake Finlayson" Facebook Group, looking to control lake weeds. One of the recommendations was for a product called an Aqua Thruster from Weeders Digest. Anyone considering purchasing this product should review the MN DNR web site. Lookup MN DNR Aqua Thruster. The following is some of the information on the DNR web site for those without web access.

Legal: *Blowing away floating surface debris and algae, if the lake bottom is not disturbed.*

Not Legal: *Using a Hydraulic jet (Aqua Thruster) in any water way that disturbs the lake bottom or uproots aquatic plants. Illegal use of Hydraulic Jets may result in a citation, restoration order or both from a state conservation officer.*

Consider Fish, Water Quality and Neighbors

- **Illegal use:** *destroys fish habitat and clouds the water.*
- **Improper use:** *Creates mats of vegetation and unnatural sediment berms that reduce enjoyment of the lake.*

Hydraulic Jet brand names examples include: Hydro Sweep Pro, Aqua Thruster, Aquasweep and Aqua Blaster.

A New Year, A New Note-taker

Jim Corbo, Secretary

Hello everyone and happy spring. Last October, terms for several positions on our Big Pine Lakes Association board came due. I am excited to take the reins from Jeff Lindgren and serve as your new Secretary.

My family (you may know Joe and Mary) purchased a home on the northeast side of the north lake back in 2016. Having spent most of my "cabin" life in the Brainerd Lakes area, it was going to be a big change. The old cabin was seasonal only, and we were all excited for the adventures that came with having a new year around place – even in our famous Minnesota winters. So, we packed up on a sunny day in May and headed east. Other than knowing two other families on Big Pine Lake, nobody really knew what the future would have in store for us. It was definitely a bittersweet feeling.

Fast forward to 2021, as my family and I roll into our sixth season, I would never imagine that we ended up moving to the greatest lake communities I have ever experienced. Believe it or not, aside from our immediate neighbors, we never socialized with anyone on or off our old lake. Wheeler rides? Nope. Nine-plus pontoon floats? I think not. Fall Festivals and Ice Parties? Never. While we still enjoyed our time in Brainerd, the point I am making here is this: as big (and long) as our lakes are here, I find that the community itself is so much smaller, quite welcoming and very fun. For that, I could not be more thankful. And to anyone considering getting involved, whether it is to socialize or volunteer, please do!

I was very encouraged to see all the activity on the lake this past summer, in light of the Covid restrictions. Fortunately, I spent a lot of time up north over the past year and it was really great to see families enjoying the lake and everything the surrounding communities were allowed to offer. Specifically, the Fourth of July holiday was amazing. A very special thank you to BPLA representatives Jim Stevenson, Dan Frey, and their crews for a wonderful firework display and boat parade – especially when other cities were cancelling theirs. Through presence and participation, our BPL community came together during trying times. In my humble opinion, it really instilled a sense of normalcy in my life. I hope others felt the same.

As I get to know fellow board members, I appreciate the hard work they do behind the scenes to foster our community and continue improving our lake quality. When the opportunity presented itself, I was very excited to get involved (even in a small way) and give back to a community that has already given so much to my family and me. I certainly welcome the New Year, wish you all a healthy 2021, and look forward to serving you throughout my term. Be sure to stop by and say hi when you're on the lake this summer. When the umbrellas are out, happy hour has begun!

2021 BPLA Calendar of Events

Membership Meeting Saturday May 22, 2021 @ 9:15 AM in person or via Zoom, coffee & roll service starts 8:30 AM, at Finlayson Community Center.

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

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

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

Annual Picnic Saturday July 17 @ noon, BPLA Picnic Area near landing at South Lake

Project Day Saturday August 21 @ 9:00 AM, meet at the South Lake Public Landing

Membership Meeting Saturday August 28, @9:15 AM, coffee & roll service starts @ 8:30 AM, Finlayson Community Center.

Project Day & Roadway Clean-up Saturday September 18 @ 9:00 AM, meet at South Lake Public Landing

MN Personal Watercraft Guidelines

- Personal watercraft are considered motorboats under MN law so they must follow all the regulations that govern motorboats. Here are some additional operational highlights.

Personal watercraft....

- Are required to have a rules decal (provided at no charge by the DNR) in full view of the operator
- Operators and passengers must wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved Type I, II, III, or V life jacket.
- Are required to carry a USCG approved fire extinguisher
- Must travel at slow-no wake speed (5 mph or less) with-in 150 feet of: shore (except when a PWC is launching or landing a water skier by the most direct route to open water), docks, swimmers, swimming rafts, any moored or anchored watercraft or non-motorized watercraft.
- When towing a person on water skis or other device, must have an additional person on board to act as an observer. Wide-angle rearview mirrors may be substituted for an observer, but they must be factory-installed or specified by the PWC manufacturer.
- Cutoff lanyards must be properly used and attached to the person, life jacket or clothing of the operator.
- May only operate between 9:30 a.m. and one hour before sunset.

You may not....

- Chase or harass wildlife
- Operate while facing backwards
- Operate in way that endangers life, limb or property
- Operate a personal watercraft if the spring-loaded throttle mechanism has been removed or tampered with so it interferes with the return-to-idle system.
- Weave through congested watercraft traffic or jump the wake of another watercraft within 150 feet of the other boat.
- Travel through emergent or floating vegetation at greater than slow-no wake speed.



Loons & Your Tackle Box

Don Roepke



I recently read an article written by Carroll Henderson retired Minnesota DNR Nongame Program Supervisor (1977-2018), about the mortality lead tackle lost while fishing caused to Loons. The Nongame Wildlife Program Staff have collected annually 30 dead Loons as a sample to identify causes of death. Lead poisoning was one of the top three causes of death.

Lead fishing tackle sinks to the bottom where Loons and other birds pick it up with pebbles from the bottom to grind up their food. The lead tackle on the bottom of the lake accumulating from generations of anglers is large and increasing each year. A single split shot or jig can kill a Loon with lead poisoning.

There are currently 40 manufactures of non-lead tackle listed on the Minnesota PCA web site under: "get the lead out" six of which are Minnesota companies. The next time you go to buy fishing supplies, ask yourself if it is time to consider an environmentally compatible nontoxic solution for fishing tackle and to look for products that are lead free. We all like to hear Loons calling on the lake and the sight of a Loon chick riding on an adult Loon's back is exciting for young and old alike. Buy some non-lead tackle to experiment with and start to detoxify your tackle box.

BUY NON-LEAD TACKLE!