



PINE VIEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE
BIG PINE LAKES ASSOCIATION

February 2018

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

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(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: Rick Meier

Picnic: Ken & Ardie Johnson

Projects / Road Cleanup:

Roger Olson

Volunteer Committee:

Don Fornell/Ron Redding

Water Quality: Dwight Benoy

Fish Habitat: Dave Schinkoeth

Website: Cathy Stevenson

Chairman's Column

John Mueller

This past year BPLA continued to evolve and grow. Don Fornell resigned his board position with BPLA and requested to be involved only at the project level. Additionally, Greg Sorenson also resigned due to other commitments. BPLA thanks both Don and Greg for their time and support over the past year serving on the board. Nominations and elections to fill these vacancies were held at the Labor Day meeting and Rick Meier and I were elected onto the board. I have again been asked to assume the Chairman role for BPLA, which I am excited to do so.

Since Denise and I bought our property on Big Pine we have watched our lakes continue to change and evolve. Our connections fostered through BPLA continue to allow us to connect with friends and neighbors around the lakes. Annual picnics and association meetings help us meet new acquaintances and to connect with friends throughout the year. On a semi-annual basis we join other volunteers as we walk the roadways in our neighborhoods to help clean up the debris. BPLA fireworks and lake boat parades become the center of our July 4 holiday weekend.

Additionally, through the coordination efforts of BPLA, lake projects continue around the lakes.

In 2017, Shelley Larson from Hayland Woods Nursery, with financial support from Aitkin County Clean Water grants, again helped 3 more property owners complete work along their shorelines, thus further helping stabilize those shorelines to reduce run off into the lake. With the vision and leadership of Don Fornell, BPLA volunteers built 2 loon nesting platforms in 2017 that will be deployed onto the lakes in the spring to encourage loon nesting on our lakes. It's amazing what can happen through the volunteer efforts of our association members. I encourage everyone to join BPLA and to become part of our lake community.

It seems like it's been a long time since we pulled out the dock in October, I can't wait to get it back in and to get the pontoon out again. See you soon at the Lake.

John Mueller



PINE VIEWS

2017 Volunteer Project Day

Ron Redding

Members suggested that the BPLA get involved in building floating loon nests for our lakes. The recommendation was made after high water flooded a loon nest that was in their bay but was ruined due to the excessive rise in the lake level. Many of us watched a similar situation occur with the loon nest on Fish Lake which could be viewed from Highway 18. With approval by our members, funding from the BPLA and countless volunteer hours the project was completed last fall. We now have a total of four floating loon nests with two to be placed on each lake. The nests will go out in the spring as the ice comes off the lakes. We are also working with the DNR for signage to help protect what we hope to be new loon nesting areas for our lakes.

A sincere "Thank You" to our members that approved the project, to Gary and Betsy Larson for allowing us to use their pole barn for construction of the nests and to Don Fornell for coordinating the project.

2018 Water Quality Update

Dave Schinkoeth

On Oct. 16, 2017 the DNR conducted a targeted survey of both lakes for young of the year walleyes. This survey was to assess the natural reproduction of walleyes in our lakes. The capture method is electro shocking. The survey routes are followed using their gps coordinates from previous surveys.

- 20 walleyes were recorded on Pine Lake. Mean length was 6.56 inches.
- 21 walleyes were recorded on Big Pine. Mean length was 7.41 inches.

I was told these numbers were up from the previous survey where I assisted the DNR in its survey. A full report will be released in the spring.

I plan on attending another AIS seminar this spring which the ST. Croix River Assoc. conducts. Date to be determined.

For those in Aitkin County, it is still to be determined if funding will be available for additional buffer zone grants.

Internet Service Update Roger Olson

There is nothing new to report about Frontier. I have continued to reach out to Frontier, but have had limited success in getting any answers regarding potential upgrades to our area.

I did call Scott at SCI Broadband after hearing rumors of their proposed expansion into the Grindstone Lake area. I was informed that they have applied for a grant from the State of Minnesota to provide service there. The reason Grindstone Lake is eligible for this grant is that they do not have any DSL service available as opposed to the Big Pine Lake area which does have marginal service. Scott asked what my bandwidth is currently, and I said, around 1.2 Mbps (Megabits per second) and he said that is considered unserved. From an internet search I found **the following blurb:**

"The Federal Communications Commission voted to change the definition of broadband Internet. Now, a connection must have a 25 Mbps download speed and 3 Mbps up to be classified as broadband. The previous benchmarks established in 2010, 4 Mbps down and 1 Mbps up, are now considered inadequate by the FCC. Jan 30, 2015"

We currently do not meet even the old benchmark service speeds! Scott said to follow up with him in July and they should know if they have been approved for the grant. He said they have considered providing service to our area in the past but said we don't have the density here to justify the cost. With more people staying here year around maybe that will change their consideration. I will follow up and report my findings in a future newsletter.

February 2018

Calendar of Events

Roadway Clean-up Saturday May 12, 2018 @ 9:00 AM, meet at South Lake Public Landing, snack & beverage provided.

Membership Meeting Saturday May 26, 2018 @ 10:00 AM, coffee & rolls service starts @ 9:15 AM, Finlayson Community Center

Project Day Saturday June 16, 2018 @ 9:00AM, meet at South Lake Public Landing, snack & beverage provided

Boat Parade Saturday June 30, 2018 – Register at 4:30 PM, parade starts at 5:00 PM

Fireworks Saturday June 30, 2018, South Lake at 10:00 PM

Fireworks Clean-up Sunday July 1, 2018 @ noon, meet at Makela's to help clean up the firework debris, 30 minutes

Project Day Tentative date Saturday July 14, 2018 @ 9:00 AM, meet to setup for annual BPLA picnic, snack & beverage provided

Annual Picnic Tentative date Saturday July 14, 2018 @ noon. Hosted by Ken and Ardie Johnson at their house. BPLA provides meat, buns, condiments, soft drinks and water. BRING a dish to share! Great chance to meet other members of the BPLA

Project Day Saturday August 18, 2018 @ 9:00 AM, meet at the South Lake Public Landing, snack & beverage provided

Membership Meeting Saturday September 1, 2018 @ 10:00 AM, coffee & roll service starts @ 9:15 AM, Finlayson Community Center. Annual election for Directors

Project Day & Roadway Clean-up Saturday September 15, 2018 @ 9:00 AM, meet at South Lake Public Landing, snack & beverage provided

Project Day Tasks

- **Loon Boxes placed and removed based on weather**
- **Clean-up around creeks and trails**
- **Kiosks and signs**
- **Other tasks identified needing attention**

Membership

John Mueller

BPLA continues to enjoy a strong participation level for residents and families from around the lakes. In 2017 over 200 families joined BPLA to help support activities around the lakes. In addition to the annual membership fees, members also donated over \$2000 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 4th Fireworks display. In 2018 we will be hosting the fireworks display on Saturday, June 30 to allow all our weekend vacationers to enjoy the show. Please plan your holiday travel accordingly.

This year's membership forms are included with the mailing of our early season newsletter which is sent to all current BPLA members and other 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 2017 the Ice Out date was April 2.

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.

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
Chris' Food Center_____	320-245-2229
D&E Heating/AC_____	320-384-0066
DB Cleaning_____	320-233-0878
East Central Energy_____	800-254-7944
Finlayson Ag & Hardware_____	320-233-7372
Finlayson Storage_____	612-229-9205
Geise Bed & Breakfast_____	888-220-0234
Hayland Woods Native Nursery_____	320-983-2584
Lake State Federal Credit Union_____	320-245-5251
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
Moose Lake Implement & Sport_____	218-485-4486
Northview Bank_____	320-233-7575
Paul's Portables_____	320-245-6802
Peterson's New & Used_____	320-233-6429
Pine County Sheriff_____	320-629-8380
Pine Lake Mini Storage_____	320-233-6394
Purple Pumper_____	320-384-0655
Rapit Printing_____	651-633-4600
Round and Round Farms_____	320-233-7234
Sandy's Salon_____	320-233-6192
Sandstone Ace Hardware_____	320-245-2235
Schoenrock Construction_____	320-233-6192
Town & Country Insurance_____	320-233-6684
United Country Real Estate_____	320-245-2502