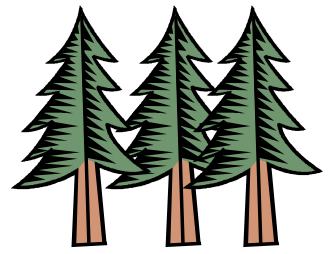


PINE VIEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE BIG PINE LAKES ASSOCIATION

August, 2014

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



BPLA Board of Directors

- Dwight Benoy, Chairman** (1)
dbenoy@comcast.net, Pine Lake
- Dave Schinkoeth, Co-Chair** (1)
651-777-5714, Big Pine Lake
- John Mueller, Treasurer** (4)
612-790-5795, Big Pine Lake
- Joe Rudich, Secretary** (2)
joe@rudich.com, Pine Lake
- Bob Hemming, Director** (4)
Hemming11238@gmail.com, Pine Lake
- Bob Palmer, Director** (6)
320-233-6109, Pine Lake
- Gary Reimann, Director** (6)
763-753-1566, Big Pine Lake
- Jeff Lundgren, Director** (1)
jeffreyd@frontier.com
Big Pine Lake

(Years of service noted in parenthesis)

BPLA Committee Leaders

- Boat Parade** Lisa Drake, Bob Hemming
- Fireworks** Gary Reimann
- Logowear** Joe & Margaret Rudich
- Membership** John Mueller
- Merchant Directory** Bob Hemming
- Newsletter** Margaret Rudich
- Picnic** Gary Reimann
- Projects / Road Cleanup** Joe Rudich
- Volunteer Committee** John Mueller
- Water Quality** Dwight Benoy
- Fish Habitat** Dave Schinkoeth
- Buffer Zones** Bob Hemming & Dave Schinkoeth
- Website** Cathy Stevenson

Calendar of Events

Aug 30th, Membership Meeting - social time starts at 9:15am with donuts & coffee, meeting starts at 10am

Sept 20th, Roadside Cleanup - 9am, meet at South Lake Public Landing, snack & drink provided

Chairman's Column

Dwight Benoy

We're making progress! The Board has been working the Strategic Plan with the following report:

Goal #1: Improve Water Quality

- A BPLA Guide to Shoreline Buffers was developed and presented at the Spring Membership Meeting. This will be posted on the BPLA website.
- Lake water testing is in progress to determine the impact of the former trout rearing pond.
- Provided information to the membership about the impact of septic systems on water quality. Come to the August 30, 2014 Membership Meeting to learn more.

Goal #2: Improve Fishing

- Maintenance has been done in fish spawning areas.
- Walleye fingerlings are being purchased for stocking this fall.
- DNR fish studies are being monitored and communicated to the membership.

Goal #3: Build Connectivity of People on the Lakes

- Ongoing activities that connect people include the twice annual Membership Meetings, membership picnic, newsletter, website, roadside clean-up, logo clothing, boat parade, fireworks and special projects.
- BPLA has continued to develop relationships with local businesses through the merchant directory. Please patronize these merchants.

Remember, BPLA is a non-profit volunteer organization that requires active involvement of its membership to succeed.

Bob Palmer, Gary Reiman and Bob Hemming are very active Board members who will finish their terms this Fall. Their service on the Board will truly be missed. However, with their departure, new opportunities become available for those wishing to serve BPLA in this capacity. Please consider a position on the Board. Nominations will be held at the Fall Membership Meeting for two positions from the South Lake and one from the North Lake. See you August 30th!

New Cell Tower Under Construction

Joe Rudich

Verizon Wireless has procured land and issued construction contracts for a new cellular communication tower which will be located near the corner of Highway 18 and Sprandel Road, less than half a mile from the northwest corner of Big Pine Lake. Construction is expected to begin this September, and once completed, should significantly improve cell phone reception across the area of both lakes.

BPLA Website Updates

Joe Rudich

Minnesota Waters, the organization which hosts the BPLA website, altered their web hosting system and software this year. This change forced our Webmaster, **Cathy Stevenson**, to completely rebuild our site. Cathy put in a lot of hours doing so and the site looks great! Thanks Cathy!! The site's new address is: <http://minnesotawaters.org/bigpinelakes/>



Pine Views



Fishing Report Dave Schinkoeth

Beavers are back in Strawberry Creek and a trapper has been retained for their removal.

The BPLA has ordered \$2,000 of walleye fingerlings (6-8" long) for stocking which should take place in October or November, after the DNR completes their walleye sampling.

The North Lake fish survey was completed the week of August 11th; South Lake survey will start on the 18th and be completed on the 22nd. Results will be tabulated and a report will be put on the DNR fisheries website in the future. Both gill nets and trap nets were used in the sampling. This is a standard survey sampling.

BPLA Receives Approval for Buffer Zone Grant

Joe Rudich

In August, Aitkin County Soil and Water informed the BPLA that it had approved a grant of matching funds in the amount of \$4,950. These funds are designated for the construction of shoreline buffer zones, and are contingent upon a 25% contribution from landowners.

Receiving this grant money is a tremendous accomplishment and is also a tremendous opportunity for property owners. Let's work to improve our properties and, more importantly, to protect water quality within our lakes! A number of buffer zones can be created at greatly reduced cost through this grant. More information about this grant will be available at the Fall Membership Meeting.



Buffer Zones & Shoreline Restoration Bob Hemming

Please attend the Fall Membership Meeting to learn more about improving and stabilizing your shoreline. As a bonus, your shoreline offers a more diverse wildlife habitat for critters ranging from butterflies to frogs to seed-loving birds. Images of shoreline restoration projects on Pine and Big Pine will be shown, handouts about the process and lists of sources will be available and **Shelley Larson** from Hayland Woods Native Nursery, an expert on shoreline restoration, will give a brief talk. Shelley will be available after the meeting for questions.

Membership Committee John Mueller

To date, our 2014 BPLA membership is 202 with five of the memberships being "new members". Welcome to our New Members!

Thanks to all for your support of our association with your financial contributions and time commitments. There are some prior year(s) members that have not renewed in 2014 so please encourage your neighbors not displaying the "14" on their BPLA plaque to join BPLA. Membership info and forms can be found at <http://minnesotawaters.org/bigpinelakes/> or contact me directly at 612-790-5795.

For those of you interested, we now have available extra BPLA black membership plaques for displaying on your out buildings. We also have current membership directories available. Please check with us at the upcoming Membership Meeting over Labor Day weekend for further details. Thank you for your continued support and confidence in BPLA

Reed Canary Margaret Rudich

Reed Canary is an invasive plant species that is prevalent on our lakeshores. It is easily identifiable as a grass growing 2-6 feet high and at this time of year it has seeds at the top like overgrown grass. Reed Canary is a problem because it's roots only penetrate about 3 inches into the ground and it outcompetes native plant species which help prevent soil erosion because their roots penetrate 3 feet or more into the ground. Once you have Reed Canary on your property, it is hard to eradicate it - but there are ways. Find out how at the next meeting!



BPLA Logowear Joe Rudich

Our stock of polo-style shirts with the BPLA logo has been replenished just in time for the Fall Membership Meeting! We have new colors and sizes, including smaller ladies' sizes, by request! We still have plenty of sweatshirts, caps and t-shirts in stock, too.

We introduced new BPLA mugs at the Spring Membership Meeting and we still have a great supply available. BPLA gear is available only at Membership Meetings. We accept cash or checks.

Light Pollution

Dwight Benoy

It's such a delight to escape the light pollution of the city and to more clearly see the heavenly display of stars while at the lake. Unfortunately, light pollution has been increasing on the lakes with more lights and brighter lights being left on through the night. Please be respectful of your neighbors and considerate of fish and wildlife by turning off your lights when they aren't needed or reduce their intensity at night.

Memorial to Paul Karel

Joe Rudich

The family of **Paul Karel** extended a memorial donation to the BPLA in memory of Paul, who passed away this May at the age of 87. Paul was a U.S. Navy veteran of the Second World War and a policeman in St. Paul for 20 years. He and his wife, Angie, owned a cabin on Big Pine Lake for many years, and inspired three of their sons to purchase or build homes on our lakes. The funds donated will be used to improve water quality. Our members thank Paul's family for this consideration, and will remember Paul and his legacy on our lakes.



Roadside Cleanup

Joe Rudich

The fall cleanup of the roads around our lakes will take place on Saturday, Sept 20, at 9:00 AM. Meet **Joe & Margaret Rudich** at the BPLA Dock area (near South Lake public boat launch) for an hour of joining your neighbors to tidy up after the summer.

Meet the Author

Margaret Rudich

Local author, **Susan Schussler**, will be at the Fall Membership Meeting, August 30th, to sell signed copies of her novel "Between the Raindrops". Sue has been a member of the BPLA for many years and her book includes scenes based on her family's time spent on Pine Lake. While "Between the Raindrops" is a good read on it's own, those extra Pine Lake passages make it especially fun to read for those of us that know the lake!

Boat Parade 2014

Lisa Drake

Thank you to participants of the 2014 BPLA Boat Parade held July 5th. We enjoyed a great Minnesota summer day with 7 participants on the North Lake and 1 participant on the South Lake. Thank you also to our parade judges: the **Hemming, Bjerke, Holloway** and **Drake** families.

NORTH LAKE

First Place - The **Mueller Family** - Thomas the Train theme. In addition to the clearly recognizable train features which included a working smoke stack, the boat crew was dressed in matching uniforms, engineer's caps, and wooden train whistles.

Second Place - The **Zack Family** - "What Does the Fox Say?" The Zacks were dressed as foxes and performing a very credible version of What Does the Fox Say which could be heard from across the lake.

SOUTH LAKE:

First Place - We had one boat competing this year on the South Lake. Congratulations & thank you to the **Miers family** on their red, white, and blue pontoon.

2015 Boat Parade Challenge

Joe Rudich



For many years, the BPLA has sponsored a parade for decorated boats on Independence Day weekend. Boat parades are a fun tradition on many lakes around Minnesota, and the event has been strong on both of our lakes in past years.

Unfortunately, this tradition seems to be in danger of fading away on the South Lake. Participation has declined over the last few years, until only one family decorated a boat in 2014. While several families on the North Lake compete so enthusiastically that some keep plans for their parade entry top secret until parade day, the South Lake seems to be forgetting the parade takes place.

The BPLA Board will be glad to encourage parade participation & is open to all suggestions. Further, the chair and judge for the South Lake, **Bob Hemming**, is stepping down after this year, so a new parade chair is needed. If you are interested in helping manage the parade, please contact any board member.

If your family is interested in reinvigorating the South Lake boat parade tradition, start getting your plans ready for next July!

Pine Views

Consider Being A Board Member!

John Mueller

As a current BPLA board member, I would like to share my insights about what it means to be a board member and why you might want to consider volunteering your time to the association.

When my wife and I first bought our cabin 7 years ago, I wasn't sure how it would affect our lives. I met many neighbors and was encouraged to attend the spring meeting. As I listened to the presentations and met some of the BPLA board members, I realized that these individuals really care about our lakes and want to make a difference. I offered my help at a couple of volunteer events and eventually found myself raising my hand to be part of the board.

Since joining the board, my circle of friends "at the lake" has expanded dramatically and I have made connections with many more of my neighbors. It has definitely been an enjoyable experience. In addition to participating in the Memorial Day and Labor Day meetings, the board meets 3-4 times per year to plan activities and address ongoing issues around the lake. Participating in the board has helped me expand my scope of understanding on what happens around the lake and how we as a group can help make living or visiting the lakes a great experience. The time I invest in the BPLA improves the experience of my children and grandchildren at the lake, and I feel I am truly making a difference in preserving and enhancing the quality of our lakes.

As some of our current board members and committee chairs step down this fall, I encourage you to consider investing your time and energy in supporting BPLA. If you are interested in joining the association board or volunteering to assist as one of our committee chairs, please reach out to one of our current board members.

Thank you for your consideration!



Local Merchants

A&M Pumps	320-676-3386
All That Floral and Gift	320-245-3181
American Septic	320-384-7300
Ausmus Furniture & Carpet	320-384-6101
Bella Salon & Boutique	320-245-0301
Chris' Food Center	320-245-2229
D.B. Window Washing	320-233-7484
East Central Energy	1-800-254-7944
Federated Co-ops	320-245-5576
Geise Bed & Breakfast	888-220-0234
John Andreason Heating	320-233-6068
Lampert Lumber	320-245-2276
LaRose Greenhouse & Nursery	320-233-7455
Man's Mowing	320-630-5336
Matt's Sanitation	320-384-7137
MJC Equipment, Inc	320-245-5127
MPJ Enterprises	320-245-5127
Moose Lake Implement & Sport	218-485-4486
Mora Marine	320-679-1262
MPJ Enterprises Landscaping	320-245-5127
Northview Bank	320-233-7575
On A Cloud Massage	320-216-5369
Peterson's New & Used	320-233-6429
Pine Lake Electric	320-233-6127
Pine Lake Mini Storage	320-233-6394
Purple Pumper	320-384-0655
Quarry Greenhouse	320-245-0561
Rapit Printing	651-633-4600
Rosga Well Drilling	320-384-6103
Sandstone Ace Hardware	320-245-2235
Sandy's Salon	320-233-6192
Schoenrock Construction	320-233-6192
Sebald Motor Sales	320-838-3141
Septic Check	320-983-2447
Town & Country Insurance	320-233-6684
United Country Real Estate	320-245-2502
Waldheim Resort	320-233-7405

*Please patronize the
merchants who
support the BPLA!
They are important
to our success!*