



PINE VIEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE
BIG PINE LAKES ASSOCIATION

March 2016

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

BPLA Board of Directors

- John Mueller, Chairman (6)
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- Jim Stevenson, Co-Chair (2)
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- Roger Olson, Treasurer (2)
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- Dave Schinkoeth, Director (3)
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- Jeff Lindgren, Director (2)
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- Greg Tavernier, Director (2)
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- Ron Redding, Director (1)
randsredding@frontier.com, Pine Lk
- Don Fornell, Director (1)
djfornell@yahoo.com, Pine Lake

(Years of service noted in parenthesis)

BPLA Committee Leaders

- Boat Parade:
 - North lake - Lisa Drake
 - South lake - Rick Meyer
- Fireworks: Jim Stevenson
- Logowear: Roger Olson
- Membership: John Mueller
- Merchant Directory: Roger Olson
- Newsletter: John Mueller
- Picnic: *A leader is still needed!*
- Projects / Road Cleanup:
 - Roger Olson
- Volunteer Committee:
 - Don Fornell
- Water Quality: Dwight Benoy
- Fish Habitat: Dave Schinkoeth
- Website: Cathy Stevenson

Chairman's Column

John Mueller

A heartfelt welcome to new Board Members **Ron Redding** and **Don Fornell**. Ron was elected at the Labor Day meeting to fill one of the open positions for Pine Lake. During that meeting, Bob Palmer also was nominated and elected to fill the remaining open position for Pine Lake. After the meeting, Bob did rescind his acknowledgement for inclusion in the board and requested that the board find other individuals to help with the BPLA leadership. Bob did agree to continue to help BPLA in other non board related support roles. With the newly vacated position, the BPLA board sought, nominated and approved Don Fornell to assume the remaining open position for Pine Lake. Don has been active in BPLA activities in years past and will be assuming a leadership position for our volunteer activities. We are very excited to have Ron and Don join the BPLA board and look forward to their future contributions to BPLA. We owe a debt of gratitude to outgoing Board Member **Dwight Benoy** who served as Chairman for the past 2 years. It was through Dwight's leadership that we designed our BPLA Strategic plan that helps guide our vision currently.

2015 was a great year for BPLA, we continued to enjoy volunteerism by members including our semi annual roadside clean-up projects, individual maintenance projects around the lakes, replacement of the kiosks at the landing (thanks Ron!), a 4th of July boat parade that had one of the best turn outs in years and generally an all around great year. It's been a short winter this past year, with warm temperatures throughout the season. It looks like it will be an early ice out with spring just around the corner.

Calendar of Events

May 21st, Roadside Cleanup - meet at 9am at the South lake Public Landing. Snacks and beverages will be available.

May 28th, Membership Meeting at the Finlayson Community Center- social time with donuts and coffee starts at 9:15am, meeting starts at 10am.



Pine Views

Pine County 2016 AIS Planning Meeting

Roger Olson

I attended the Pine County Aquatic Invasive Species planning meeting for the 1st time last December. This was a new experience for me and I was impressed with how much time, effort and dollars Pine County puts towards AIS management.

The 2016 plan continues to focus on eradication and control, planning, youth involvement, prevention and public education. All of these areas will have an impact on our lakes in 2016 and for years to come.

The county has been working with the St Croix River Association developing a Strategic Work plan addressing AIS threats within the St Croix watershed, which encompasses our lakes and most of Pine County. Adoption of the plan is anticipated to be April of this year. The St Croix watershed includes 20 counties in MN and WI. Benefits will be increased focus on what feeds the St Croix and how to manage invasive species that are moving up the St Croix.

In 2015 through a partnership program with 4H and training by U of M Extension a Pine County Aquatic Robotics team was established. They developed aquatic robots for early detection of zebra mussels which is critical to prevent the further spread in Pine County.

Another area where the county has invested is in prevention of AIS spreading from lake to lake. They have hired inspectors that monitor boat landings Friday to Sunday from May to September and rotate to all the lakes in the county. The county is looking to increase the number of inspectors in 2016 so they can monitor the lakes more frequently. They have asked the lake association including BPLA to assist by volunteering at our landings on weekends when there is the most boat traffic. We don't have a set plan yet but may want to discuss at the spring meeting.

Education continues to be a big focus for the county. They are working with schools to educate kids on AIS and the impact it can have on the lakes.

Goal is for the kids to be involved and hopefully prod their parents to be more diligent checking for any invasive species. The county will be handing out brochures on watercraft inspection at boat landing, bait and boat repair shops throughout the county, along with placing additional signs at all of the boat landings.

I found the meeting to be a good education on how Pine County is combating AIS in our lakes.

You can go to co.pine.mn.us to find out more about aquatic invasive species.

Membership Committee

John Mueller

This past year BPLA enjoyed a great year with over 200 participating members. In 2015 our members donated over \$17,000 through membership fees and donations throughout the year. Over \$2100 was directly earmarked for donation to the Food Shelf, which the BPLA forwarded to the Sandstone Food Shelf, managed by Family Pathways, to help needy families in the area. Additional funds were allocated to support water quality improvement projects around the lake, our annual July 4th fireworks and other Association activities. In 2016 we will be hosting the July 4th fireworks display on Sunday, July 3rd 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. 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/

Thank you for your continued support and confidence in BPLA!

Water Quality Update

Dwight Benoy

Your lake association has continued to monitor the quality of the lake water, including the water quality in two inlet streams, Pine Creek and Strawberry Creek. Thank you for supporting the BPLA with your financial contributions.

This makes it possible for us to continue to monitor the quality of the water, which goes toward the BPLA mission of "To Preserve and Enhance the Quality of Our Lakes". Big Pine Lakes is part of the Kettle River Watershed. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) will be assessing this watershed over the next couple years for the primary purpose of identifying impaired waters and developing ways to improve water quality, as well as maintaining unimpaired waters. The results of the BPLA's water testing will be used by the MPCA in their assessment of the watershed and are posted on their website. In 2010, BPLA contracted with AWR to conduct a fly-over study and evaluation of the lakes. The AWR report identified potential "hot spots" that might be contributing excessive nutrients into the lake water. One of these "hot spots" was a former trout-rearing pond located south of the south lake. Trout-rearing operations were stopped 25 years ago. Pine Creek is the outlet for this pond which then flows into the lake. The AWR report recommended further study and testing be conducted to determine if, in fact, this was a "hot spot". Water testing from Pine Creek and from the lake at the mouth of Pine Creek has revealed that there is not an unusual contribution of nutrients into the lake from this source. While the trout-rearing pond does not appear to be a "hot spot", these sample locations will continue to be monitored with ongoing water testing.

Channel Dredging

Dave Schinkoeth

The BPLA Board worked closely throughout the latter half of the summer with various state agencies to determine options for improving the water depth of the channel under the bridge between the two lakes. We lobbied both the DNR and state agencies to move forward with an application to hire outside parties to dredge the channel and improve the depth throughout the passageway. In early November we were advised by the DNR that our request was put on hold as it was identified that the dam at the outlet of Big Pine Lake was missing a stop log causing lake levels to be held artificially low. The DNR noted in their report that at the time of their visit the lake level had reached a new lowest recorded water level of 1081.66 feet which exceeds the previous lowest water level of 1082.32 recorded on 9/6/2012. The Board is now working with the DNR to bring resolution to the missing stop logs on the dam and will continue to pursue options for improving lake levels in the upcoming year



Did you know?

In the last 2 years the DNR has changed their walleye stocking patterns for the lakes focusing on larger fish than previous years.



	Adults	Yearlings	Fingerlings	Fry
2015	53 - 49#	1480 - 400#	3716 - 274#	-0-
2014	-0-	-0-	9745 - 642#	644k - 6.4#

Pine Views

Ice Out Contest Rules

(Win \$25 or a BPLA sweatshirt)

Our annual "Ice Out" contest for members to guess the day that the Ice makes its exit from the lakes starts officially with the beginning of our annual membership drive. Each member who submits their 2016 membership card is allowed one guess with payment of their annual membership dues. If you also choose to donate to the Fireworks fund as you pay your dues you will receive an additional guess. Early donations to the fireworks fund are appreciated due to planning. All submissions for the "Ice Out" contest must be postmarked no later than March 31. In the event that ice goes out prior to March 31, only submissions postmarked prior to that official Ice Out date will be considered. The ice out date is determined by BPLA. The date is determined by when the ice is completely out on both the North and the South Lake. If more than one member submits the correct ice out date a drawing will be held at our May Membership meeting.



Shoreline Restoration

Dave Schinkoeth

In conjunction with Shelly Larson and Hayland Woods Native Nursery, BPLA co wrote a grant through Aiken County for 5 property owners to begin work on their shoreline properties for 2016. As more money becomes available additional owners will be contacted in order of application. Janet Smude, our Aiken County contact, is currently identifying additional funding options for our interested lake shore owners. The BPLA Board has also approached Pine County Soil and Water soliciting options for funding on water restoration projects. We hope to have more information regarding funding for Pine County residents available by the Memorial Day meeting.

Local Businesses

Please patronize the business
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
Double W Tree Service	320-279-1472
East Central Energy	800-254-7944
Federated Co-ops	320-245-5576
Geise Bed & Breakfast	888-220-0234
Hayland Woods Native Nursery	320-983-2584
John Andreason Heating	320-233-6068
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
Marce Hemming Real Estate	651-387-3874
Matt's Sanitation	320-384-7137
MJC Equipment, Inc	320-245-5127
Moose Lake Implement & Sport	218-485-4486
Mora Marine	320-679-1262
MPJ Enterprises	320-245-5127
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
Sandee's Salon	320-233-6192
Sandstone Ace Hardware	320-245-2235
Schoenrock Construction	320-233-6192
Septic Check	320-983-2447
Town & Country Insurance	320-233-6684