



# PINE VIEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE  
BIG PINE LAKES ASSOCIATION

September, 2015

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

## BPLA Board of Directors

- Dwight Benoy, Chairman (2)  
dbenoy@comcast.net, Pine Lake
  - Dave Schinkoeth, Co-Chair (2)  
651-777-5714, Big Pine Lake
  - John Mueller, Treasurer (5)  
612-790-5795, Big Pine Lake
  - Jeff Lindgren, Director (1)  
jeffreyd@frontier.com Big Pine Lk
  - Greg Tavernier, Director (1)  
tavernx2@gmail.com, Big Pine Lk
  - Roger Olson, Director (1)  
rogero@advantagesgs.com, Pine Lk
  - Jim Stevenson, Director (1)  
stevensonjc@comcast.net, Pine Lk
- (Years of service noted in parenthesis)

## BPLA Committee Leaders

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

## Chairman's Column Dwight Benoy

The Labor Day Membership Meeting on September 5th is fast approaching. Please plan to attend to get updates on what's happening with your lake association. Also at this meeting, we will be electing and/or re-electing board members. There will be two open seats for people from the south lake. Please consider serving as a board member.

One of the board seats to be filled is the result of Joe Rudich's resignation. I want to thank Joe and his wife Margaret for their service to BPLA. They were very actively involved, including managing the BPLA apparel sales, coordinating the roadside clean-up, and writing, editing and distributing the newsletter, to name a few of their activities.

There are opportunities to serve your lake association without being a member of the board, as Margaret Rudich demonstrated. As she will no longer be serving as editor of the newsletter, we are looking for someone to take on that role. The newsletter is distributed three times per year. If you are interested in serving your association in this capacity, please let me or any of the board members know.

## Calendar of Events

Sept 5<sup>th</sup>, Membership Meeting  
- social time with donuts and coffee starts at 9:15am, meeting starts at 10am.

Sept 26<sup>th</sup>, Roadside Cleanup  
- meet at 9am at the South lake Public Landing. Snack and beverage will be available.

*Note Date Change!!*

## July Fireworks Jim Stevenson

Thanks to Pat and Don Makela for allowing BPLA to launch the fireworks from their property on our annual July 4<sup>th</sup> event. We saw a great display and enjoyed the festivities under a beautiful July night.

Thanks also go out to Mike and Rich Karel and their families for assisting the festivities by providing the lighted tiki torch route through the Narrows for the families coming from the North Lake. Their contributions are appreciated by all!



# Pine Views

## Membership Committee John Mueller

To date, our 2015 BPLA membership is 202 with 6 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 2015 so please encourage your neighbors not displaying the "15" on their BPLA plaque to join BPLA. Membership info and forms can be found on our web site [www.minnesotawaters.org/group/big-pine-lakes-association](http://www.minnesotawaters.org/group/big-pine-lakes-association) or contact me directly (information below).

We have extra available copies of our 2015 BPLA Membership listing which we originally handed out at the Memorial Day meeting. If you are interested in a copy, please stop by the registration desk at the upcoming Labor Day Membership meeting.

If you are unable to attend the meeting and would like a copy of the directory, please send an email to [johnmueller17@gmail.com](mailto:johnmueller17@gmail.com) with your request. Include with your email the mailing address you would like the directory mailed to.

For those of you interested, we now have available extra BPLA black membership plaques for displaying on your out buildings and current membership directories. 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!

John Mueller (Chair) Telephone: 612-790-5795

## Labor Day Meeting John Mueller

As a reminder, at our upcoming Labor Day membership meeting we will be voting on making 3 changes to our existing association bylaws. Each change was discussed briefly at the Memorial Day meeting and an informational email was distributed the following week. The changes being proposed include 3 topics for consideration.

- Ability for the board members to execute a vote electronically, with approval coming only with 100% agreement
- Change verbiage to allow 3 board members to have access to writing checks versus the current stated 2.
- Addition of verbiage to detail what happens in the event that the association is dissolved, in particular what happens to the remaining association funds (this was requested by our insurance liability company)

We will have handouts for all membership meeting attendees explaining in details each of the clauses and will vote on changes at the meeting.

For your reference, a copy of our existing association bylaws can be found on our BPLA Website.

[\(www.minnesotawaters.org/bigpinelakes/\)](http://www.minnesotawaters.org/bigpinelakes/)

## BPLA Logowear Availability Roger Olson

Arrive early before the Fall meeting to have time to shop for clothing and other items. This fall, we will be featuring the new visors and tumblers that were brought into inventory this year along with all of our normal great variety of BPLA items. Now is a great time to pick up BPLA logo products for those early Christmas presents! BPLA gear is available only at membership meetings.

September, 2015

**Water Quality Update**  
Dwight Benoy

You may have noticed that the water clarity in the lakes has been relatively good this year. This was confirmed with the Secchi Disk readings that my wife Pat and I have made when we sampled the water for nutrient testing. The Secchi Disk provides a measure of the water clarity. The black and white disk is lowered into the water until it disappears from sight at which point the depth of the disk is recorded. Deeper is better.

Secchi Disk readings this summer have been in the 5-1/2 foot to eight foot range, whereas readings from last year were in the 3 foot to 4-1/2 foot range. There are several factors that affect water clarity, so it's not possible to pinpoint why there is such a difference, but it seems to be headed in the right direction.

Water clarity is a big factor in our perception of the suitability of the lake for recreational use. As we've mentioned for many years, nutrients going into the lake are a big factor with regard to water clarity. It could be that efforts by property owners to create vegetated buffer zones along the shores of the lakes and creeks have had a positive impact. More can be done to minimize nutrients going into the lake with additional buffer zones and checking to make sure your septic system is in good working order. Let's all work to get those Secchi Disk readings even deeper.

**Roadside Cleanup – September 25<sup>th</sup>**  
Roger Olson

I want to give a big thanks to Don Fornell for organizing the 10 people that showed up for the roadside clean up Saturday June 20th.

It was a wet morning but everyone came prepared for the weather and pitched in to pick up trash on several of the roads around the lakes.

Thank you to Shirley Roedke, Dan Frey, Sheila and Mark Andersen, Carl Rudich, Liz Murray, Dan Schmitz, Jerry Ludwig, and Kathy and Don Fornell.

Don picked up the many bags of trash and brought them all back to the landing. Thanks again Don!!

The fall cleanup of the roads around our lakes will take place on Saturday, September 25, at 9:00 AM.

*Note that this is a date  
change from earlier announcements!*

Meet us at the BPLA Dock area (near South lake public boat launch) for an hour joining our neighbors to help walk our lake area roadways and police the sides.

Come on out, meet your neighbors and help spruce up around the lakes!

---

**Shoreline Buffer Zones**  
John Mueller

During our spring membership meeting, Shelly Larson of Hayland Woods Native Nurseries presented an overview of a number of shoreline buffer zone options for lake shore owners to consider. Shelly has since been working with a number of cabin owners who have property located around the lakes. BPLA is working closely with Hayland Woods Nursery to draft a joint grant request to be submitted to Aitken County to help offset a percentage of the costs associated with these projects under funding that is available through the "Aitkin County Clean Waters Grant Program". Grant recipients will be eligible for funding up to 75% of the project and require a 25% local investment in cash or in kind work efforts.

If your property is located in Aitkin County and you are interested in exploring options to update your shoreline with a buffer zone and to participate in this grant application, please contact Dave Schinkoeth at 651-777-5714. The application will be completed and submitted over the next 45 days.

# Pine Views

## July 4<sup>th</sup> Boat Parade – North Lake Lisa Drake

We had another great turn out for the BPLA boat parade on the North Lake. We had 14 families represented. Thank you for participating in the parade and also for the outstanding creativity this year. Several parade participants mentioned that the support and cheering from shore and from other boats on the lake really made the event a lot of fun for them too. The top displays this year were the Zach family with "Candy Land", the Mueller's with "The Big Pine Lake Zoo" and the Leshner family with "County Jail". Thank you also to the Bjerke, Drake and Moore Families for helping to judge and select our winners for 2015. Thanks to everyone for helping to make this BPLA tradition a lot of fun.

**See you next year!**



## July 4<sup>th</sup> Boat Parade – South Lake Rick Meier

There was great participation and enthusiasm from all entries in our parade! We had 10 families represented this year. The judges were very impressed and it made it extremely hard to pick any clear winners. The two judges eventually decided on the top two: First Place – The Meier Family – "Skol The Vikings". The replication of a Viking ship, the Viking horns and the portrayal by the participants was excellent. Second Place – The Dexter Family – "Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July" - The theme was most enthusiastically portrayed and the decorations were superb. Third Place - All participants deserve awards for making this 4<sup>th</sup> of July a very fun and memorable day for all lake residents. **Thanks to all!**

## 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