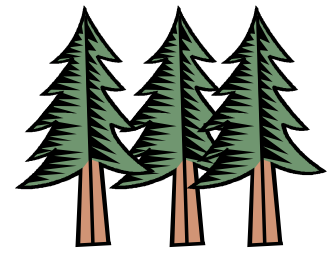


# PINE VIEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE BIG PINE LAKES ASSOCIATION

February, 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)  
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- Joe Rudich, Secretary** (3)  
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- Greg Tavanier, Director** (1)  
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- Roger Olson, Director** (1)  
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- Jim Stevenson, Director** (1)  
stevensonjc@comcast.net,  
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** Joe & Margaret Rudich
- Membership** John Mueller
- Merchant Directory** Bob Hemming
- Newsletter** Margaret Rudich
- Picnic** A leader is still needed!
- Projects / Road Cleanup**  
Joe Rudich
- Volunteer Committee**  
John Mueller
- Water Quality** Dwight Benoy
- Fish Habitat** Dave Schinkoeth
- Buffer Zones** Dave Schinkoeth
- Website** Cathy Stevenson

## Calendar of Events

**May 16<sup>th</sup>**, Roadside Cleanup – meet at the South Lake Public Landing. Snack and beverage provided.

**May 23<sup>rd</sup>**, Membership Meeting - social time starts at 9:15am with donuts & coffee. Meeting starts at 10am.

## Chairman's Column

Dwight Benoy

A hearty welcome to new Board Members **Jim Stevenson, Roger Olson, Jeff Lindgren** and **Greg Tavernier**. BPLA is an active organization thanks to the many members who volunteer their time and talent, especially the Board Members, to advance the goals of the Association. We owe a debt of gratitude to outgoing Board Members **Bob Palmer, Gary Reimann** and **Bob Hemming**. These gentlemen volunteered many hours to move the BPLA agenda forward. Thank you for your dedicated service to our lakes!

BPLA has been promoting the installation of shoreline buffer zones for several years. This past fall, **Liz Murray**, working with **Shelley Larson** of Hayland Woods Nursery, got a grant to install a wide variety of native plants on her property as well as the property of two neighbors to the south. This included the removal of reed canary grass, an invasive species that had taken over much of the shoreline.

I'm excited to see the results this next year. It will be beautiful with flowers blooming throughout the year to stabilize the shoreline and filter nutrients from runoff before it reaches the lake. If you're interested in doing this at your place, let me know and I will work to get you connected with the resources to accomplish this improvement to your property and the quality of our lake water.

Enjoy winter, but let's hope for ice-out before May this year.

## Ice Out Contest

John Mueller

### Win \$25 or BPLA Sweatshirt!

It's time for our annual "Ice Out" contest where members try to guess the day that the ice exits the lakes. The contest starts officially with our annual membership drive. Each member who submits their registration for 2015 is allowed one guess with payment of their annual membership dues. Choosing to donate to the Fireworks Fund will earn an additional guess. Early donations to the Fireworks Fund are appreciated to assist our 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 and is marked as the first day that 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.

### BPLA Summer Picnic

July 18<sup>th</sup>

Joe Rudich

### Picnic Chairman Needed!

**Gary Reimann** planned and managed the annual picnic for many years, an effort which was greatly appreciated. Gary has asked to step away from this task, so a new picnic coordinator is needed to ensure this activity continues. Anyone interested in helping, please contact any board member. We would be happy to let you engage your imagination to organize this event!



# Pine Views

## *Membership Committee*

John Mueller

In 2014, BPLA enjoyed a great year with over 200 participating members. Our membership donated over \$19,000 through membership fees and donations throughout the year. Almost \$2000 of these contributions was directly earmarked 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 Independence Day fireworks and other Association activities. In 2015 we will be hosting the **fireworks display on Friday, July 3rd**. This change was decided by vote by the attendees of our Labor Day Membership Meeting. Please plan your holiday travel accordingly.

The 2015 membership forms are included with the February newsletter since this issue 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. Thank you for your continued support and confidence in BPLA!

## *Fishing Report*

Dave Schinkoeth

I obtained permission from the landowner of the sale property on the corner of Alder Street. We have identified another potential beaver problem on this property. Gaining permission to this property took about three months. A trapper has been contacted to remove this beaver from our lakes area in the spring. Our attempt to stock walleye fry was a failure due to the fish breeder I contracted. The eggs never became walleye fry/fingerlings. In the fall of 2015 we will deal with a fish farmer from the Willmar area with a proven track record.

## *BPLA Tree Seedlings Coming*

Joe Rudich

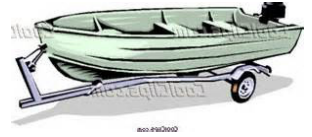
The BPLA Board has arranged to obtain tree seedlings from the State of Minnesota, which will be distributed without charge to interested members at our May Membership Meeting. Start thinking about some places that need a few new trees!

## *Aquatic Invasive Species Training Required For Trailers!*

Jim Stevenson

As I walked through the DNR building at the state fair this past summer there was a young man standing at a table looking rather lonely. He asked us if we had heard about the new law requiring people who transport trailers with boats, docks or swim rafts on them. I had not heard about this and wondered why it wasn't publicised.

The law states that beginning on July 1, 2015, trailer owners must take a 30 minute on-line course regarding Aquatic Invasive Species. We need to pass a test in order to obtain a sticker which attaches to our trailers that pull boats, docks, lifts or swim rafts out of the water. The course will also be available in paper form. Only one member of the family has to complete the course and upon successful completion of this course you will be able to purchase decals for each of your trailers. The decals will be valid for three years at which time you will need to repeat the process. If a person is cited without the trailer decal, they will be issued a 7 day temporary permit and they must complete the course within those 7 days.



The Minnesota DNR has hired an outside firm to administer this course on their behalf. I spoke to a representative from that firm on January 28, 2015 and was told that the course is ready to go, however the DNR is not ready to launch yet. Among the issues that they are trying to solve, are the fees associated with the course and decals and how they will be treating out of state boaters.

There is at least one State Representative, **Steve Draskowski** from Mazeppa who believes that this law goes a little too far and is leading an effort to repeal this law. We will all have to keep watch during this year's legislative session but for now the DNR is moving forward with this law.

I would encourage each of you to keep track of this new law on the DNR web site at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/laws.html>. You can also obtain more information by calling 651-259-5100. To obtain a paper copy of the course you can call 651-351-2000.



## Water Quality Dwight Benoy

My wife Pat and I have been conducting our "scientific expeditions" to collect water samples over the past couple years. We have been sampling roughly once a month from spring through fall. You may have seen us in our yellow kayaks headed for Pine Creek at the south end of the south lake. We go a short distance up Pine Creek to sample water from the creek. We also sample at the mouth of Pine Creek and from Strawberry Creek near the county road.

We use our fishing boat to reach the three locations on the lake where we sample the water and also take Secchi Disk readings. 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.

The water samples are sent to a laboratory in Duluth where they are tested for quantities of phosphorus, nitrogen and chlorophyll in the water. Phosphorus and nitrogen are nutrients that impact plant and algae growth in the lake. Too much of these nutrients reduces water quality. Chlorophyll is a measure of the amount of algae in the water.

One of the reasons for doing the water testing is to determine if the old trout-rearing pond which empties into Pine Creek may be contributing excessive amounts of nutrients to the lake. The trout-rearing operation was stopped about 25 years ago. The preliminary results indicate that the nutrients in Pine Creek do not appear to be excessive, particularly when compared to the test results from Strawberry Creek, another primary tributary to the lake. Testing will be ongoing to determine if other patterns emerge with changing weather and seasonal conditions.

Big Pine Lakes is part of the Kettle River Watershed. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) will be assessing this watershed over the next few years for the primary purpose of identifying impaired waters and developing ways to improve water quality, as well as maintaining unimpaired waters. More information is available at [www.pca.state.mn.us/water/monitoring-watersheds.html](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/monitoring-watersheds.html).

We have offered to share the data collected from our recent water testing for their use. The MPCA has accepted the offer and indicated this will provide them with valuable information in their study of the watershed.

The Pine County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) has developed a "Local Water Management Plan 2015-2020", which addresses the Kettle River Watershed in conjunction with the MPCA. This plan outlines a number of goals and actions specific to the

watershed. BPLA has already implemented, or is in the process of implementing, a number of these action items. The BPLA Board will continue to monitor the activities of these government agencies and look for opportunities to help achieve the goals.

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".

Until our next report, look for your water quality scientists in the yellow kayaks.

## 2014 BPLA Volunteer Activities

Joe Rudich

The BPLA had a number of great activities that exemplify the kind of action that our group wants to perform: service that combines member effort, community resources, and some association funding. These are cost-effective efforts that promote all aspects of our mission: improving the quality of our lakes and encouraging member cooperation.

- The board worked with **Shelly Larson's** nursery to obtain grant money for restoration of the natural shoreline around 3 lake properties, and many volunteers worked with landowners to install natural shoreline plants.
- In spring, we painted and repaired all the signs around the lakes identifying streams and other features, as well as birdhouses. We also worked with the Sandstone Correctional Institute to produce new signs for the hiking trail built in 2013.
- Volunteers met twice this year to collect trash on the roads around our lakes.
- A group of volunteers worked last September to maintain the fish spawning habitat in Strawberry Creek.
- The BPLA purchased river rock in October, and volunteers worked to haul and spread it under the Narrows bridge to support fish spawning in that area.

*Thank you, Karen Palmer!*

A great big thank you goes out to **Karen Palmer** for her many years of service behind the scenes for BPLA. Karen planned and served coffee and donuts for our membership meetings for six years. She also put on numerous meals and snacks for the Board Members during those same years as the board met at her house to plan activities and make decisions for BPLA's direction. Thank you, Karen, for all your efforts! It is very appreciated!

# Pine Views

## Winter Break-Ins

Joe Rudich

In early February, Aitkin County Sherriff's department received reports of break-ins and thefts around our lakes. Two cabins on the west shore of the south (Pine) lake suffered forced entry and some items were stolen. Over the course of a week, 4 trailers were stolen from different cabins or homes around the lakes. For more info, contact Deputy Travis Winter of the Aitkin County Sheriff's Department at 218-927-7412.

Most of us leave our cabins unattended for weeks at a time, and sometimes for longer periods. It is incredibly disturbing to discover that people cannot be trusted, but, sadly, that's the nature of our world. Most of our neighbors are trustworthy, but a few bad apples force us to take a lot of extra measures. Some sensible precautions:

- Know your neighbors! The BPLA member directory is a great way to keep in touch, but talk to each other about security, in person.
- Discuss keeping an eye on each other's property. If someone lives year-round near your cabin, ask if they would drive past your place during the winter and give you a call or email if there is a problem. (Show your appreciation – bake your "neighborhood watch" a pie or help with a chore.)
- Lock and secure sensibly. It may be easy to leave boats, trailers, tools, and lawn equipment out in the yard – but it isn't safe.

## Aquatic Invasive Species Report (AIS)

Dave Schinkoeth

I attended the Aquatic Invasive Species seminar for Pine County lakes on Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup>. I was one of 3 lake associations represented at the seminar. Pine County had a soil and water rep and a county commissioner there. The DNR rep was Aquatic Invention Prevention Planner, **Philip Hunsicker**. The U of M also a member of their invasive species program. Hosting the discussion from Pine county land and water was **Kelly Schoeder**. Suggestions in dealing with the AIS problems were spoken of in a very general matter. Our two lakes are fortunate to not having any AIS problem other than curly-leaf pondweed. The DNR rep did not feel it is a problem at this point as it is isolated in our lakes. The county does have funds to deal with the AIS problems in other county lake, and the members of the seminar are looking to spend the county funds wisely in dealing with any AIS.

## Local Merchants

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

A&M Pumps	320-676-3386
All That Floral and Gift	320-245-3181
American Septic	320-384-7300
Bjorkland & Sons	320-245-2879
Chayls Lawn Service	320-233-7484
Chris' Food Center	320-245-2229
D.B. Window Washing	320-233-7484
Drilling Plumbing & Heating	320-233-6068
East Central Energy	1-800-254-7944
Federated Co-ops	320-245-5576
Geise Bed & Breakfast	888-220-0234
Hayland Woods Native Nursery	320-983-2584
Hemming Real Estate	651-387-3874
John Andreason Heating	320-233-6068
Lake State Federal Credit Union	320-245-3874
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
Moose Lake Implement & Sport	218-485-4486
Mora Marine	320-679-1262
MPJ Enterprises Landscaping	320-245-5127
MPJ Enterprises	320-245-5127
Northview Bank	320-233-7575
On A Cloud Massage	320-216-5369
Paul's Portables	320-245-6802
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
Rapit Printing	651-633-4600
S and T Dock Installation	218-380-1131
Sandstone Ace Hardware	320-245-2235
Septic Check	320-983-2447
Town & Country Insurance	320-233-6684
Waldheim Resort	320-233-7405

## Cabin for Rent?

BPLA received an inquiry from a family interested in renting a cabin in order to attend a family reunion. *"My family is coming to Finlayson for a family reunion. We are wondering if any of the owners rent their cabins/ houses on a lake near Finlayson. We have sterling credit and would provide the owner with a substantial deposit. We would need a minimum of 3 -5 bedrooms and 2 full baths. The time frame would be July 3-8th or July 5th-9th."* Sandy Smelik 619-449-8815 or sandysmelik@cox.net.