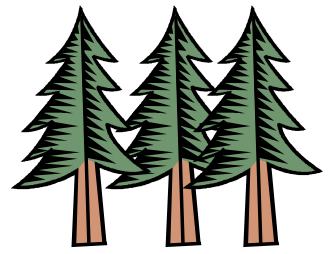


# PINE VIEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE BIG PINE LAKES ASSOCIATION

May, 2015

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



## BPLA Board of Directors

- Dwight Benoy, Chairman** (2)  
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- John Mueller, Treasurer** (5)  
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- Jim Stevenson, Director** (1)  
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(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

## Summer Picnic -July 18th

### Picnic Chairman Needed!

We still need help organizing the summer picnic. If no one is willing to plan this event there won't be a picnic for 2015. Contact any board member if you are interested in chairing this year's picnic.

## Chairman's Column

Dwight Benoy

### Membership Meeting May 23

It's hard to believe that it's nearly time for the Memorial Day weekend Membership Meeting. Our keynote speaker for the meeting is **Shelley Larson** of Hayland Woods Native Nursery. She will be presenting examples of shoreline restoration and buffer zone projects completed on our lakes, so don't miss it.

**Ron Reed**, an Eagle Scout candidate, will provide a brief presentation on the Eagle Scout Project he is proposing to do for the benefit of BPLA. Ron's family has had a place on the North lake for many years, so this will have special meaning.

### Water Quality

Septic systems protect human health and the environment by safely recycling wastewater back into the natural environment. Poorly functioning septic systems have been shown to contribute nutrients to the lake that reduce water quality.

Have you checked your system lately? If not, you can do it yourself, possibly with the aid of a dye (search online for septic system dye) that can reveal a problem. Another option is to hire a septic system specialist to evaluate how well your system is working. There are several listed in the BPLA Business Directory.

Should your septic system need repair or upgrade, the MN Dept of Agriculture has the AgBMP Loan Program that provides low interest (3%) loans for this purpose. For more info, see their website at <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/agbmp>. See you at the Membership Mtg!

## Calendar of Events

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

**June 20<sup>th</sup>**, Roadside Cleanup - meet at 9am at the South lake Public Landing. Snack and beverage provided.

**July 3<sup>th</sup>**, Fireworks at dusk on the South lake.

**July 4<sup>th</sup>**, Boat Parade -register at 4:30pm, parade starts at 5pm.

**July 18<sup>th</sup>**, BPLA Picnic 11am-2pm if someone volunteers to organize.

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

**Sept 19<sup>th</sup>**, Roadside Cleanup - meet at 9am at the South lake Public Landing. Snack and beverage provided.

*Spring Membership Mtg:  
Shoreline, Fishing, & Trees!*  
Joe Rudich

Don't miss the spring meeting, which will be held May 23. A representative from the Minnesota DNR will be on hand to describe and answer questions about fishing populations in our lakes.

**Shelley Larson** of Hayland Woods Nursery will tell members about options for native shoreline restoration.

At the end of the meeting, the BPLA will distribute free tree seedlings (White Pines and fruit trees) to members.



# Pine Views

## Membership Committee

John Mueller

Our 2015 Membership campaign began in earnest in mid-February as we looked to gather our contributions for the upcoming year's activities. To-date, we have 185 families who have submitted their association fees. In addition to their annual membership fees, members have also helped by making contributions to our Water Quality Projects fund, 4th of July Fireworks fund (to be held Friday, July 3rd) and the Food Shelf fund. Thanks to each one of you for your contributions and commitments to-date.

Because of these commitments, we'll be able to continue to foster a healthy association for the Big Pine Lakes focused on long term water quality and lake enjoyment. For those that have sent in your 2015 completed membership form, you should have received a green "15" sticker to add to your BPLA plaque used in previous years. Please display it proudly.

For those who have yet to renew/join the 2015 BPLA family, find our annual membership form on our [web site](http://www.minnesotawater.com) at [www.minnesotawater.com/bigpinkelakes/](http://www.minnesotawater.com/bigpinkelakes/). Please complete the form and mail it with your check to Big Pine Lakes Association, PO Box 190, Finlayson, MN 55735 or bring it with you to the May membership meeting. Upon receipt, a "15" green sticker and acknowledgement will be mailed to renewal members. New association members will also receive a BPLA plaque with the "15" green sticker attached.

As an added benefit to joining the BPLA association we will provide all attendees at the upcoming May 23rd Membership Meeting copies of our 2015 Membership Directory, a listing of all BPLA members and their lake addresses. 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 or contact me via telephone. Include with your email the mailing address you would like the directory mailed to.

All BPLA members are encouraged to provide ideas and feedback anytime/anyway to the BPLA board. Writing feedback on your membership form is an excellent way to communicate your ideas! Also, if you notice your neighbor does not display the BPLA plaque with the current year sticker, please talk to them and pass on their feedback to the membership committee. Thanks for your support!

## Roger Hugill Retires

Dwight Benoy

Many of you probably remember **Roger Hugill**. Roger retired the first part of April from the DNR Fish and Wildlife Division. Roger has helped to guide BPLA with our fish projects over the years. He has been a reasoned, knowledgeable resource for BPLA for many years and he will be missed in that role. On behalf of BPLA, I sent Roger a congratulatory note and a gift to say thanks for his efforts.



## Fireworks - Friday, July 3rd

Jim Stevenson

This year's fireworks will be on the evening of **Friday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>** near the landing on the South lake. The first blasts will occur at dusk. Once again, this should be an entertaining display. The size of our fireworks is determined by the amount we collect in donations. If you have not donated yet you can still contribute at the May membership meeting or send a check to the BPLA.

It's an impressive sight to see all the boats on the lake at once. If you plan on being out there, please make sure you have the proper lighting on your boats for navigating back to your cabins. I'm not aware that there have ever been any late night boating accidents on our lakes so let's all continue to keep our lake safe with all the boats navigating at the same time that night.

## HELP WANTED

We are in need of a couple of volunteers who can assist in placing the torches in the narrows to guide those folks traveling from the North lake to the South lake for the fireworks on Friday July 3<sup>rd</sup>. The job involves placement of the torches during the day, lighting them just before dusk and returning to pick them up the following day. Please contact **Jim Stevenson** at 651-492-1416 or by email at [stevensonjc@comcast.net](mailto:stevensonjc@comcast.net).

## Response to Question #10 on the survey taken in 2014

"Should BPLA spend more money for a longer Fireworks show?"

- Yes, 32%
- No, 68%

*Update on Aquatic Invasive  
Species Training Law*  
Jim Stevenson

In January 2015 (shortly after the BPLA newsletter was published) the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources announced that they will postpone the new aquatic invasive species training and trailer decal program that was due to launch at the end of that month while legislators consider changes to the program.

Under a law passed by the state Legislature in 2012, anyone trailering a boat or water-related equipment such as docks and lifts in Minnesota is required to take aquatic invasive species training and display a decal on their trailer. The effective date was originally July 1, 2015.

The DNR supports the education that would be provided under this law, but recognizes there are some concerns with the way the law is currently written. For example, people transporting boats on trailers through Minnesota to another destination are required to take the course and display a decal even if they don't launch their boat in Minnesota waters.

I spoke with the DNR on May 4, 2015 to see if there have been any updates to this law. I was told that this is in the hands of the Legislature and the DNR has no further information. The DNR spokesman stated that it does not appear likely that the law will go into effect this year. I was also told that the online course and test has not yet been created. You can sign up for on line updates at <http://www.trailers.mndnr.gov/>.

*Roadside Cleanup - June 20<sup>th</sup>*

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

*Ice Out Contest*  
John Mueller

**Win \$25 or BPLA Sweatshirt!**

The official ice out date was April 6, 2015. Thanks to all for sending in your early membership dues. We will have a drawing amongst all the correct entries at the May 23rd Membership meeting to determine the winner.

*Shoreline Buffer Zones*  
Shelley Larson

Last fall, Pine Lake shoreline owners undertook a project to protect water quality, prevent shoreline erosion, and enhance habitat for wildlife. Three families and volunteers spent several days removing non-native and unsightly invasive Reed Canary Grass, and planting 3500 native grass, sedge, flower, shrub, fern, wet meadow and emergent plants in a 15' deep buffer planting along their 300' stretch of shoreline. **Shelley Larson** of Hayland Woods Native Nursery assisted by designing a planting plan, coordinating the project with Aitkin SWCD, providing plant materials, and overseeing the planting workshop.

If you have erosion on your shoreline, you are losing valuable real estate. Switching from bare lawn at the water's edge to a buffer of deep-rooted native vegetation protects your shore from erosion caused by waves and boat wakes. It offers privacy for you and habitat for fish and other aquatic wildlife, birds, butterflies, and pollinators. Buffers capture sediment and nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen - essential for maintaining water quality and healthy lakes. And they are beautiful!



While it takes a native planting several years to mature as roots grow deep into the soil, flowers will begin to bloom the first season after planting, and butterflies usually appear soon after. And once a planting is established, maintenance is minimal and that leaves you more time to enjoy family and friends at the lake. For more information on shoreline stabilization and restoration contact your lake association, Aitkin SWCD, or **Shelley Larson** at Hayland Woods. Congratulations to these families for their commitment to clean water!

See photos on the BPLA website!

*BPLA Logowear Additions*  
Joe Rudich

Arrive early before the Spring meeting to have time to shop for clothing and other items. This spring, we have added visors by member request. We have also restocked our supply of tumblers and can coolers. BPLA gear is available only at membership meetings.

# Pine Views

## *What's in a (Lake) Name?*

Joe Rudich

When I joined the board of the lake association a few years ago, one of my cousins, Bob Schussler, a fellow cabin owner on the South lake, immediately asked me, "So what are the real names of the two lakes? Which is Big Pine, which is Upper, why do some people say North or South?" My family has owned 4 cabins on Pine Lake since the early 1950s, but as with many people, the names of our two connected lakes is not clear to all of us – and unfortunately, the board does not maintain a "Book of Secrets" that reveals the answers, either!

There are at least 10 lakes named "Pine" in Minnesota, but through the years, the two lakes have shared this with all of those others, and with each other in varied forms. Adding to the confusion is the fact that water flows from south to north through the two lakes, exiting to the Pine River at the dam on the northern lake. Due to this, the DNR labeled the lakes "upper" and "lower" in accordance with the direction of water flow – so the south lake was for a time labeled "Upper Big Pine Lake", and the north lake "Lower Big Pine"!

Our northern lake is now clearly identified as "Big Pine Lake" by the DNR, but the southern lake still has an "identity problem": it is given the overly-common designation of "Pine Lake" by DNR identification, but labeled "Big Pine Lake (South)" on permits.

In the 1970s, some lake cabin owners suggested renaming the southern lake, "White Pine Lake", because the lakes were named for the large stands of White Pine trees, most of which are now found on the south lake. (The White Pines are the giant trees which live up to 450 years, and in which eagles like to perch.) Anyone interested in reviving the effort of renaming the south lake "White Pine Lake"? Or shall we stick to calling one of the lakes, "Upper South Slightly-Smaller Big Pine"??

## *Boat Parade – Saturday, July 4th*



Just a reminder that there is still time to plan to decorate your boat. Show your spirit and let your imagination run wild. We would love to have your participation! Prizes are awarded for the best boat decorations or themes.

## *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   |
| Bella Salon and Boutique        | 320-245-0310   |
| 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     | 320-245-2004   |
| 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   |
| 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   |
| Mann'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   |
| Old and New Property Services   | 218-341-0870   |
| 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   |
| Quarry Greenhouse               | 320-245-0561   |
| Rapit Printing                  | 651-633-4600   |
| S and T Dock Installation       | 218-380-1131   |
| 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   |