

Big Pine Lake-Property Owners Association

Spring News Letter

April 2025

From the President:

Hopefully this newsletter finds you healthy and ready to enjoy some time at the lake!

As many of you know, the dam on Big Pine Lake is in disrepair. Last fall, we (Aitkin County SWCD and I) applied for a CPL Grant for reconstruction of the Big Pine Lake dam. We were recently awarded the grant. TSA is starting to advance the design which will include a fish passage within the new structure. More information on the dam and the CPL Grant should be available by the Spring Board meeting.

The Minnesota Lakes and Rivers (MLR) Lake Steward program has been launched on Big Pine Lake. You should have received an email outlining the program back in February. More information enclosed.

We have many opportunities to get involved at the lake. It's a great way to meet your neighbors and contribute to the community. See below and [the website](#) for ways to get involved!

Please share this newsletter with your neighbors and invite them to join by reaching out to a board member or visiting our website and filling out the form.

See you at the lake!
Tom Hubbard

2025 Calendar

Spring Board Meeting
Saturday, May 17th 9AM
Big Pine Chapel

Spring Clean up
May 17th, 10AM
Meet at MLEC coop

Fishing Contest
Saturday, July 5th
8AM-10AM registration
10AM-Noon Fishing
Noon- prizes and hotdogs
23568 450th Ave-Moores

Boat Parade
Saturday July 5th
4PM lineup at island

Summer Meetings
at Big Pine Chapel
8:30AM Board
10AM Membership

Picnic Potluck
Saturday, August 16th
4:30PM @ Segars
44875 238th Lane

Fall Board Meeting
Saturday Sept 20th, 9AM
Big Pine Chapel

Fall Highway Clean up
Saturday Sept. 20th
Meet at MLEC COOP 10AM

July 5th Lake events:

FISHING CONTEST

2024 Fishing contest was a hit with 150 participants. This is a fun way to teach and practice catch and release as well as meet some lake neighbors for some fun.



2025 DETAILS:

8:00-10:00AM Registration

10:00-12:00 Fishing

12:00 Prizes and hotdogs at the Moores!

Thank you to the Moores for hosting this awesome event!

Boat Parade

We are excited to keep the Boat parade again for 2025. Plan ahead! The more boats the more fun for all!

Mary Lin Gmach is organizing the parade again this year. Contact her at marylingmach@gmail.com if you would like to help or participate.

4:00PM line up south of island!



Lake Steward Program

The Big Pine Lake Property Owners Association (BPLPOA) has launched the Lake Steward Program, open to all current members, in collaboration with Minnesota Lakes & Rivers Advocates. This initiative aims to recognize property owners who implement sustainable shoreline practices. Beginning in July 2025, evaluations will be performed upon request by trained volunteers. Participants can earn a Lake Steward sign and help maintain a cleaner Big Pine Lake, with administrative costs covered by BPLPOA and MLR support.

WHY PARTICIPATE?

Due to 56% of Minnesota's surface waters being impaired, local engagement is crucial. With 500 Lake Associations and around 100,000 members advocating for improved water quality, joining the BPLPOA Lake Steward Program contributes to statewide water management efforts.

Register today by taking the online [Lake Steward Quiz](#) or filling out the [Contact Us](#) form on the Big Pine Lake website.

Website

Hopefully you have heard by now, Big Pine Lake POA has a website! Please visit the website to learn more about the lake history, fill out membership form, express interest in getting involved, or participate in one of our new initiatives. Thank you to board member Sharrel Wright and Lake member Amie Mayo for their hard working building this site out.

[Big Pine Lake Website](#)

Highway Cleanup

Join your fellow lake residents for the Big Pine Lake POA Highway Cleanup!

Many hands make light work!

Gather at the MLEC Co-op parking lot at 10:00AM. It takes about an hour from start to finish. Bags provided, please bring your own gloves.

Spring Cleanup
May 17th

Fall Cleanup
September 20th



Big Pine POA Expenses

In alignment with the association's mission, Big Pine Lake-POA allocates membership dues towards various expenses, including:

- Membership in Minnesota Lakes & Rivers
- Liability Insurance
- Membership in ACCLARA
- Carp fence installation to deter Asian carp
- Chapel rental for meetings
- Fishing contest organization
- Prizes for the boat parade
- Website maintenance
- AW Research (water sampling)
- Support for the Garrison Fire Department
- Signage and educational initiatives
- Analysis of weed beds

Annual Picnic Potluck

Saturday August 16th
44889 238th Lane
(in the bay south of the island)

We will provide the meat
Bring a dish to share

RSVP to segars@comcast.net
or 651-246-0182

Get Involved!

There are numerous opportunities to engage with your neighbors through Big Pine Lake-POA.

Here are some recent initiatives seeking volunteers:

Boat Inspections at the Landing:

Currently, the MNDNR conducts boat inspections on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 8 AM to 5 PM. We aim to expand our coverage as boats often arrive before 8 AM from nearby areas. We are looking for volunteers who can commit to two-hour shifts. Training will be provided. Contact Board President Tom Hubbard to participate.

Lake Steward Program

- **Inspections** -Help provide requested lake front evaluations.
- **Landscaping**-Looking for volunteers with landscaping or horticultural skills to guide owners looking to create a healthier lake front

Contact Board President, Tom Hubbard or Board Members, Dick Webber, and Jerry Low.

For additional opportunities to get involved at the lake, Visit the association websites [volunteer page HERE](#)

Rest in Peace

Lake friends who passed this last year-their families are in our thoughts and prayers:

Jim Schulz, April 13th 2024

Rev. Larry Foote, December 16th 2024

*Please let a board member know if a lake member passes so we can include them in the next newsletter

2025 Healthy Land, Healthy Lake Expo

This free event hosted by Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Group will be held on Saturday May 3rd, at Tulibee Tavern, 235 Main St, Wahkon from 9:00AM-12:30PM

[Click here for DETAILS of EXPO](#)

PLANT SALE: Order by April 27 for pick up at the Expo May 3!

MNL (formerly known as Minnesota Native Landscapes) has assembled collections of native plants that are perfect for enhancing existing landscapes or for launching a new project. There are collections for every type of growing conditions, so you're sure to find one suitable for your location, at a savings of \$20 per collection. [Pre-order here by April 27 for pick up at the Expo.](#)

Aquatic Invasive Species(AIS) Volunteers

The purpose of the AIS Volunteer Program is to educate the public about invasive species at the public access. These interactions at the access serve to teach people about invasive species, and to provide information on how to properly clean, drain and dry their watercraft or other water-related equipment after each use, and dispose of unwanted bait in the trash.

Big Pine Lake POA would like to supplement the paid DNR personnel with volunteers during hours when people may be launching at the lake. We need at least 10 people interested to host a class. Please fill out volunteer form on website to express interest: [Big Pine Lake Volunteer Form](#)

Neighborhood News

Lake news for the good of the neighborhood, but not BPL-POA organized

At The Chapel - 43472 240th St

Fishing Opener Pancake Breakfast:
May 10th 8:00AM-noon
All you can eat Pancakes with eggs,
sausages, coffee & juice.
Also featuring a bake sale and Avis
Earley's wonderful quilts

Church Services:
1 p.m. on Sunday afternoons. We'd
love to see you there

Texas Holdem Card Group



Anyone interested in a summer (June thru
September) Texas Holdem Card Group?
Text or email Dick Weber with contact info
(name, phone and email) Dick will put
together contact group and we will figure
date, place and time, from there.

404 983 7864
raweber200@gmail.com



**Big Pine Lake-Aitkin
Facebook Group**
Join today!
Big Pine Lake-Aitkin



Men's golf group

Held at Ruttger's Bay Lake Golf Course

- Tuesday and Thursday mornings.
- Tee times start at 10 AM early in the season and shift to 8 AM in June.
- Participation is free, but greens fees apply.

Players can respond to a weekly email by Saturday to indicate their preferred days. Groups are rotated by organizer Tom, promoting diverse play. Last year, six Big Pine owners participated, welcoming all ages and skill levels. To join, email golfatruttgers@gmail.com to be added to the weekly list; play runs from May to October.

**"SAVE THE DATE"-
August 24th**

Annual Weitenauer -
Songs by the Lake Concert
23479 435th Avenue
details to come later*



**Join the Big Pine Lake
NEXTDOOR**

Join Big Pine Lake Property Owners Association!

Name: _____

Lake address: _____ Aitkin, MN 56431

Email: _____ Lake Phone _____

Home/Mailing Address: _____

New Member Renewing Member

Membership Dues: \$35.00

Please send payments to:

Invasive Species donation: _____

Total check: _____

Big Pine Lake-POA
c/o: Sharon Esnough
44703 238th Ln
Aitkin, MN 56431

Due June 15th

You can fill out membership form online, and then drop check or cash off to Sharon



Association Picnic Potluck
Sat., August 16th 4:40PM
44875 238th Lane
The Segar's

Fishing Contest
Saturday July 5th
Registration 8:00AM
Fish 10AM-noon
Prizes and lunch at noon
Laurie & Mike Moores
23568 450th Ave

Boat Parade-July 5th, 4PM lineup

Association meetings

- Spring Board: May 17th 9AM
- Summer meetings: July 19th
8:30 Board, 10:00 Membership
- Fall: Sept 20th, 9AM
Held at the Chapel

Road side clean ups

- Spring: May 17th 10AM
- Fall: Sept 20th, 10AM
Meet at MLEC Coop

Tom Hubbard - President - hub6@me.com
Mike Moore - Vice President - mmoore7985@gmail.com
Sharon Esnough - Treasurer - Shortyes420@gmail.com
Marie Segar - Secretary - Segars@comcast.net
Sharrell Wright - Website - dswright1921@gmail.com

David Fisher - DCFisher@prontomail.com
Jerry Low - Jerryjlow@gmail.com
Stacey Robin - SGR80@msn.com
Wes Thomas - suewessbarb@msn.com
Dick Weber - raweber200@gmail.com