



Big Lake Improvement Association  
PO Box 3  
Sawyer, MN 55780

## NEWSLETTER

May 2024

Dear Members and Friends of the Big Lake Improvement Association:

Seems as though we went from the winter that never ended to one that didn't show up much at all this year. However we had TWO ice outs! March 12th was the first, temporary out, followed by the actual out on April 3rd.

**PONTOON TRAILER:** The pontoon trailer is available to **BLIA members** at no cost. The trailer is located at Joe and Arlene Kelley's back lot, 3144 Magney, and can be picked up when available. **It is VERY important to I to sign in and out on the provided clipboard, including your phone number. Please return the trailer within two hours.** When the weather is good, others may be waiting.

**CALENDAR PICTURES:** We will select pictures for next year's Big Lake Calendar in June. We must have your pictures by June 10th. Send to Jen Owens (owensjennifer08@gmail.com). Identify with your name, date of picture and location. Please put "Big Lake Calendar" on the subject line.

Reminder: use landscape orientation and best quality to avoid blurring when enlarging.

**PONTOON BOAT PARADE:** We will have the pontoon parade on Saturday, July 6th. Pontoons will meet at the north end of the lake near the public landing at 3:00 PM. Prizes will be awarded with first place having their name engraved on the plaque. Second and third places will get prizes also. There will be judges on the lake this year to determine winners. **YOU MUST COMPLETE THE WHOLE CIRCUIT** in order to be considered for winning. Start at the landing, finish at landing. Thank you in advance to Paul Randolph and Brian Shockley who will be this year's judges. Thanks to Nicole Shockley for taking photos.

**ANNUAL MEETING AND DINNER:** will be held at Big Lake Golf Course on August 10, 5:00 cocktails, 5:30 Dinner and speaker, possible speaker coast guard/boat safety at 6:15. More information to come.

**ROAD CLEAN-UP:** Walkers, help us clean up. Just carry a bag on your daily walk and pick up some trash. There seems to be a lot this spring. Thank you.

**GARAGE SALE:** Garage sale is the 1st weekend in August on ODD years, so NO garage sale this year.

**WATER SAFETY:** This year registration and reflectors are required on anchored swim rafts. There is no fee for registration. can be obtained at the Carlton Sheriff's office. ID and street address needed.

Buoys are in place thanks to Brian Shockley and Paul Randolph. We have 11 buoys on the lake marking dangerous rocks, sandbars and passages in the narrows.

Please familiarize yourself with safety rules for jet skis, power boats, fishing boats, etc. Always have life jackets on children and at the ready for all boaters. You can pick up a water safety booklet with your fishing license or boat registration. Jet skis must be under 5 mph within 150 feet from shore, other boats, people, rafts, etc.

Required equipment on a boat: life jackets (one for each person), one throwable (type IV), children under 10 should always wear a lifejacket, whistle or horn, navigation lights, fire extinguisher. For more details check out [www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us)

**2024 MEMBERSHIP:** Please mail your 2024 membership dues to BLIA, PO Box 3, Sawyer, MN 55780 as soon as possible. Dues are \$20 per family, \$10 per single, and a special rate of \$10 for new members. We don't have the option to collect fees electronically yet.

We are interested in sending out the newsletter via email to those that would prefer that method of delivery. On the enclosed membership form you will find a spot to indicate your preference. We would keep your information private, no one other than the secretary of the board and myself would have access. We would only send out announcements when absolutely necessary and when sending out the newsletter three times per year. You can also share your information with us via using this electronic form, <https://forms.gle/vyxFA6jMJ1Q7ThfcA> or scan the qr code.



The BLIA Board is always welcoming to new board members. We meet only from May through September, possibly 5 or 6 times for about an hour. If you are interested, please contact a board member or attend a board meeting. Board meetings are open to all BLIA members.

BLIA Board meetings are Thursdays, May 16th, June 20th and July 18th at 7 PM at Big Lake Golf Course.

Reminder that the Facebook Big Lake Improvement Association page is a great place to share information.

Sincerely yours,

Brian Shockley, President  
Jen Owens

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

Brian Shockley, President	218-310-1239	Tom Martinson	218-391-9088
Laurie Bennefeld, Secretary	218-878-0848	Carol Nelson	218-251-1471
Jen Owens, Treasurer	218-428-5392	Josh Rostollan	218-391-3434
Karen Anderson	218-324-6346	Mark VanderMeiden	218-390-3522
Joe Kelley	218-879-6171	Sarah Wefelmeyer	218-591-7606
Paul Randolph	651-208-2438	Ray Worgren	218-879-7084
Lynn Stoyhoff	218-391-5912		

