



# Boot Lake Newsletter

Boot Lake Association  
Becker County, MN

Summer 2011  
May 31, 2011

## Reminder!

**Boot Lake Association Potluck is June 12! Please try to attend!**

## Lakeshore Best Practices

By Dan Simms, Chair of the Boot Lake Association

There's a whole lot of best practices going on at Boot Lake! The water is so clear we have run out of rope on the secchi disk (water clarity measuring device). The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has reported that Boot Lake is of excellent water quality. The fishery is healthy with a wide variety of fish (even though I can't seem to catch them...my wife and son do), the loons keep coming back and producing young. Yes, there's a lot to like about our lake. We are truly privileged.

### *With Privilege comes responsibility*

Like it or not, we are all stewards of the lake. Lake shore owners and users of the lake have much influence over whether a lake stays pristine or not. We all grew up and developed ideas about how a lake should be. Some ideas are good, some not so good. On many developed lakes around the area you will see completely unnatural lakeshore. You will also likely find water quality issues and possibly even AIS (aquatic invasive species). This is partly the result of the old way of thinking where we mow to the waters edge, rip out aquatic plants and trees to install sand beaches and follow that up with retaining walls to fight erosion. WHY?? I guess we thought we were improving the lakeshore.

The new way of responsible lakeshore management is essentially allowing the lakeshore to take care of itself. No intermediation needed thank you! If you are not sure "what to do" with your shore, do nothing! This is least expensive and easiest method that will preserve the diversity of the ecosystem and water quality. Here are several of the known best practices and some links to additional reading on the subject.

### **Natural Shorelines work best**

- [The Water's Edge](#)
- [Stop Being a Slave to Your Lawn - Native Plants Are Better](#)
- [Beach sand blankets](#)
- [Use or preserve vegetation buffers to protect a waterway](#)

### **Minimize storm water runoff.**

\* Impervious surfaces like roofs and driveways are the culprits here. The bigger the house, the more important this is!

- [Stormwater Runoff: Stop it from Reaching our Lakes and Streams!](#)
- [Rain gardens to control runoff](#)

### **Keep septic systems in working order and in compliance with code**

- [Septic Systems and Water Quality](#)

### **Practice and demand Aquatic Invasive Species prevention**

- [Lakeshore Owner's Guide to Prevent Aquatic Invaders](#)

**Avoid causing excessive wave action close to shore when operating power boats.**

### Inside this issue:

Lakeshore Best Practices	1-2
Broadband Internet Update	2
Remembering Richard Lincowski	2
Treasurers Report	2
Miscellaneous information	3
Boot Lake Association 2011 Activities	3
Association Information	4

## Best Practices...continued from page 1

### *What's in it for me?*

Some old ideas are hard to let go, that's for sure. But these new best practices, when collectively adopted, being easier and less expensive, will ultimately give us what we originally came to the lake for in the first place. Clean water, abundant wildlife, good swimming, fun boating, fish in the lake, privacy, time, improved property values and ultimately improved quality of life.

The good news is that lots of people at Boot Lake are already following best practices! And the water clarity just continues to get better. We should all be proud of that.

**Loons:** I was sure worried last year during the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, which is the wintering area for the Minnesota loon. I am sure many of us were relieved to see them back (hopefully most of them). Something to think about as we contemplate our energy future.

## Broadband Internet Update By Ken Shepard

The entire Boot Lake area is eligible for Hughesnet satellite Internet service at a reduced rate (your tax dollars at work). The cost is \$40 per month, with no installation or other fees. For this money you get download speeds of around 1 mb/sec until you reach your daily limit.

You can have unlimited downloads, still at 1 mb/sec in the early morning hours. There is only a one year guarantee on this service.

Paul Bunyan is running cable down U.S. 71, but no decision has been made with respect to coming to Boot Lake. They have surveyed the area, but nothing solid yet.

## Remembering Richard Lincowski - 1944-2010 By Ken Shepard

The Boot Lake area didn't know Richard until 1997, but in thirteen years the Lincowski name has come to mean something around here. Richard Lincowski, Linc or Dick to many of us, was born on November 4, 1944, in St. Paul and attended St. Paul Vocational Technical College after high school. He studied electronics and went to work at Univac Corporation in 1964 as a field service engineer. Computers were big with the military, and he spent a lot of time providing support for their systems around the world.

Richard and Melodie married in 1968 and they started a family, with Dick remaining in the computer field until he retired in 1995. They moved to Boot Lake in 1997 and soon bought the Heartland Travel Agency, which they operated until 2007. They have been members of the Boot Lake Association from the time they moved here, and they have remained strong, active members.

Although I never heard him complain about life, Richard was not dealt an easy hand to play. Polio struck him in 1946 and left him with no use of his right arm. He later contracted Crohn's disease and was told that the treatment for it would almost certainly cause cancer in years to come, and it did. For the last five years, Richard has been battling lymphoma, receiving treatment at the Coborn Cancer Center in St. Cloud. While the country was remembering the events of nine years ago, Richard passed away in his Boot Lake home early in the morning of September 11, 2010. Rest in peace, Richard. We will never forget you.

## Treasurers Report—Linda Hunt

1 September 2010 Checkbook Balance:	\$1,110.77
Income: Paid Membership for 2011	\$20
2011 Annual Membership-Minnesota Waters	(\$100)
2011 Annual Website hosting fee	(\$100)
9/28/11 Coborn Cancer Endowment Fund in memory of Richard Lincowski	(\$50)
29 May 2011 Balance in checkbook	\$880.77



Remove any visible mud, plants, fish or animals before transporting equipment

Eliminate water from equipment before transporting

Clean and dry anything that came in contact with water (Boats, trailers, equipment, clothing, dogs, etc.)

Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water.

### TEACH THE PEOPLE!

Prefer email, snail mail or both for your newsletter?

No problem. Send us your preferences at:

[Boot.Lake.Association@Gmail.com](mailto:Boot.Lake.Association@Gmail.com)

### STORIES NEEDED!

Your memories, stories and records are part of the Boot Lake history. Please consider sending them to us to share with others.

Thanks!

## Miscellaneous information

**Adopt-a Highway:** Association members gathered together on October 7 and May 19 to walk the roads around the lake and pick up trash. The October 7 event was hosted by Burt and Darleen Swanson. The May 19th event was hosted by Linda and Denny Hunt. While getting good exercise and doing a good service, the groups had a great time! Thanks so much for your service.

**Boot Lake Website:** Did you know that there is a website for Boot Lake? It is hosted on the Minnesota Waters website. Our association pays approximately \$100 per year for hosting. The purpose of the website is primarily to archive the documents, discussions and decisions that have been made over the years. There are other interesting pieces of information kept there as well. Check it out! [www.minnesotawaters.org/group/boot-lake/welcome](http://www.minnesotawaters.org/group/boot-lake/welcome)

**Minnesota Waters** is an advocacy and education organization dedicated to the preservation of Minnesota's waters. Boot Lake Association is a member of this organization and pays yearly dues. There is a monthly newsletter called "The Confluence" which the Boot Lake Association chair person forwards to all association members who have email on file. To get "The Confluence" sent directly to you, click here: [www.minnesotawaters.org/contact](http://www.minnesotawaters.org/contact)

## Boot Lake Association 2011 Activities

**Association Potluck:**  
June 12 2011 @ 1:00

This is an informal gathering of all residents in the vicinity of Boot Lake to come and share a meal and enjoy the company of Neighbors. Bring a dish to share if you are able. Meet at the home of Judy and Jim Theisen 35258 East Boot Lake Rd Contact: Linda Hunt - [lkdrhunt@unitelc.com](mailto:lkdrhunt@unitelc.com) - 218-732-7576

**Independence Day Boat Parade**  
July 4 2011, 11:00 AM

Decorate your boat as we parade around the lake with our flotilla. We will gather at 11am at the north end of Boot Lake near the public access. The parade should take about an Hour. Afterwards join us as we tie up together and enjoy some beverages, snacks and "patriotic" camaraderie. Contact: Ken Shepard - 218-732-3584 - [irisandkenshepard@gmail.com](mailto:irisandkenshepard@gmail.com)

**Annual Association Meeting and Potluck:**  
August 14, 2011 @ 12:00

This is our annual association meeting that is required by the bylaws. This is a time to discuss the issues related to our lake and is a time for an open forum for any concerns or suggestions that you have. Please take the time to come to this important meeting. After an approximately 1 hour meeting, we will enjoy a Potluck. Beverages will be provided. Meet at the home of Judy and Jim Theisen 35258 East Boot Lake Rd Contacts: Dan Simms - 651-905-9897 - [boot.lake.association@gmail.com](mailto:boot.lake.association@gmail.com) Jim and Judy Theisen (218-732-4403)

**Boot Lake Association Adopt-a-Road Clean Up Day**

Date: To be announced at the Annual Association meeting  
Location: To be announced at the Annual Association meeting  
Joins us as we get together to keep County Road 46 and East Boot Lake Road litter free. Potluck to follow.  
See the [Website](#) for more information



Secrets of Boot Lake

Pileated Woodpecker chicks

Boot Lake water clarity measurement for 2011 is 30 feet plus! They ran out of rope! Folks, that's off the charts.

Boot Lake ice record  
2010 Ice in: December 2  
2011 Ice Out: April 26



2010 Loon Counts:

10 Adults

2 Chicks

2011:

Nesting! Do not disturb

Boot Lake Association  
Becker County, MN

Primary Business Address  
10664 Alton Court  
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077

Phone: 651-905-9897

E-mail:

[boot.lake.association@gmail.com](mailto:boot.lake.association@gmail.com)

## Our Mission

To unite the Boot Lake area property owners, residents, and others who share concern in preserving our lake, conserving our wild life, promoting education relative to these ideals, and offering opportunities for social activity.

The Boot Lake Association invites you to join us as we enjoy, share, preserve and revere beautiful Boot Lake. The association meets throughout the year for social gatherings and is overseen by elected officers and a Board of Directors.

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[WWW.MINNESOTAWATERS.ORG/GROUP/BOOT-LAKE/WELCOME](http://WWW.MINNESOTAWATERS.ORG/GROUP/BOOT-LAKE/WELCOME)

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## Boot Lake Association Board of Directors

Dan Simms	Chair	651-905-9897	<a href="mailto:simms.dan@comcast.net">simms.dan@comcast.net</a>	
Ken Shepard	Vice Chair	218-732-3584	<a href="mailto:irisandkenshepard@gmail.com">irisandkenshepard@gmail.com</a>	<b>END of TERM August 2011!</b>
Linda Hunt	Treasurer		<a href="mailto:lkdrhunt@unitelc.com">lkdrhunt@unitelc.com</a>	
Ken English	Secretary/Webmaster	507- 533-9517	<a href="mailto:Englishkp@charter.net">Englishkp@charter.net</a>	
Ann Simms	Director			<b>END of TERM August 2011!</b>
<b>Open</b>	Director			<b>Open since August 2010</b>

**We always need people to serve on the board. Please be willing to do your part. It is not a large commitment.**

## Lake Association Membership Information:

We welcome and encourage all property owners on or near Boot Lake to support the association. Boot Lake Association is funded by \$10 dues paid by each property owner. These dues bring you the following benefits:

- Several community get together events throughout the year
- Oversight of the current issues of the Boot Lake area
- Information sharing about the lake
- Newsletter
- Communications with local units of government and natural resource agencies
- Good neighbors
- Beverages provided at potlucks

**Please pay your dues at the Potluck meetings or send it to the Treasurer:**

**Linda Hunt, 53351 Grouse About Trail, Park Rapids, MN 56470**

## Boot Lake Emergency Information

- Trained emergency first responders are in the vicinity of the Boot Lake Area.
- There is a cardiac defibrillator at the Two Inlet's store and in first responder vehicles
- In the event of emergency, CALL 911. First responders will be dispatched.
- Becker County Sheriff's department: 218-847-2661 | Park Rapids Police Department: 218-732-3124