



Boot Lake Newsletter

Boot Lake Association
Becker County, MN

Summer 2012
June 4, 2012

Reminder!

Boot Lake Association Potluck is June 10! Please try to attend!

We are all Stakeholders

By Dan Simms, Chair of the Boot Lake Association

At the 2012 Boot Lake Association Board meeting, we had our usual discussion about the role the association plays relative to its lakeshore owners. There were several new board members and I thought it important to review how we have been operating thus far. For everyone's benefit, here is a summary role of our modus operandi:

Our association acts as a steward of the natural resource. It advocates for the perpetual preservation of the health of the lake by promoting education of the stakeholders (you and I), and fostering open community. Our association is not a policing organization. Violations of the law should be reported by individual citizens to the relevant law enforcement agency. However, questions and or concerns of members can indeed be brought up for discussion with the association. We will try to help you or direct you to someone who can.

So that is what the association does. What can you do? A question was asked from one of the board members when discussing Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). He said "Do we do nothing until we have a problem?" After pondering this question for awhile, it is true that we have not implemented an active supervision of the boat launch to prevent rogue boaters from potentially infecting our waters. However, it is our hope that through this newsletter, meetings and correspondence, that lakeshore stakeholders have given the topic of AIS prevention and lakeshore best practices some serious thought. Perhaps you have learned a few things and adjusted your thinking a bit. An informed community is a very powerful force. That is what we can all do. Let's not sit on our hands until the problem happens.

I have been canoeing and boating all my life. I know boating right? Well, this past month I was fortunate enough to get the opportunity to take a whitewater canoeing class. In this class I learned how to *really* paddle a canoe. I found out that I had been hacking through the canoe strokes for 20 years! My point here is that to protect the lake, you need to learn a few things about how the natural processes work. And you might need to let go of a few of things you thought were true. The lake became beautiful with no help from us.

In 2008, Minnesota's State Legislature formally established a [Star Lakes and Rivers program](#). Why? To give lake associations who are active stewards something to strive towards. Here are some of the objectives:

Increase native vegetation both in the lake and on shorelines. Prevention of AIS. Maintenance of a healthy fishery. Cooperation with state agencies and local government units to identify water pollution sources and impairments. Generate data about the water quality of the lake. Promote compliance with adopted shore land zoning standards and shore land best management practices. Education and recognition opportunities for shore land owners and other entities that conduct activities affecting the quality of the lake.

That is our mission. Again remember, the lake became beautiful without us. And now we are here and there are more of us coming. Every one of us is a stakeholder. The responsibility is ours. Perhaps someday I will be fortunate enough to have grandchildren come to Boot Lake. I hope I don't have to say to them "In 2012, the water used to be so clear you could see 30 feet down".

Inside this issue:

We are all Stakeholders	1
Broadband Internet Up-	2
Remembering Phyllis	2
Treasurers Report	2
Recipe for Pickled Pike	3
Miscellaneous information	3
Boot Lake Association 2011 Activi-	4
Association Information	5

Broadband Internet Update By Ken Shepard

Well, my friends, there is bad news and there is good news on the Internet front. First, the bad news. Brian from Paul Bunyan Communications says that the FCC has passed new rules that will prevent them from bringing us Internet service this year. He was not optimistic about next year. Their new rules prevent them from expanding into our area, so they are going elsewhere for now. He says we should contact our federal representatives and ask them to support us. Here are the links to their contact information:

[Al Franken](#) [Amy Klobuchar](#) [Collin Peterson](#)

In the meantime, satellite service remains available. Just be aware that Hughesnet has just been hit with a lawsuit for what some would call fraud. Expect to have to fight for your rights. Now the good news. Actually, there is no good news; I just said that to get you to read to the end. Sorry.

Remembering Phyllis Schmaus - 1944-2010 By Ken Shepard

Phyllis Schmaus was born in Ashby, Minnesota, on Ground Hog Day in 1938 and lived in that area until she met and married Dick in 1957. After Dick completed his military service, they moved to Coon Rapids and raised a family. Throughout her life Phyllis supported her family with great cooking, crafts, outdoor experiences, gardening, hunting and fishing.

In 1989 she and Dick retired to their home in Savannah Township, and Phyllis became active in life around the Boot Lake. She was well-loved by everyone around here. She worked for a time at Half Moon Trail Resort, and she eventually became friends with everyone around the lake. She enjoyed activities of the Boot Lake Association, and the monthly coffee/breakfast almost always saw her there. Her computer was very important to her the last few years. She made cards for everyone with a birthday, and she forwarded on hundreds of jokes she received! She was also a very good shot, and took advantage of that during many deer seasons.

Phyllis would want me to say that cigarette smoking in her early years contributed to later health problems. She once said to me, "I just want to go up to these young girls I see smoking and say, "Look at me! Look at me! Do you want to have these wrinkles when you get older? Do you want to have to carry around an oxygen tank when you get older? You should stop smoking now!"

We all loved Phyllis. There is no one to take her place.

Boot Lake Association has made a \$50 memorial contribution to the American Lung Association of Minnesota in honor of Phyllis.

Treasurers Report—Linda Hunt

29 May 2011 Balance in checkbook	\$880.77
Income: Paid Membership for 2011	\$340
Expense: Reimbursement to Dan Simms for 2011 newsletter expenses	(\$100)
Expense: Northwoods Bank fee	(\$1.50)
28 April 2012 Balance in checkbook	\$1119.27
28 April 2012 Paid membership	30



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.

[Learn more >>](#)

We regularly send out information to the association members via email. If you are not receiving email from us and would like to, please send email to Boot.Lake.Association@Gmail.com

And tell us to add you to the email list.

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!

Recipe for Pickled Pike—Recommended by Ken English

2 – 3 lbs freshwater fish (4-6 oz ea), skin removed	8 cups apple cider vinegar
¼ cup canning or pickling salt	1 ½ cups sugar
3 tbsp mixed pickling spices	½ cup chopped red pepper
1 large white onion	

Freeze fish 48 hrs at 00F. Defrost. Cut into 1 to 2 inch pieces. Set aside. In large glass mixing bowl, combine vinegar and salt. Stir until salt is almost dissolved. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate 2 days.

With slotted spoon, remove fish from salt brine. Rinse fish with cold water until rinse water is clear. Reserve 3 cups brine. Cover and chill fish. Pour reserved brine into 4-quart saucepan. Add sugar, spices, and red pepper. Bring mixture to a boil over medium-high heat, stirring constantly until sugar is dissolved. Remove from heat. Cool completely.

In two 1-quart jars, loosely layer fish and onion. Pour pickling liquid over fish to cover. Seal jars, using two-part sealing lids. Refrigerate 1 week before serving. Store in refrigerator no longer than 4 weeks.

Thomas K Squier – Alberdeen, NC

Miscellaneous information

Adopt-a Highway: Association members gathered together on October 6 and May 17 to walk the roads around the lake and pick up trash. The October event was hosted by Russ and Chris Price. The May event was hosted by Melodie Lincowski. Thanks so much for your service.

Minnesota Waters recently released a statement that they would cease operations. Then two weeks later they released another statement that they have merged with another group “Conservation Minnesota”. It looks like they will continue to operate as an advocate for the protection of Minnesota’s lakes and rivers. The board has been forwarding emails to the association email list about these activities. If you have any questions about our association’s position with regards to Minnesota Waters, let a board member know. Here is the link to the latest Minnesota Waters newsletter: http://www.minnesotawaters.org/sites/default/files/Minnesota%20Waters%20Newsletter_0.pdf

Boot Lake Website: It looks like the web site hosting will continue through Minnesota Waters. The Boot Lake website has been valuable to archive information for our association so members can access all documents of past business. We would like to continue this service.

www.minnesotawaters.org/group/boot-lake/welcome

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS): The collective consciousness of the AIS topic appears to be exploding. I am seeing more activity on the prevention and education of AIS than ever before. As I said in the [2010 newsletter](#), we are fortunate to be in prevention mode and not management mode for AIS. The board of directors has adopted a position that we should educate on this topic. I found another very interesting article published in the Minnesota Conservation Volunteer on this issue. Here is the link: [Stop the Invaders](#). As users of the waters of Minnesota, we must all act on this issue. Please read the article and educate yourself and others.

New State Law! [Mandatory Training for lake service providers](#): “Service providers” are now required to have a service provider permit before conducting work that includes placing or removing water related equipment from any state waters. Individuals who work for a service provider must also take training that will be offered online.

New State Law! [Aquatic invasive species decal law changes; higher penalties go into effect July 1](#): AIS stickers no longer required, but mandatory education course coming in new law that takes affect in 2015. Click link for details.

Boot Lake Association 2012 Activities

Association Potluck:

June 10 2012 @ 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@unitele.com - 218-732-7576

Independence Day Boat Parade

July 4 2012, 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

Annual Association Meeting and Potluck:

August 12, 2012 @ 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

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.

Boot Lake Association Newsletter Archive

New to the area and would like to catch up on past newsletters? Or missed one? All past news letters are archived on our website:

<http://www.minnesotawaters.org/group/boot-lake/boot-lake-association-4>

[Jun 2011](#)

[Jun 2010](#)

[May 2009](#)

[October 2008](#)

[July 2007](#)

[September 2006](#)

[November 2005](#)

[May 2004](#)

[April 2003](#)

[October 2002](#)

[July 2001](#)

[October 2000](#)

[September 1999](#)

[November 1998](#)

[February 2008](#)

[April 2007](#)

[May 2006](#)

[May 2005](#)

[August 2002](#)

[April 2002](#)

[July 2000](#)

[July 1999](#)

[July 1998](#)

[May 1999](#)



Secrets of Boot Lake

[Northern Pike](#)

(link to article)

Photo by Eric Engbretson

Boot Lake water clarity measurement for 2011 was 24-29 feet on the north end 18.5-30 feet on the south end

Boot Lake ice record

2011 Ice in: December 6

2012 Ice Out: March 27

2011-2012 winter was very mild

2011 Loon Counts:

12 Adults

2 Chicks

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

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.

WWW.MINNESOTAWATERS.ORG/GROUP/BOOT-LAKE/WELCOME

Boot Lake Association Board of Directors

Dan Simms	Chair	651-905-9897	simms.dan@comcast.net	Term expires August 2013!
Cliff LaFreniere	Vice Chair	218-732-1910	cliff.lafreniere@gmail.com	
Linda Hunt	Treasurer		lkdrhunt@unitelc.com	
Ken English	Secretary/Webmaster	507- 533-9517	Englishkp@charter.net	Term expires August 2013!
Russ Price	Director	218-732-0979	pricerussellk@yahoo.com	
Darlene Swanson	Director	218-732-3579	btswanson2@gmail.com	

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