

# BOOT LAKE Newsletter



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## We're on the Web

Check out the Boot  
Lake Association Web  
site at:

[www.mnlakes.org/bootlake](http://www.mnlakes.org/bootlake)

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### Coffee Party - Schedule

Aug 8	Kathie Kavolak
Sep 12	Iris Shepherd
Oct 10	Darlene Swanson
Nov 14	Jolly Stuemke
Dec 12	Sandy Thelen
Jan 9	Mary Arendt
Feb 13	Barb Stecker
March 13	Dorathy Theisen
April 10	Twyla Tokle
May 15	Kathleen Lafreniere

Coffee is the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 10am. Call for directions or just come. All are welcome.

### OFFICERS

- Fred Luckeroth, Chairperson
- George Thelen, Vice-Chair
- Dan Simms, Secretary
- Chris Luckeroth, Treasurer
- Dave Kloss, Director
- Barb Stecker, Director

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## Reminder

If you would like to be a member of the Association and if you haven't already done so, please send your 2006 dues - \$10 per household

to:

Chris Luckeroth, 35554 E Boot Lk Rd, Park Rapids, MN 56470

**Boot Lake Association  
Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Saturday, May 6, 2006, 10:30 AM  
Home of the Luckeroth's**

**Attendees:**

Fred Luckeroth - President, Chris Luckeroth - Treasurer, Dan Simms - Secretary, Dave Kloss - Director, Barb Stecker - Director

## ~Minutes~

**1) Treasurers report:**

- Treasurer Chris Luckeroth reported that the association has \$1386.80 in the bank
- Some discussion took place that consideration should be given to spending some of the money or reducing or suspending the dues.
- No further action was taken.

**2) June and August picnic plans**

- Potluck, coffee, paper goods, soft drinks and beer provided
- The first picnic will be held June 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM at Judy and Jim Theisen's
- The second picnic will include the annual Boot Lake Association Membership meeting.

**3) August Boot Lake Association membership meeting.**

- Chris Luckeroth suggested main course be provided, others bring dish to share.
- Chris Luckeroth suggested door prizes to help bring folks to the meeting.
- For the June meeting, it was decided to give door prizes of \$25.00 Deep Woods nursery gift certificates. Chris will get 2 \$25 GC's for deep woods nursery.
- Door Prizes for the August be one each \$25 Gift Certificates for Companeros, Zorba's and Summerhill Farms.

**4) Website update**

- The Boot Lake Association web site has been launched. The URL is: [www.mnlakes.org/bootlake](http://www.mnlakes.org/bootlake)
- The Minnesota Lakes Association (now Minnesota Waters... see item #12 below) offers its member lake associations the opportunity to develop and maintain a web site for their lake association. With funding from the federal 319 Non-Point Source Pollution Program, a template has been developed to assist lake associations in creating a web site. MLA offers the hosted web site in order to promote and encourage effective communication between the members of that lake association and to enhance communication between MLA and its member lake associations. The Boot Lake Association web site will be hosted on the Minnesota Lakes Association web site at no cost to us. This is a savings of approximately \$20 a month in addition to the cost to create a web site, which can range from \$200 on up.
- The Board of Directors would like the membership to view and use the web site and provide feedback as to its content.
- Some discussion was held regarding the content of the website. Dan Simms explained what is currently on it:
  - i. Home
  - ii. About Us-We are Stewards of the Lake
  - iii. Board of Directors
  - iv. Membership Information- Association Bylaws
  - v. Newsletter- 2005 - Autumn
  - vi. Lakeshore Information-Recommended Reading
- Planned additions to the site include:
  - i. Sechi data
  - ii. Loon counts
  - iii. Ice in/Out data
  - iv. Past newsletters
  - v. Photographs
  - vi. Membership information
  - vii. Addition member feedback.

**5) Water testing update**

- Roger Stecker is heading up our Lake Association's participation in the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Citizen Lake Monitoring Program (CLMP+).
- Boot Lake is part of a select group of lakes to be monitored in 2006.
- Roger will be meeting May 22 with MPCA personnel to be trained on collection procedures and received equipment.
- Roger will take water samples and deliver them to the Hubbard County Soil and Water Conservation District office in Park Rapids.
- We look forward to the results.

**6) Update on association bulletin board/signs at landing**

- Chris Luckeroth had expressed interest at past meetings in placing an information sign at the public access.
- Chris has decided not to proceed due to recent vandalism around the area and specifically of DNR signs at the boat landing.

**7) Building loon nests:**

- Some other lake associations have built loon nests that have been occupied by the loons.
- We may consider building or buying some for Boot Lake. It may be a good use for some of our association funds.
- See some loon nest pictures in the April 2006 Issue of the Minnesota Waters website: [www.minnesotawaters.org/publications.html](http://www.minnesotawaters.org/publications.html)

**8) Dave Kloss will research and report about current fish stocking activity by DNR.****9) Chris Luckeroth will work to provide a list of plants that tend to be deer resistant.****10) May Newsletter will be done by Fred Luckeroth****11) Minnesota Lakes Association and the Rivers Council of Minnesota merged January 1, 2006 to become Minnesota Waters. For more information, see [www.minnesotawaters.org](http://www.minnesotawaters.org). Periodic publications are available. Go to [www.minnesotawaters.org/publications.html](http://www.minnesotawaters.org/publications.html) for more information.**

~Meeting Adjourned 11:40 AM ~

Submitted Friday, May 12, 2006  
Dan Simms  
Secretary, Boot Lake Association

Boot Lake Tidbits**A Good Winter at Boot Lake**

Those who enjoyed last summer at Boot Lake also experienced a good winter at the Lake. The winter began as one of those "old fashioned" bitter cold Minnesota winters. Early on we received our first measurable snowfall of 2 inches on November 15. Two days later we saw our first below zero temps with the thermometer dropping to -4 degrees. On November 28 & 29 we saw our first plowable snow. This came with our first official blizzard in five years. Although we received only 4 inches it was whipped around with blustery winds for two days.

The Lake froze over a couple days later on December 1. The ice thickened quickly with the temp bottoming out at -12 degrees on December 5. For the month of December we saw 18 days of falling snowflakes. Our temps stayed on the "cool" side with 6 days going below zero, the lowest being -17 degrees. For the month, we only had 5 days above the 32 degree freezing mark.

But the "Rule of Minnesota Winters" prevailed, i.e., "It all evens out in the end"!! January became one of the warmest Januarys on record. We only had 3 days below zero for the month. It got above freezing 11 days with a high of 41 degrees on January 26. For the record we had 16 days in the 30's, 13 days in the 20's and 2 days in the teens. Even with the warm weather the sun was hard to find as we had 20 days in which snowflakes fell in varying amounts. This warm weather, combined with the snow cover, kept the ice on Boot Lake relatively thin. At the end of January it was reported the ice cover was only 12-14 inches thick. This warm spell even had Park Rapids canceling their annual ice fishing contest on Fish Hook Lake due to unsafe ice -- something unheard of in Northern Minnesota at the end of January.

February became more "seasonal" as relatively colder weather returned. We had 16 days below zero, bottoming out at -25 on February 17, and getting only to -10 below for our day time high. The fishermen could now get back on the ice with their vehicles as the ice thickened to its max at 18 to 20 inches by month end. Even with this cold spell, we did have 18 days above 20 degrees or higher and 15 days of light snow. This made for one of the best months in recent memory for snowmobiling and cross-country skiing. Even leisurely afternoon walks down a quiet country road became quite tolerable.

Most of us know March is the month for flying kites. That could have been true here at Boot Lake as we had 11 days in March with winds topping 25 mph or greater. But the weather moderated nicely with only 1 day below zero for the month and the thermometer topping 50 degrees twice.

If April is an omen of things to come for the summer, it looks like a good one. We had our first 70 degree day on April 10 and we ended up with ten days of 70 degrees or above for the month, with the highest being 79 on April 15. These mild temps and a nice rain of ¾ inch at the end of March made for a relatively early ice-out of April 13. The warm weather had the trees leafing out early with many seen with leaves over the weekend of April 22. The month ended with a nice steady gentle rain for 4 days straight totaling over 2 inches. Thankfully this put an end to the spring fire danger.

**Have a Great summer and see you at the Lake !!**

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**2005 Winter Solstice Celebration !**

A group of hardy Boot Lake neighbors, hosted by Iris and Ken Shepherd, gathered in a snow covered field on the eve of the winter solstice, Tuesday, December 20, 2005. The sky was cloud covered, the temperature about 12 degrees and light snow flurries in the air. Their purpose was two fold: To beseech the all-powerful sun to halt its retreat from our land, and most important to partake of hot food, beverages and good fellowship on a brisk winter evening. Participants arrived at the confluence of Shepherd Rd, Hughes Fire Trail and County 46 -- some on foot, some on snowshoes and the "elderly" coming in mechanical conveyances. After the mighty bonfire was ignited the Solstice rites began. Herbs and greenery that had survived the winter thus far were released into the bonfire. Participants also threw into the fire personal articles that symbolized things that have been retarding their self actualization this past year. The ceremony was concluded by all chanting into the cold darkness "There will be peace in Savannah Township" as all were filled with hope that the sun would return in several months, Boot Lake would again be liquid, the earth green and the air warm !! The evening was concluded with an orgy of eating including hot aurochs (wisent) flesh, baked items from a paste of ground grass seed, beet root extract, and unborn chickens -- or for the uninformed, hot beef sandwiches and baked beans.

**A good time was had by all !!**

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**Becker County Valuations for Taxes Payable in 2007**

Following is a question that was asked of the Becker County Assessor and his reply:

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**Question:** While checking the county's Property Tax system web site and comparing land valuations we noted that a parcel of property on Boot Lake, Savannah township is valued for 2007 at \$367,800. We were advised that the property sold for \$314,000. This reflects the slow down of appreciation for property in this area, as well as the nation in general. In light of this, will the recent Valuations for Taxes Payable in 2007 be reviewed and/or adjusted to reflect this current slowdown ?  
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**Answer:** Each year we do sales studies by taxing district and by location within taxing districts, if, after analyzing all the real estate sales, we will then be able to better determine what the local real estate market is doing. One sale is an indicator of value of one particular tract of land; it may or may not indicate what the overall real estate market is doing. The values are set each year based on the sales of the previous year sales. If the market falls we will adjust the following year assessment. Let me know if you have any other questions.

Steve L. Skoog, Becker County Assessor Tel 218-846-7300  
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**Boot Lake Association Spring  
Potluck Picnic - Sunday, June 11,  
2006, 1pm at Jim and Judy  
Theisen's.**

**Bring a hot dish, salad or dessert to  
share. Coffee, Soft Drinks and Beer  
provided.**

**Extra, Extra -- Door Prizes !!**

**(note the change in date)**

Boot Lake Association  
35554 E. Boot Lk. Rd  
Park Rapids, MN 56470