

BOOT LAKE

Newsletter



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In Memoriam - Dorothy Theisen

In December, the Boot Lake community lost a true friend. Dorothy fought a 3-year battle with her health and through it all she kept her humor and befriended all of us. She taught her neighbors on Boot Lake to crochet and then kept an open door for all of us to run to her for help each time we got stuck.

Dorothy was born in Park Rapids. It is there she met and married John Theisen who grew up on Boot Lake. She spent the majority of her adult life in Eden Valley, MN where she and John raised their five children. But many summers were spent on Boot Lake helping run the Pine-o-rama Camp Ground. After retirement she and John built their retirement home in 1995 on Boot Lake.

We all miss Dorothy. John misses her most of all. He is a trooper, keeps himself busy and makes pies that he says aren't as good as Dorothy's, but then, Dorothy was the best of cooks. We all feel that we are better human beings for having had the privilege of knowing Dorothy and are thankful that we still have John.

OFFICERS

- Fred Luckerth, Chairperson
- George Thelen, Vice-Chair
- Dan Simms, Secretary
- Pam Harvala, Treasurer
- Dave Kloss, Director
- Larry Kavolak, Director

New Web Site Address

www.minnesotawaters.org/bootlake

Dan Simms has moved all the information on our old web site. Check it out and let Dan know what you think.

His email address:
dsimms@visionsolutions.com

Becker County Adopt-a-Road Program – Spring Pickup May 5 –

Last year our Association began participating in the county's Adopt-a-Road Program. In October about 20 residents gathered on a beautiful autumn Saturday afternoon and picked up litter along a 3-mile stretch of Boot Lake Drive. A well-deserved Pot Luck Supper followed this effort. If you missed that gathering then you have another chance to participate in our spring pickup. We have scheduled it for Saturday, May 5. Meet at 2pm at the Luckerth's (35554 E. Boot Lake Rd.) to pickup supplies and get assignments. Following we will again have a Pot Luck supper back at the Luckerth's. Bring a salad, hot dish or dessert to share.

June Potluck with DNR Guest – Don't miss our June Potluck Picnic on Sunday, June 10, at 1pm, at Jim and Judy Theisen's. Doug Kingsley from the Park Rapids DNR District Office will be our special guest. He will make a presentation on the results of the DNR fish sampling done on Boot Lake in October 2006. He will also talk about the DNR fish stocking program on Boot Lake.

August Annual Meeting – Mark your calendars for the Annual Association Meeting and Potluck Picnic on Sunday, August 12 at Noon at Jim and Judy Theisen's. The meeting will begin promptly at noon followed by the Potluck.

The Boot Lake Winter – It was another non-typical winter on Boot Lake. After the snowy winter of 2005-06, skiers and snowmobilers were looking forward in anticipation to a similar experience in the winter of 2006-07. But it was not to be. November was an average month for temperatures and moisture but most precipitation was in the form of rain. December started out promising with cold temps and a dusting of snow. We got our first below zero temp on Dec. 4 (-7 below), although our “official” lake freeze up date was 3 days earlier on Dec 1st. But then the remainder of the month we had 20 days with temps above freezing and again most of our moisture came in the liquid form instead of snow. January was a disaster for moisture with only .01 of an inch. It stayed above average for temps with 12 days above 30 degrees. But we also had a number of chilly days, 13 days below zero with the lowest being -16 on January 28. Then at the beginning of February we got our Arctic Blast with the first 10 days giving us temps below zero, bottoming out at -32 below on February 5. The combination of low temps and the lack of snow cover then drove the frost deep into the ground and that in turn caused problems with frozen septic systems. Then on February 19 the cold snap came to an end with more moderate temperatures. On February 24 and 25 the snows finally came. However, it was too little too late for the sports enthusiasts. And even though the March precipitation was above average, through the end of March we are still below the annual average. And with the deep frost any rain we get now may just run off rather than sink into the ground. Thus Minnesota’s wildfire experts are looking ahead to spring with trepidation, hoping for a break from Mother Nature but preparing for the worst. Because of the widespread drought over much of central and northern Minnesota, the fear of the DNR is that wildfires could start earlier, burn hotter and last longer than usual. Central and northern Minnesota are especially vulnerable because of the drought that started in May 2006. Even if snowfall and rain return to normal or above-normal levels for the rest of the spring, the DNR says, it won’t necessarily make up for the dearth of moisture already felt across much of Minnesota. The warm, dry conditions that started last spring contributed to 2,400 wildfires last year that burned more than 100 square miles. An average year would see 25 to 62 square miles burn. Whether spring rains will bring relief is unclear. How much would be needed to catch up is uncertain at this time but it would have to be more than average. If you are visiting your lake property this spring please check with the local Fire Warden for the latest fire restrictions.

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