

# BOOT LAKE Newsletter



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### Minnesota's Shoreland Management

Minnesota's shoreland management program has as its goal long-term lake and stream conservation across the state. A consequence of good conservation will help maintain economic value and quality of life for healthy lakes and lakeshore property. Minnesota's current shoreland rules were developed in 1989. In 2005, an advisory committee concluded that accompaniments to the 1989 shoreland rules were warranted because of continued development of permanent lake homes and the trend of larger lakeshore developments (see below how development has increased on Boot Lake). Alternative standards were developed as a set of voluntary provisions that local governments could use to address local conditions and concerns. Following development of these alternative standards, the Legislature directed the DNR in January 2008 to commence the rulemaking process to update the shoreland development rules. Again, the goal of the final rules is to help guide the use and wise development of Minnesota's shorelands, provide guidelines that are flexible and adaptable to local issues and needs and that reflect key resource values. These guidelines will include minimum lot size, minimum water frontage, building setbacks, proper building and maintenance of septic systems, and planned unit development regulations.

To put this continued development of lakeshore in perspective, here are some statistics on lakeshore development on Boot Lake in the past 10 years.

1998:	Approx. Number of seasonal structures	20
	Approx. Number of year-round structures	11
2008	Approx. Number of seasonal structures	45 (an increase of 125%)
	Approx. Number of year-round structures	18 (an increase of 64%)

(Includes the resort residences but not each individual rental cabin)

The water quality on Boot Lake, which is continually being monitored, continues to excel in clarity and chlorophyll and phosphorus levels. A major reason may be the fact that the lake is entirely spring fed, there are no inlets and very little storm runoff enters the lake. However, being spring fed could be a future critical factor related to the increase in septic systems and assurance that they are properly built and maintained.

For additional information and to keep up with the latest developments, check out the DNR website link at:

[http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/watermgmt\\_section/shoreland/shoreland\\_rules\\_update\\_project.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/watermgmt_section/shoreland/shoreland_rules_update_project.html)

#### OFFICERS

- Fred Luckeroth, Chairperson
- Ken Shepard, Vice-Chair
- Dan Simms, Secretary
- Pam Harvala, Treasurer
- Ann Simms, Director
- Larry Kavolak, Director

**Our Web Site Address**  
[www.minnesotawaters.org/bootlake](http://www.minnesotawaters.org/bootlake)

Looking for past Association information or links to other lake information on the Web – check out our website. If you have ideas or suggestions for our website contact our webmaster Dan Simms.

His email address:  
[dsimms@visionsolutions.com](mailto:dsimms@visionsolutions.com)

**Help us reduce mailing and duplicating costs. If you are able and would like to receive this newsletter by email, please send us a note at:**  
[cflucky@wcta.net](mailto:cflucky@wcta.net)

*(Editor Note: Below is the second article in what will be a regular feature in our newsletter on how life was around Boot Lake "way back when". Iris Knight Shepard grew up on a farm at the intersection of County 46 and the Basswood Trail.)*

**WASH DAY IN SAVANNAH, Circa 1943 — by Iris Shepard**

Often when I use my washer and dryer, I think of a washing day for my mother. We didn't have running water, so the first item on wash day was to go out to the pump house and carry water to the house, a chore that fell to us kids. We had three-gallon pails that we carried water in, and after several trips the big copper boiler was finally full. A big fire was built up in the big wood cook stove, and the water was heated. Since our water was very hard, Mom added washing soda to the water. As the water heated it combined with the minerals in the water and rose to the top as a foam. Mom then skimmed off the foam, leaving the water softer. The boiler took up both burners on the cook stove, making any cooking during this time very difficult. We then went back to the pump house and carried more water to put in a tub for rinsing the clothes. The washer was powered with a gasoline engine which worked well, but often my mother couldn't get it started. I remember her frustration on the days it wouldn't start, and she had to delay washing until Dad came in from the fields at lunch to start it for her. Once the washer started, Mom would dip pails of hot water out of the boiler and pour them into the washer. At this time she would order all of us kids into the other room to avoid danger of burns. Our socks were boiled on the stove to get them clean and white. And the really dirty ones were scrubbed with home made bar soap. The clothes were always carefully sorted according to colors and the whites were washed first, dish towels, then sheets, then underclothes, and then progressively the darker clothes in order to avoid bleeding of colors onto the lighter things. Once a load was washed, it had to be lifted out of the hot water and run through the ringer and placed in the rinse water. My mother used an old broom handle for this, as the water would still be near boiling. From the rinse water the load was again run through the ringer into a wooden fruit basket. She carried this, along with a clothes pin bag, out to the clothes line and hung the load up to dry. This process was repeated until all the many piles of clothes had been finished. Once the washing was completed, the water had to be carried out and dumped. There was a pipe at the bottom of the washer and a pail was placed under the washer and filled. You had to watch carefully and push the knob in so the pail didn't run over. The pail was carried out and dumped repeatedly until the washer was empty, and then the rinse water was also carried out and dumped. During the summer the washing was done out on the porch, but during the winter it had to be brought into the kitchen. Even though the exhaust hose from the washer was run outside, the smell of the gas engine and steam from the water permeated the house. Heavy clothes were still hung out on the lines in below zero weather, where they froze. and they were later brought in to be dried over the floor furnace. The lighter things like dish towels we hung on a clothes rack that was placed over the hot furnace to dry quickly. All of it demanded my mother's total attention. Needless to say wash day (every Monday) was not my favorite day. One good thing about the day is we sometimes had dough gobs for lunch, but that's another story !!

**BURNING GARBAGE? YOU COULD BE MAKING POISONS! — by May Xiong,  
Student Worker, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency**

Did you know that burning your garbage is far more harmful to the environment and to your health than previously thought? For generations, Minnesotans have burned their garbage in burn barrels. But unlike the household garbage of 50 to a hundred years ago, burning today's garbage releases a hazardous mix of toxic chemicals—dioxin, lead, mercury, and arsenic. Even seemingly harmless items, like paper, mail, packaging, and cardboard, can give off toxic emissions.

The fact is, if you're burning garbage, you're making poison.

According to the U.S. EPA, backyard garbage burning is the number one source of dioxin in the United States. One family's burn barrel can actually produce as much dioxin as a full-scale, 200 ton per day municipal waste combustor! But unlike municipal waste combustors, burn barrels burn at low temperatures and don't have sophisticated emission control systems to minimize and collect pollutants before they enter the environment. Hazardous particulate matter and dioxin from burning garbage in a burn barrel escape into the environment and settle onto plants, water, and soil.

Dioxin, a cancer-causing substance, is a main concern, because dioxin builds up to harmful levels in the food chain. Therefore, when animals eat the plants or drink the water, and when people eat various meat and dairy products; dioxin is also absorbed into our bodies. The EPA also estimates that over 90 percent of all human dioxin up-take comes from meat and dairy consumption. Small amounts of exposure also occur from directly breathing contaminated smoke and from absorption through the skin by coming into contact with contaminated air, soil or water.

Not only is backyard burning dangerous to our health, backyard garbage burning also contributes to nearly half of all wildfires in Minnesota each year.

The risks of backyard burning are great and they affect all Minnesotans.

Help spread the word and do your part. Don't burn your garbage. To find out more about local recycling and waste disposal options at the cabin or at home, call your local county solid waste or environmental office or visit [www.pca.state.mn.us/burnbarrel](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/burnbarrel) for contact information for all 87 counties in Minnesota. Free informational resources are also available from the Resource Center located in the MPCA or by calling 1-800-877-6300.

**Reminder to all Association members — if you haven't already paid your annual dues, please send it to Pam Harvala, 35362 E. Boot Lake Rd, Park Rapids, MN 56470.**

**And if you are not a member, we would like to invite all property owners on and around Boot Lake to become part of our Association.**

**Boot Lake Association  
Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Wednesday, July 02, 2008, 1:00 PM  
Home of Fred Luckerth**

**Attendees:**

- Fred Luckerth – Chair
- Ken Shepard – Vice Chair
- Pam Harvala - Treasurer
- Dan Simms – Secretary
- Larry Kavolak – Director
- Ann Simms - Director

**~Minutes~**

1. Question of whether to renew MN Waters membership. Dues \$100 + \$100 for website.
  - Motion to renew by Dan Simms
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ken Shepard
  - Discussion
  - Motion passed unanimously
2. Discussion of Boot Lake association dues payment. Paid membership is down. We need more participants!
3. Discussion of lake warden concept of other lake associations.
4. Balance on account \$1241.11 as of 7/1/08.
5. Discussion of loud noise on the lake
  - Loud radios were blasting for most of one weekend in May.
  - Loud fireworks were blasting after midnight in late June.
6. Adopt a Road program expires on 8/16/08. Should Boot Lake Association renew?
  - Minimal garbage was found in previous operations
  - Motion passed by board to renew the Adopt a Highway
7. Pam and Larry's terms are expiring and they both agree to return
8. Loon nest just north of Luckerth's. Loon platform needs some repair. Would the association be willing to pay for the repairs?
9. Annual meeting door prizes. Should we continue?
  - Motion to discontinue by Larry – Motion passed
10. Trash burning: Fred and Dan were contacted by the MN PCA and would like to present at the meeting. Fred and Dan suggested that we only include something in the newsletter.
11. Discussion of high speed internet. Pam uses Hughes and is very pleased with it.
12. Water testing taking place again in 2008. Becker County COLA is sponsoring the testing. Fred will be doing the sampling.
13. Fred contacted the DNR about installing a dock at the access for Boot Lake. Docks are installed on a priority basis. Boot Lake was added to the list.
14. Parade of boats on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July at 11:00 AM

~Meeting Adjourned ~ 7/2/2008 2:13:29 PM

Submitted  
Dan Simms  
Secretary, Boot Lake Association

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**Boot Lake Association  
General Association Membership Meeting  
Sunday, August 10, 2008 12:00 PM  
Home of Jim and Judy Theisen**

**Board of Director Attendees:**

- Ken Shepard – Vice Chair
- Dan Simms – Secretary
- Larry Kavolak – Director
- Ann Simms - Director

**~Minutes~**

1. Treasurers report by Iris Shepard
  - Treasury balance = \$1096.11
  - 22 members paid to date
  - \$100 to MN Lakes Association for Web page charges
  - Becker County COLA – \$3.00 per member if we join.
2. Loon Count
  - Barb Stecker reported 10 loons and 1 chick, which was hatched on a nesting platform built by Roger Stecker
3. Secchi Measurement
  - Roger Stecker reported 20 and 28 feet.
4. public access:
  - a. –DNR Crew will add rock to eliminate the drop off between a couple concrete slabs
  - b. –On DNR list to add a dock
5. Board information update
  - a. Lake assn
  - b. Web site

6. Becker County Coalition of Lake Associations (COLA)
  - a. Iris and Ken Shepard went to the meetings
  - b. Ken Shepard and Iris felt it was a waste of time - too much time spent on small issues.
  - c. Awaiting Fred and Chris Luckereth's opinion
7. Broadband Internet update
  - a. Ken Shepard expressed frustration in his progress to get reasonably priced broadband service available in the Boot Lake area.
  - b. The guy from Bemidji (community system previously reported) is flaky and we don't have enough people.
  - c. Qwest is resistant to setting up broadband internet.
  - d. Judy heard rumors said by Feb 2009 there should be broadband along with digital TV conversion (Paul Bunyan).
  - e. George Thelen will research and update.
8. Larry Kavolak and Pam Harvaia are elected to 2<sup>nd</sup> terms
9. July 4<sup>th</sup> boat parade – should we make it permanent
  - a. 1<sup>st</sup> year 4 boats
  - b. This year 13 boats
  - c. There was a motion to make the July 4<sup>th</sup> Boat parade an annual activity – by Barb Stecker, seconded by Linda Hunt, motion passed.
10. **Motion to hold next years pot luck will be June 14 at Jim and Judy Theisens – seconded and passed.**
11. **Motion to hold next years Annual Meeting will be August 9 at Jim and Judy Theisens – seconded and passed.**
12. Fall Road cleanup – Motion to have it Tuesday, October 7, 2008 @ 11:00, pot luck following. Motion seconded, motion failed
13. **Fall Road cleanup – Motion to have it Tuesday, October 7, 2008 @ 3:00, pot luck following. Motion seconded, motion passed. Barb Stecker volunteers to host Pot Luck.**
14. **Spring cleanup – Motion for May 19, 2009, @ 3:00, motion seconded, and passed. Ken and Iris Shepard to host Pot Luck.**
15. Should we fund a refurbish to the loon platform?
  - a. Motion to have Roger Stecker build 1-2 more nests, and send the bill to the association to pay. Motion seconded and passed.
16. MN PCA will be doing another water quality testing along with Becker County—motion to have Fred Luckereth do the sampling. Motion seconded. Motion passed.
17. Motion to adjourn, seconded, and passed. 8/10/2008 12:52:37 PM  
~Meeting Adjourned ~

Submitted  
Dan Simms  
Secretary, Boot Lake Association

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