



Boot Lake Newsletter

Boot Lake Association
Becker County, MN

Summer 2010
June 7, 2010

!!!!!!!Reminder!!!!!!!

Boot Lake Association Potluck is June 13! This weekend!!! Read on!

Aquatic Invasive Species

By Dan Simms, Chair of the Boot Lake Association

This spring, your association has given considerable attention to the topic of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). AIS, arguably, is the single most important threat that faces Minnesota lakes at this time. And it is not going away. Water quality issues can be fixed. Fish populations can be stocked, shorelines can be restored. But once AIS gets into the Lake, it is almost impossible to remove.

I attended the 2009 Lakes and Rivers conference and one of the sessions was on AIS management. Yes, “management”, not “prevention”. The people in this session were the ones who have AIS in their lake and are looking for solutions, albeit very expensive solutions to control it. I don’t remember any of the names of the harsh chemicals they spoke of, or the number of zeros after the dollar figures that they spent, but I do remember thinking one thing. We DO NOT want to deal with this.

We are very fortunate that so far we do not have an AIS problem (that we know of). According to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency: "Boot Lake is of excellent water quality and every effort to protect it from degradation should be taken."

We are in “prevention” mode right now. Are we doing enough? Your board of Directors have had many discussions about this topic: Here are some ideas:

- Hire a person to attend the boat launch 24 x 7 to inspect boats
- Purchase cameras that view each boat as it is launched.
- Place a gate at the waters edge which requires the user to push a button indicating that his boat is clean before launching.
- Place solar powered flashing lights around signs at the launch to draw boater attention

Any other ideas?

How about we all start with an acknowledgment: The problem is us. It is not the evil AIS thugs that have milfoil in their teeth and zebra mussels on their hat. AIS is spread by the people who use the lake. AIS is spread by forgetting to clean that boat trailer and draining the live well. AIS comes from dumping bait into the lake and transporting minnow buckets from lake to lake. AIS gets a helping hand when native aquatic plants are removed by lakeshore owners who want to get rid of those “icky weeds”.

So here are some practical ways we can continue to “prevent AIS” and avoid having to “manage” it:

Take ownership of it! Educate anyone who visits you at the lake who brings a boat or water toys about the importance of cleaning their boat and emptying their live well. Talk about AIS prevention with your kids and your grandkids. Start when they are babies. Make the future boaters think of AIS prevention like we think about strapping on a seatbelt or

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recycling. Talk about it at the coffee party and at the golf course and most importantly, at the boat launch. Change your thinking about the weeds along your lakeshore and think twice about removing them (Read "The Waters Edge"). Think about what happens in your yard when you have a dead spot. Does it fill back with lush green grass or weeds? How did those weeds get their chance?

At the Boot Lake Association board meeting on June 6, it was decided that due to the importance of this issue, a designated AIS education coordinator is needed within our association. We will be seeking a person who is interested in serving our community in this fashion. Please think carefully about this volunteer position.

Boot Lake is too clean and beautiful to take this lightly. Let's not worry too much about the things we can't do, but instead focus and come together on the things that we can!



I am coming to your lake!
-AIS Thug

AIS Links:

<http://www.protectyourwaters.net/>

"The Waters Edge":

<http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/assistance/backyard/shorelandmgmt/savewateredge.pdf>

Broadband Internet Update By Ken Shepard

The good news is that we will have access to broadband Internet by June. The bad news is that the good news is wrong. There was a rumor that Qwest had promised us broadband by September 2009, then by November 2009, and probably now by April 2010. I talked with a Qwest lineman, and he said they would never provide it. Then he said, You know, you could have DSL very easily. It would take just one day's work at the shack at the south end of Boot Lake, and you would be all set. Your lines are all good enough for DSL. DSL would not be nearly as fast as broadband, but it would be far better than we have now. And we would probably be able to use the computer and the phone line at the same time.

With one exception, everyone I approached with our petition last summer signed it. These petitions we signed were sent in to Qwest, Arvig, and the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. The response has been absolutely zero so far. I talked with Brita Sailor, and she suggested we contact Paul Bunyan Telephone; they are more responsive to customer needs.

A few months ago a Paul Bunyan truck was seen in the area, and the driver said he was surveying the area for a possible broadband expansion here. I called and talked with the man in charge and learned the following:

Paul Bunyan has applied for two grants to expand their broadband coverage. They will not know



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.

The Board of Directors are working to update our database that contains the address, email and telephone numbers of Boot Lake residents. This is so we can better reach out to the community and send out the newsletter electronically. To update your information, please send an email to: Englishkp@charter.net with your current information.

Thanks!

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if they receive the funds until late summer or early fall. If they get the money, they will begin preliminary work at once and start laying fiber in the spring. Service will begin in the late summer or early fall of 2011.

No other organization has responded to our efforts.

An interesting side issue is that Qwest is in the process of being bought out by CenturyLink, a merger CenturyTel and Sprint. My initial impressions are that CenturyLink has had a more progressive record than Qwest, but their published information about the new company says nothing about service improvements. They are happy that they think they will be able to make more money. We, of course, are more interested in better service, not bigger bills.

There remains satellite service. The advantages and disadvantages are well known, and this option is available if you think it is worth it. Caveat emptor.

Boot Lake Association 2010 Activities

Association Potluck:

June 13 @ 1:00 THIS SUNDAY!!!!

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: Chris Luckeroth - cflucky@wcta.net - 218-732-4416

Independence Day Boat Parade

July 4, 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 - bronsonpage@unitelc.com

Annual Association Meeting and Potluck:

August 8, 2010 @ 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 and beverages will be provided.

Meet at the home of Judy and Jim Theisen

35258 East Boot Lake Rd

Contacts: Dan Simms - 651-905-9897 - simms.dan@comcast.net;

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

Pink Lady slipper

Boot Lake Water clarity is holding steady or improving. 2009 measurements were 27 and 23 feet.

Boot Lake

2010 Ice out: April 2

2009 Ice Out: May 6



2009 Loon Counts:

10 Adults

2 Chicks

2010:

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: simms.dan@comcast.net

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.MNWATERS.COM/BOOTLAKE

Boot Lake Association Board of Directors

Dan Simms	Chair	651-905-9897	simms.dan@comcast.net
Ken Shepard	Vice Chair	218-732-3584	bronsonpage@unitelc.com
Pam Harvala	Treasurer		
Ken English	Secretary/Webmaster	507- 533-9517 218-732-0380	Englishkp@charter.net

Larry Kavolak	Director
Ann Simms	Director

What you can still get for ten bucks:

Boot Lake Association is funded by \$10 dues paid by its members. 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
- Free beer at the association pot lucs

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

Pam Harvala, 35362 East Boot Lake Road, Park Rapids, MN 56470