

News from Boot Lake

It was another pleasant summer for weather on Boot Lake. With below average temps and above average snowfall in April it looked like it would be a very late ice-out and start to spring. But a warm up at the end of April accelerated the ice melt and we went from about 24 inches of ice to open water in about 10 days, with ice-out occurring on May 2. Even so this was almost a month later than 2017 and only the 4th time we had ice-out in May since 1996.

This late spring warm up continued and the water temperature reached 70 degrees by Memorial weekend, providing a rare opportunity to go swimming on the first holiday weekend of the summer. The thermometer reached over 90 degrees on two days that weekend, which was half of our 90 degree days for the summer – the other two coming in August and September. So it was a rare June and July with no 90 degree days recorded. Delightful 70 and 80 degree days were the rule for this summer with only three days for the entire summer where the temp failed to reach 70 degrees.

Moisture was abundant in June with 6 inches recorded in our rain gauge. This continued into early July with a total of 3 inches recorded for the month. These rains mixed with sunny warm days provided one of the best crop of wild raspberries we have seen in many years. The rains dropped off during August and early September with only 1 ½ inches in August and only 1 ½ thus far in September. The rains that came through northern Minnesota during this period were scattered and very localized. So one small area could get up to an inch from a “cloud burst” and just a couple miles away there wasn't a drop. We would watch the storms approaching on radar and they would seem to go either north or south of Boot Lake. Hopefully more rains will come before the ground freezes for the winter. The good news is the summer rains came without any severe storms. We had a couple storms with some stronger winds but except for a few trees being blown down, there didn't seem to be any property damage in the area.

The clarity of our lake water remains “crystal clear”. We had sechii disc readings in the high teens for most of the summer, with the best reading being 17.5 feet in September. And by early July the temp of the water was a refreshing 78 degrees making for great swimming and water sports. Boot Lake continues to have some of the best water quality of the 10,000 Lakes in Minnesota !

Like I have said before, “fishing” is always great on Boot Lake, but “catching” is still so-so. The elusive walleye is still a challenge for day anglers, like me, but rumor has it some success has been achieved at night. Lack of walleye numbers should not be a problem as the DNR regularly stocks Boot Lake. They will again this fall with 160 lbs of walleye fingerlings (15-40 fish per lb) being released before the end of October.

And finally a report on our Loon population. Three pair of loons were spotted on the lake early on in the season but later in the summer only two pair were sighted. Only one pair of loons nested, on one of our three artificial nesting platforms, this one located in the middle of the lake in the narrows. Some folks reported seeing a chick on the lake but for only a short period before it disappeared, most likely a victim of one of our eagles that patrol the lake. So Ma and Pa Loon will soon be leaving for the warm shores of the Gulf of Mexico without any offspring in tow. Hopefully next year will be more productive.

So Good bye to another great summer and on to the next act in our beautiful theater of seasons in northern Minnesota.

Well, that's the news from Boot Lake..... where all the women are strong, all the men are good-looking, and.....oh never mind, I guess that's someplace else.

See you on the Lake.



Aquatic Invasive Species - Update

We have reported in the past on the statewide and area status of Aquatic Invasive Species. Some have asked – just what is an “Aquatic Invasive Species”? The text book answer: Aquatic invasive species (AIS) (sometimes called exotic, invasive, nonindigenous or non-native) are aquatic organisms that invade ecosystems beyond their natural, historic range. Their presence may harm native ecosystems or commercial, agricultural, or recreational activities dependent on these ecosystems. They can create recreational nuisances to lakes and reduce native plant diversity.

This past summer Karl Koenig, Becker County AIS Coordinator, was able to hire an inspector to conduct boat inspections at our public access on Saturdays for about six weeks during the prime vacation time on Boot Lake. This is the turnover day for our two resorts on the lake. Karl shared the following information related to the inspections.

- Total Hours of inspections: 18.75
- Total Inspections: 40 (33 boats entering; 7 exiting)
- Boats with plugs in on arrival: 9
- Boats and/or trailers with Plants/Water/Mud on arrival: 2
- Boats indicating that they had last been on AIS infected lakes: 5
- Origin of arriving boats: 27 from Minnesota; 6 from outside of Minnesota

No AIS was observed on boats entering Boot Lake

Karl would have like to have someone available for additional Saturdays next season, but he indicated Boot Lake is a tough location to cover because of our remoteness. He continues to ask us to spread the word and let him know if you know of anyone who may be interested in working on Boot Lake and he will do his best to provide more coverage next year.

Contact: Karl Koenig, Tel: (218) 849-6438; Email: kikoeni@co.becker.mn.us

To date there are about 15 lakes in Becker County that are infested with various AIS. All are in the western part of the county near Detroit Lakes. The latest 2018 reported infestation was zebra mussels on Floyd Lake, about 45 miles to the southwest of Boot Lake. In Hubbard County there are about 10 lakes infested with various AIS. The nearest is Bad Axe Lake (with eurasian water millfoil) and is about 15 miles to our east. In 2018 Lake George was found to have the invasive faucet snail. Two lakes with zebra mussels are Benedict and Garfield Lakes which are 30-35 miles northeast of Boot Lake. If you would like to read more about the infested waters in Minnesota, go to the DNR website: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais/infested.html>

To the best of our knowledge no AIS exist at present in Boot Lake. Karl Koenig, Becker County AIS Coordinator, conducted a sampling near the public access at the end of August. And a sample of vegetation at the public access was done by Fred Luckeroth in September, as well as inspection of the zebra mussel sampling tool at the public access dock showed no AIS found. But with the end of season The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources reminds lake property owners to carefully check boats and trailers, docks and lifts, and all other water-related equipment for invasive species when

closing cabins for winter. Several recent new zebra mussel confirmations in the state were initially reported by people making end of season inspections of docks, boats and boat lifts.



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Attention Deer and Grouse Hunters

The University of Minnesota and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) are conducting separate research projects this upcoming hunting season and if you will be out and about in the woods and fields you may want to participate. Here is some information.

Deer Hunters

This research project will try to better understand what and when animals use deer gut piles provided by hunters across Minnesota. Data will be collected for both archery and firearm hunting. They are looking for 190 monitoring sites statewide. Participants will enjoy hunting as you normally would with the added opportunity to contribute valuable data to wildlife research. You will harvest and clean your deer as you normally would. Then set up your game camera to record what uses the gut piles. Return one month later and pick up your camera and send in the photos and the data. If you need to use a game camera, they have a limited number available for the project. To participate sign up using the on-line link below.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b054eaead2ea6fb6-offal>

Grouse Hunters

Ruffed grouse hunters in northern Minnesota can voluntarily submit samples for a West Nile virus research project being conducted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. West Nile virus is known to exist in the upper Midwest and cases have been found in wild birds, people and other mammals. The research seeks to examine exposure and active infections in ruffed grouse. Hunters who would like to assist with the project should be willing to collect blood samples and hearts from birds within 30 minutes of harvest. Collection kits are available for pickup at the Bemidji and Grand Rapids regional DNR headquarters buildings. Return postage and complete instructions are included in the kits. Samples also can be dropped off at Pineridge Grouse Camp near Remer. More information about ruffed grouse management can be found on the DNR website at: mndnr.gov/hunting/grouse. Questions about the West Nile virus study can be directed to Charlotte Roy at 218-328-8876 or charlotte.roy@state.mn.us.

Annual Meeting minutes and Treasurer report

Boot Lake Association Annual Meeting – August 12, 2018

30 individuals attended the meeting. Introductions were made by each household telling how many years on the lake and where they are from.

Meeting then called to order.

1. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Secretary's Report - Secretary's Minutes from 2017 annual meeting: Secretary's report was accepted as recorded. Motion to accept, Barb Busch; Second Kathi Doroff; Approved by voice vote.

B. Treasurer's Report – Craig prepared a written report that will be included as attachment to minutes; Fred read the highlights. Motion to accept the report as written, Russ Price; Second Mike Willard. Approved by voice vote

C. Loon Count Update

3 pair of loons have been sighted on the lake; some sightings of chicks were reported but none have been seen in the past week or so. Three nesting platforms were constructed or repaired over the winter. One platform was occupied.

D. Water Monitoring program Update

Chris reported on 2017 clarity results as now listed on MN Pollution Control Agency website; and 2018 results to date. Results consistently in the 15-20 ft range. Overall trend over the past 30+ years is clarity is decreasing slightly.

Fred reported on Aquatic Invasive Species. Inspectors were present at the public access all saturday afternoons in June and one saturday in July. County still having difficulty staffing for inspections on all saturdays. Hopefully will have better coverage in 2019. Fred also reported on infested lakes in Becker and Hubbard Counties and proximity to Boot Lake, and newest infestations. Fred also gave short presentation of AIS Detector program

E. Association Website update

- Fred - being kept up to date with Association meeting minutes, newsletters, etc. Any suggestions on additional info to be included on website should be directed to Fred.
- Website address: <https://minnesotawaters.org/bootlake/>

F. Monthly Coffee Group Update - Chris explained briefly and circulated sign up sheet.

G. Other old business -

- reviewed the 4th of July Boat Parade; 6 participants, contest, judges were 30+ guests at Half Moon Trail resort; Jay and Kristy Albrecht and family won best boat in parade; thanks to Half Moon Trail resort for contribution for prize

2. NEW BUSINESS

A. Election of Officers

Fred, Ken, Cliff, Craig, Chris and kathi have completed two year terms and are eligible to serve second two year term;

Nominations - open for any new volunteers; no nominations from the floor;

Motion by Larry Theisen to approve all current officers to serve another term until any new volunteers are found to serve; second by Kristy Albrecht; Approved by voice vote.

B. Calendar

- ◆ Road pickup dates for next year
- Fall pickup Thursday, Oct 11, 2018, Fred and Chris Luckeroth will host potluck; Spring pickup Thursday, May 16, 2019 – need hosts
- ◆ 4th of July Boat Parade – Thursday, July 4, 2019
- ◆ Annual Meeting date for next year – Sunday, August 11, 2019 - need host

C. Other New Business; Craig Nieman sent info that new lease for lot that Savannah Township Hall sits on has been signed – 50 year lease at \$25 a year; The township hall will also undergo some major refurbishments;

D. Thank You to Gary and Kathi Doroff for hosting this years meeting.

D. Meeting Adjourned.

Motion to adjourn by Bob Kvistad; second by Jay Albrecht; Voice vote to adjourn.

Sue Rost – Acting Secretary for Cliff Lafreniere

Treasurer Report 2018

Beginning balance as of 1/12/2018	\$1638.08
Dues deposits	\$80.00
Loon nest materials 5/28/2018	-\$226.73
Con. MN (dues and web site) 6/11/2018	-\$220.00
Fred Luckeroth AIS Training 6/20/2018	-\$195.00
Fred Luckeroth supplies, beverages for gatherings 6/20/2018	-\$ 32.00
Chris Luckeroth (July 4 th boat parade prize)	-\$5.00
New checks 8/9 /2018	-\$9.00
Balance as 8/9/2018	\$1030.35
FYI, shirt order on 5/22/2018	\$745.10

Mark your Calendar

Boot Lake Coffee – Wednesday, October 10, 2018 – Iris Shepard Host

Fall Road Pickup – Thursday, October 11, 2018 – Fred and Chris Luckeroth will host potluck

Boot Lake Coffee – Wednesday, November 14, 2018 – Kathi Doroff Host

Boot Lake Coffee Group Christmas Dinner – TBD – Chris Price Contact

Boot Lake Coffee – Wednesday, November 14, 2018 – Kathi Doroff Host

Boot Lake Coffee – Wednesday, January 9, 2019 – Mary Ahrendt Host

Boot Lake Coffee – Wednesday, February 13, 2019 – Twyla Tokle Host

Boot Lake Coffee – Wednesday, March 13, 2019 – Darlene Swanson Host

Boot Lake Coffee – Wednesday, April 10, 2019 – Chris Luckerth Host

Boot Lake Coffee – Wednesday, May 8, 2019 – Sandy Thelen Host

Spring Road Pickup – Thursday, May 16, 2019

Annual 4th of July Boat Parade – Thursday, July 4, 2019

Annual Meeting and Potluck, Sunday, August 11, 2019

Association Dues

A reminder, annual dues are \$10. If you haven't already paid you can make check payable to:
Boot Lake Association.

Send your dues to our Treasurer:

Craig Nieman

53199 Sunrise Lane

Park Rapids, MN 56470.

See you on the Lake !!