

News from Boot Lake

Greetings Fellow "Bootsters" --

Well last year at this time we were heading into, as some have called it, our lost year. A year where we felt we were "stuck in time". This pandemic forced many of us to cancel major life events: [weddings](#) and anniversary celebrations, rites of passage and family events, graduation ceremonies and retirement parties, and even funerals. But thankfully, and hopefully, with vaccinations The End of the Pandemic Is Now in Sight. Let's hope as the President stated "By July the 4th, there's a good chance you, your families and friends, will be able to get together in your backyard or in your neighborhood and have a cookout or a barbecue and celebrate [Independence Day](#)."

OUR WINTER IN REVIEW

For the most part we had a good winter on Boot Lake. We started winter early again with a couple of snowfalls in October. But then we had December and January that were relatively warm and we were hopeful this would be one of those "mild" winters. But then the dreaded "polar vortex" came roaring down on us from the arctic in February. We went below zero on February 5 and the thermometer never rose above the zero mark for over 210 hours. So we finally reached the single digits on February 16 and 17, but at night we again went below zero for five more nights. So for the record we went below zero at night for sixteen straight nights. Five of those nights it was below -30, with the lowest reading of -38 on February 13. Brrrrrrr !

Our snowfall total for the winter, as recorded in our backyard, was 39 inches, which measured out at 2.94 inches of melted precipitation. (See our Boot Lake Association Newsletter - Fall 2020, for information on the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network).



BECKER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SWCD)

If you are looking forward to spring and the warmer weather, here is some information from the Becker SWCD. Logan Riedel, Resource Technician, sent me an email and is offering their services and resources to our Association. Listed below are links to their website and facebook page. For example, they offer for sale native plants and an assortment of trees, guides on shoreland maintenance, etc. Check them out.

https://www.co.becker.mn.us/dept/soil_water/default.aspx

<https://www.facebook.com/Becker-Soil-and-Water-Conservation-District-437661879747314>

BOOTLAKE MN, BECKER COUNTY FACEBOOK PAGE -

A special thank you to Deb Juelson for creating a Facebook page for our lake! It is listed as Boot Lake, MN Becker County. Deb says this page is for those that live on or love to visit Boot Lake, Becker County MN. This is an informative & community page. Ask questions, share answers, tips & information. your stories, events, photos on this page!

So now that "Spring has Sprung" we are looking forward to a great summer so hopefully we will see you on the water.

Fred Luckeroth
Chairperson
Boot Lake Association



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More on Loons



LOONY TUNES

Decoding the state bird's calls

Nothing symbolizes the beauty of northern Minnesota more than the haunting call of the loon, our state bird.

Few birds use sound to communicate in as many ways as loons do. Scientists have categorized common loon calls into four main types, each conveying a unique message.

Hoot: A loon gives a hoot – a soft, short call – to let other loons know where it is or to ask another loon where it is. A parent might hoot to its chick, or one of a pair to another.

Tremolo: The wavering tremolo call – sometimes likened to maniacal laughter – means a loon is excited or alarmed. Loons also use the tremolo when they fly over a lake to announce their presence to any loons there.

Yodel: Only male loons make this loud sound, which starts with three notes and ends with a couple of swinging phrases. They use it to defend their territory. Each male has

a “signature” yodel. Some people have learned to recognize a specific loon by his yodel.

Wail: The high, haunting wail helps loons to figure out where they are relative to each other. They call back and forth, using the location of the sound to move closer together.

Minnesota has more loons (roughly 12,000) than any other state except Alaska.

Do your part to protect loons. Minnesota's loon population is threatened by loss of breeding habitat, water contamination and direct human disturbance to shoreline nests. Watch loons from at least 200 feet away. It's particularly important to stay away from nesting loons. Be a responsible boater – never chase loons and use only non-lead fishing sinkers and jigs.



Fun facts about loons

- Park Rapids calls itself the “Loon Capital of the U.S.A.”
- The Minnesota Legislature adopted the common loon as Minnesota's state bird in 1961.
- A loon's legs are near the rear of its body, enabling it to dive under water with great speed and agility.
- The bones of most birds are hollow and light, but loons have solid bones.
- The extra weight helps them dive as deep as 250 feet to search for food. They can stay underwater for up to five minutes.
- Because their bodies are heavy relative to their wing size, loons need a 100- to 600-foot “runway” in order to take off from a lake.
- Loons can fly more than 75 miles per hour.
- The red in the loon's eye helps it to see under water.
- Scientists think loons can live for 30 years or more.

PROTECTING OUR STATE BIRD: Let's Get the Lead Out

Fishing in Minnesota isn't just a state pastime, it's also a vibrant and important part of the economy in communities across the state. From the award-winning trout streams in southern Minnesota to the northern lake country, and everywhere in between, Minnesota anglers know how important it is to steward our land in order to protect our lakes and rivers. They also understand the need to find common ground as we balance the use and protection of our Great Outdoors.

Conservation Minnesota, along with our members, is working to uphold our traditions while protecting what we love about Minnesota. This work includes protecting our families and our iconic wildlife like the Common Loon and Bald Eagle. We believe it is time to get the lead out of our lakes and protect wildlife from toxic lead exposure. This year we will work with the state legislature to promote safer alternatives.

*Minnesota anglers
can protect wildlife
by transitioning
to lead-free
fishing tackle.*

Studies show that there is no safe level of lead in children. And a loon can be poisoned by eating just one lead sinker and often dies within a few weeks. Loons must eat small pebbles to aid in grinding their food and can mistake lead sinkers for pebbles. Eagles can be affected when they consume fish that have swallowed lead tackle.

Safer alternatives to traditional lead tackle include tackle made with tin, bismuth, steel and tungsten-nickel alloy- and many non-toxic options are on the market today and can be found throughout our state. As you prepare for another wonderful fishing season here in the land of 10,000 lakes consider updating that tackle box. Just remember lead items shouldn't be thrown in the trash, they need to be discarded at your local household hazardous waste collection site.

Lake Ice Tidbits

Excerpt from *LAKE COUNTRY JOURNAL MAGAZINE*

Here in Lake Country, the only thing more exciting than ice in is ice out.

But have you ever wondered exactly how the lake ice melts? If you think it's the same way an ice cube melts in your hand or beverage—you're in for a surprise.

THIS IS HOW LAKE ICE MELTS

To understand how the lake-melting process works, you first need to wrap your head around the fact that lakes thaw from the bottom up.

Here's why: the bright white snow on the lake during the bitterly cold winter months insulates the ice and reflects the sun. This double-down effect keeps the lake frozen solid all winter.


When the air starts to warm and the sun (finally!) becomes more intense, the snow melts, allowing the sun to reach the ice. But if you think the sun is melting the ice—that's actually incorrect. The ice functions like a greenhouse and warms the lake water, which begins to melt the ice from the bottom.

WHAT CANDLE ICE IS (AND WHY IT'S SO COOL)

While the lake ice begins to disintegrate, it becomes honeycombed, allowing water and air between the ice crystals. This creates what is called "candle ice," aptly named for the long vertical shapes of the crystals.

These long-candled ice crystals are better at conducting than reflecting light, so the ice will begin to appear black. As the warming continues, the ice candles break apart and clink together with the undulation of the waves.

If you've ever been lucky enough to witness this, you'll know it sounds just like the tinkling of crystals.

And that's how lake ice melts. Truly, nothing in Lake Country is uninspiring, beauty is all around us—we must only listen and observe. 

LET'S GO FISHING – HEADWATERS CHAPTER

Let's Go Fishing (LGF) is a Non-Profit Organization that provides fishing and pontoon rides for elderly, handicapped and groups by appointments. Our primary client base includes senior residents of care facilities, those living at home with support services, and individuals living independently. We also encourage families to book trips that include a senior, veteran or perhaps a disabled individual. There is no cost to anyone as long as we have a senior on board!

As Let's Go Fishing enters another season in the Headwaters Area, we are in need of volunteers to staff our pontoon rides. Our committed team of trained volunteer captains and first mates offer our guests the best experience possible, whether fishing or simply cruising. A strong volunteer base is the core strength of LGF. We know our volunteers contribute time and expertise to help create memories for program participants.

The boat schedule is a morning and afternoon cruise on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays – June through August. The cruises take place on Fishhook Lake/River, Lake Belle Taine, Long Lake and Big Mantrap Lake.

Volunteers can Register on the Online Calendar System on the Let's Go Fishing Headwaters Chapter website: <https://headwaters.lgfws.com>

The Administrator will get a notification that you have registered and they will need to make you Active before you can schedule yourself for a trip.



Calendar of Events



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- Road Pickup / Potluck Thursday, May 13, 2021 hosted by Al and Sue Rost
 - Fourth of July Boat Parade Sunday, July 4, 2021
 - Annual Meeting Sunday, August 8, 2021 hosted by Kathi and Gary Doroff
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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:



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Craig Nieman 53199 Sunrise Lane Park Rapids, MN 56470.