

## *News from Boot Lake*

Greetings Fellow "Bootsters" --

### OUR SUMMER IN REVIEW

We all know it was a hot, dry summer. This made for a great summer to enjoy Boot Lake water activities and a refreshing dip in warm 80 degree water in the middle of summer. For the record, we had 17 days over 90 degrees on Boot Lake this summer, with the high being 99F on June 4. It remained hot most of the summer with our last 90+ day on August 19. The lack of rain started early in the spring when we went without a drop of rain from May 1 through May 18. And we only got .6 of an inch of rain from that date on through June 21, when we finally got a nice rain of .58 of an inch. The lack of little or no rain continued through mid August. Many trees started to stress out and turn yellow or brown and drop their leaves. But then on August 21 we got a nice soaking of 1.43 in. of rain. And over the next 8 days we got nice rains totaling 1.6 in. of moisture. And dramatically almost overnight everything started to green up again. Our nice rains have continued into the fall with the US Weather Service stating we are no longer in an exceptional drought.

### OUR FALL ROAD PICKUP

15 of your neighbors gathered on a warm October day to pickup the litter on our County Road. This completed the 16<sup>th</sup> year of our community project. Several mentioned that the amount of litter collected seemed to be decreasing from previous years. So maybe society's norms are changing !!



Thank you Barb, Jean, Kathi, Sue, Shirley, Mary, Chris, Mark, Craig, Dave, Jay, Gary, Al and Craig

## PUBLIC ACCESS WASHOUT

If you haven't noticed, there is a bit of a drop off at the end of the ramp at the public access. If you back your trailer in too far you risk dropping into a "hole" and might experience some difficulty pulling your boat out. This "washout" is caused when boat motors are rev'd up to drive the boat up onto the trailer. The DNR was notified. They said that the lower water levels have made this an area-wide problem. The number of public accesses with this problem and their limited workforce allowed them to do repair work on only a few this fall. Perhaps next spring they may get to many more. In the meantime BEWARE. Education is the best "medicine" in this case. The main lesson: Instead of power loading (revving the boat to get it onto your trailer), use the trailer winch to load and unload your boat. Check out the DNR web page on how power loading damages boat ramps.

[https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/water\\_access/powerloading.html](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/water_access/powerloading.html)

## WE ARE NOW MEMBERS OF MINNESOTA LAKES AND RIVERS ADVOCATES

At our Annual Meeting in August the members present voted unanimously to change our Association membership to Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates (MLR). Below check out the message from Jeff Forester, Executive Director of MLR.

As part of this move MLR will be hosting our website. So we need to move all our info and data from the old website. This technical process has proved more than anyone on our Board is capable of performing. **So we are searching for someone that is willing to volunteer to be our Webmaster. If this is something you are able and willing to do please email, call or text me ---**

**email: [boot.lake.association@gmail.com](mailto:boot.lake.association@gmail.com)**

**Phone: 218-252-8842**

## OUR BOOT LAKE ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We may have a couple of vacancies next summer on our Board of Directors. This year I will be completing the last year of my term as Chairperson. I have served on the Board for almost 12 years with 10 as the Chairperson. My latest term was extended since no one stepped up to fill the position. I enjoy being part of this Association and the things we have accomplished since its inception in 1998. Some of those accomplishments include working with the DNR to install a dock at the public access, getting the County to pave County Rd 46 from the Two Inlets Road to County Rd 127, establishing our Adopt-a-Road program, working with Paul Bunyan Communications to have fiber optic cable installed around Boot Lake, and organizing our annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Boat Parade - just to name a few. So I am hoping there is someone out there that is willing to step up and Chair the Association come next August, or any other vacancies that need to be filled. To be honest, it does not involve a lot of work. We are a pretty low key organization and our main objective is to be visible and promote communication within our Boot Lake community. So think about it and give it some consideration.

Fred Luckeroth

Chairperson

Boot Lake Association

# A New Program for Plastic Film Recycling



Plastic bags and food containers are washed on to beaches

Oceans, rivers and lakes face a massive and growing threat from something you encounter everyday: plastics. An estimated 17.6 billion pounds of plastic leaks into the marine environment from land-based sources every year—this is roughly equivalent to dumping a garbage truck full of plastic into the oceans every minute.

Plastic films cannot be accepted by the current recycling programs, such as Becker and Hubbard County's solid waste management departments. Plastic films jam up the works at recycling centers, causing costly shut-downs and delays. Also, the type of resin used to make the softer films is not compatible with the harder plastic used for pop bottles. This means plastic bags and films must be collected separately from other recyclables. Often, they are simply thrown in the garbage, where they can be picked up by the wind and end up in the streets, backyards, lakes and rivers, and the bodies of birds and fish.

But now we have a new source for recycling plastic film products. A Virginia-based company, Trex uses recycled plastic film resin to create such wood-alternative products as composite decking, railing and benches. **Trex accepts such plastic products as produce bags, shopping bags, ice bags, reclosable food storage bags, cereal box liners, pallet wrap and stretch film, case over wrap (like from packages of bottled water or toilet paper), bread bags, newspaper sleeves, dry cleaning bags, bubble wrap and plastic e commerce mailers. (Write these down for future reference).**

The Park Rapids Lions Club is participating in a community-wide recycling program focusing on plastic film products. **Local businesses are collecting their own plastic waste, while public collection sites have been set up at Amish Oak Furnishings, Bella Caffé and Third Street Market, Calvary Lutheran, Riverside United Methodist and St. Peter's Catholic churches.**

Will your recycling save the planet? Perhaps not, However, sometimes you can't do great, big things. Sometimes you can just do little things, like make sure that you're recycling whatever material you're using and whatever you're bringing in is the right stuff.

## Message from Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates



PO Box 22262, St. Paul, MN 55122 952-854-1317

Dear Boot Lake Association,

Lake associations like yours are part of the largest, most generous and most committed conservation/angling group in Minnesota, contributing about \$6.25 million towards lake work collectively, and about 1.2 million volunteer hours to protect the public waters, and almost \$400k for annual fish stocking.

It is an honor to work for all of you.

Thank you for your membership support of MLR. Your decision to become a member aids MLR in its work to help Minnesota meet its water quality goals. We cannot do this without engaged lake associations and a statewide association working to advance our goals. Quite simply you and other lake associations in partnership with MLR are building the largest and most effective water group in the state.

This is an exciting effort. Please don't hesitate to call if you have any questions or suggestions.

Thanks you for all the work you do,

Jeff Forester  
Executive Director  
MN Lakes & Rivers Advocates

Check out MLR website: <http://www.mnlakesandrivers.org/>

## Calendar of Events



- Road Pickup / Potluck Thursday, May 12, 2022 hosted by Al and Sue Rost

## 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.

# Hear the Hauntingly Beautiful Call of the Common Loon



*<https://www.audubon.org/news/hear-hauntingly-beautiful-call-common-loon>*