

## *News from Boot Lake*

Hello from Beautiful Boot Lake. We hope you had a good summer and were able to enjoy the lake and the outdoors and escape the confinements of the pandemic world we live in right now. Hopefully next year at this time we will return to some sense of normalcy.

It was a good summer for weather in northern Minnesota. We had no damaging storms and enough rain to keep everything nice and green. In fact we had “officially” 19.33 inches of rain from April through October 1 (See the article below about the organization I joined called the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network). We had our warmest weather in June and July hitting in the 90's nine times, which was our total for the summer. This warmed the lake water to a high of 82 degrees by mid July – great for a dip in the lake ! And we had great weather on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July for our Boat Parade with 20 festively decorated boats cruising the lake.

### WATER CLARITY

Water clarity in the lake is somewhat concerning as the trend since about 2008 has been a decreasing clarity. The best reading of the summer was 15.5 feet on June 27. But just ten days later on July 7 the reading dropped to 10.5 feet. The final reading of the season measured 14.5 feet on September 5. Possible causes are warmer weather, increased lake shore development, more boat traffic stirring up the bottom and causing lake shore erosion. Now to be sure we still have excellent water quality and well above the norm for lakes in our area.

Check out this link to see how you can do your part to protect our water quality –

'Lawn and Lakes' workshop urges restoring the shore

<https://www.parkrapidsenterprise.com/news/6706631-Lawn-and-Lakes-workshop-urges-restoring-the-shore>

### LOON REPORT

We observed three pair of resident adult loons on the lake this summer and each pair hatched two chicks. Hope you were able to observe these families of loons and watch the chicks grow and learn to dive and fish and fly. You may have noticed the various sounds that loons make. Each male actually has it's own signature yodel, and each call has a purpose. Learn a bit more here: [https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Common\\_Loon/sounds#:~:text=Common%20Loons%20are%20famous%20for,has%20his%20own%20signature%20yodel](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Common_Loon/sounds#:~:text=Common%20Loons%20are%20famous%20for,has%20his%20own%20signature%20yodel).

### AIS UPDATE

We again (to the best of our knowledge) escaped any infestation of aquatic invasive species (AIS). We had an inspector at our public access on Saturdays which is the high traffic day as it is the day the resorts welcome their new weekly guests. Karl Koenig, Becker County Water Quality & AIS Coordinator, reported that 86 inspections were conducted over the summer. No serious non-compliant incidents were noted. However it was noted that seven boats that entered the lake were in infested lakes prior to putting in on Boot. They were thoroughly visibly inspected. However, at present there are no legal requirements that the boats need to be decontaminated after leaving infested waters.

### ASSOCIATION NEWS

We had a nice turnout for Annual Meeting. We could not have our usual pot luck dinner but we were able to social distance outside and imbibe in a few beverages. We welcomed new Board Members Teri Erhardt and Russ Price. And thank you to retiring board member Chris Luckerth.

We are seeing new property owners on the lake with a few being full time residents. We enjoyed several “pontoon dinners” on the lake organized by Kathi Doroff. Each one had a few more boats than the previous one. Some have asked if we might have more social events on the lake, e.g. bike rides, golf outings, etc. If this is something you might be interested in let us know your thoughts.

We are enjoying a beautiful autumn so far and savoring every moment of the vibrant colors....cuz we know what's coming next !! Have a great Winter and stay safe.



Fred Luckerth, Chairperson, Boot Lake Association

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## *Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network*



CoCoRaHS (pronounced KO-ko-rozz) is a grassroots volunteer network of backyard weather observers of all ages and backgrounds working together to measure and map precipitation (rain, hail and snow) in their local communities. By using low-cost measurement tools, stressing training and education, and utilizing an interactive Web-site, the aim is to provide the highest quality data for natural resource, education and research applications. The only requirements to join are an enthusiasm for watching and reporting weather conditions and a desire to learn more about how weather can affect and impact our lives.

If this is something you think you might be interested in check out this link: <https://www.cocorahs.org/>

If you decide to join you could establish another reporting station on Boot Lake, or if you are just a seasonal or week end resident, you can set up a reporting station at your permanent residence. Currently besides Boot Lake the nearest reporting stations are northwest of Itasca State Park and near Emmaville.

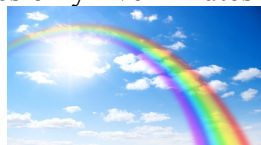
If you want to check on daily precipitation at Boot Lake go to the CoCoRaHS website. You can enter the Station Number assigned for Boot Lake: **MN-BK-16**; or you can click on: **"Maps"** on the toolbar at top of the home page and then click on **"MN"** on the **Google Map**, and zoom in on Boot Lake.

So who uses this data? Every morning many organizations pull data from the CoCoRaHS database at least every hour to get all the latest reports as they come in. When you see forecasts of river stages and flood levels on the Missouri, the Mississippi, the Ohio, the Colorado River or most anywhere else in the country -- guess what data are helping the forecasters make these forecasts? Yes, timely CoCoRaHS data! Your reports of hail or heavy rain may trigger the NWS to issue severe thunderstorm or flash flood warnings. In cases of extreme localized storms, your local report could help save lives.

Below are just a few of the many users:

1. Weather Forecasters
2. Hydrologists
3. Water management
4. Researchers
5. Agriculture
6. Climatologists
7. Insurance Industry
8. Engineering
9. Recreation
10. Many others

So check it out. It's easy to join, takes only five minutes a day and is a fun way to learn about this wonderful natural



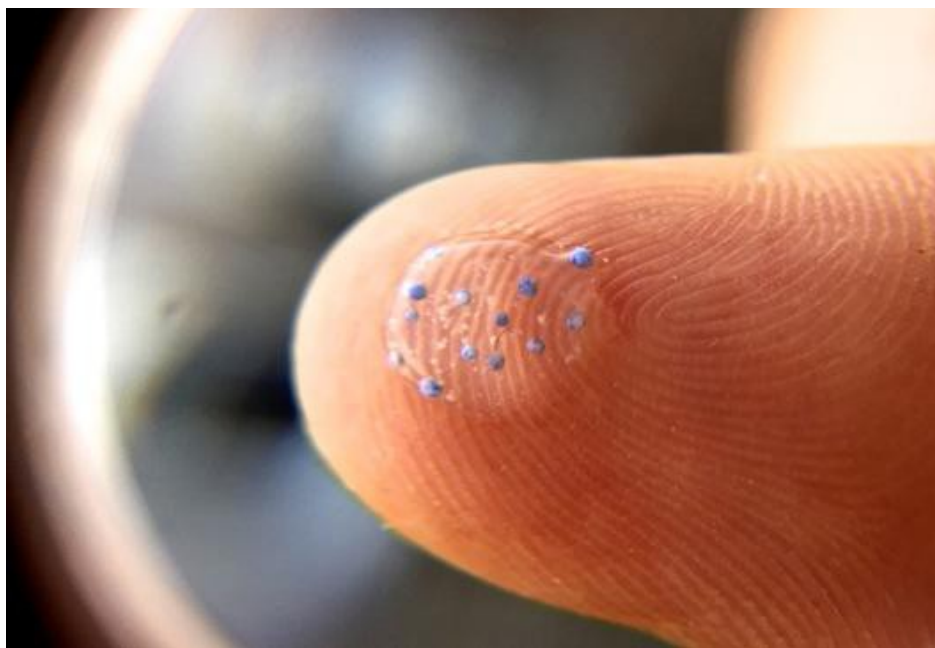
resource that falls from the sky.

***Just when you thought you had enough to worry about in our crazy world, here are a couple more...***

***1. -----Microplastics in Minnesota's Inland Waters-----***

Now we learn our lakes may contain Microplastics. So what are Microplastics? They are very small plastic particles, less than 5 millimeters (or 1/20th of an inch) in size. They come from common items such as degraded plastic bags, synthetic clothes and textiles, some hygiene products, and cigarette filters. They are found across terrestrial, aquatic, and marine environments worldwide. These particles are speculated to negatively impact the aquatic environments and ecosystems, however, it is not known with certainty where these particles are in aquatic environments. Research is currently being done to learn how much and what kinds of microplastics are found in four Minnesota sentinel lakes: Peltier, Elk (located in Itasca State Park), White Iron, and Ten Mile.

The research project is designed to engage community members in part of the research process, and communicate about microplastics and project results. So far, plastics have been found in the waters and on the bottom of the lake in the sediment of all four study lakes. In the fall of 2020, researchers will begin dissecting two types of fish to see if there are any plastics in their guts: 1) filter feeders (cisco) and 2) visual feeders (bluegill and perch). Fish will be collected by the research team and also by community members who are interested in collaborating on the project. Anglers can submit fish stomachs throughout the year for research staff to dissect and analyze for any microplastic consumption. The Legislative Citizen-Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) funded the two year long microplastics project in 2019, and it concludes 2021. The microplastics project team is led by Dr. Kathryn Schreiner, a researcher from the University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD), and comprised of additional researchers from UMD, the Sentinel Lakes program coordinator from Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and an extension staff from Minnesota Sea Grant.



Are you concerned about tiny plastics in our lakes? Potential impacts on fish? Want to do something about it? Here's your chance. The Project Team at UMD invites you to view a webinar to learn more about plastics in our waters and about how anglers can help by submitting fish stomachs to support this important research. More details, including how to join the citizen scientist team, can be found on the project website: [www.mnplastics.org](http://www.mnplastics.org)

## 2. -----*Airborne Dust May Spur Toxic Algae Blooms on Remote Minnesota Lakes*-----

Scientists are racing to find out how blue-green algae reaches the waters in Minnesota's pristine natural areas. Two miles deep into the woods of Isle Royale National Park, Mark Edlund smelled something foul. He was stunned when, a quarter-mile down the trail, he reached a small lake and saw that his nose was right.

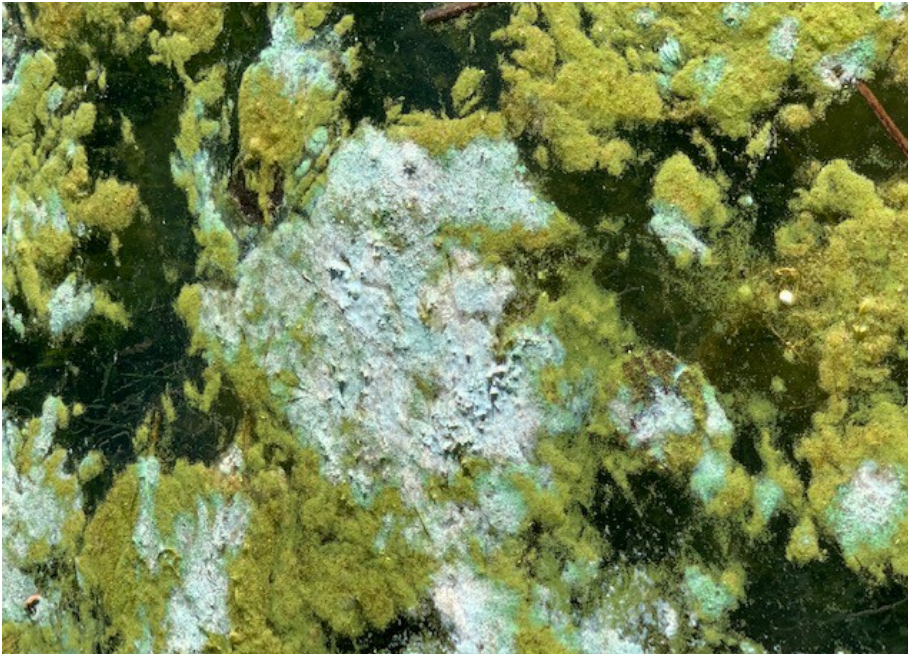
In one of the most remote and protected places in the Upper Midwest, far out from the Lake Superior shore, an intense outbreak of toxic blue-green algae had taken control of the little island lake.

That lake and others on Isle Royale have turned thick with noxious algae blooms every other year or so since that 2007. So have lakes in Voyageurs National Park and in federally protected forests along the North Shore and near the headwaters of the Mississippi River. The toxic blooms are sadly expected in ponds and lakes of cities, suburbs and rural towns where heavy runoff from fertilized fields and lawns fuels the growth, turning lakes a sickly, oily green. The blue-green algae can kill pet dogs and can be poisonous to people when ingested. It has shut down beaches, fisheries and, in some cases, drinking water supplies. A warming climate is certainly one of the culprits. With less ice cover and longer growing seasons, the conditions are better for growth of the bacteria that causes the blooms.

There is also mounting evidence that winds pick up pollution and nutrients from even the smallest fragments of dust and soil and drop them onto every part of the region

Minnesota lakes have typically seen algae blooms between midsummer and early fall, when water temperatures are at their highest.

Existing efforts to manage the blooms focus on the cabins, homes, farms and logging immediately around a water body. But if the nutrients are coming in on the wind from across the continent, it is going to take much more comprehensive action to solve. (excerpts from Star Tribune July 6, 2020)



*Blue-green algae spotted on Boot Lake this past summer*

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## *Seaplanes on Boot Lake*

This past summer we had a Seaplane / Floatplane land on Boot Lake. It was reported the the plane landed and took off several times and buzzed the area. Some lake residents were concerned about the closeness of the plane to boats and the amount of boat traffic on the lake at the time.

We looked into the laws that govern these planes regarding landing on Minnesota lakes. We learned that they are allowed to land on any Minnesota lake with the exception of some lakes in the seven county metro area and lakes in state parks. They can also fly over your cabin, however, Seaplane pilots are “taught” to try to avoid overflying a house on shore at less than 1000 feet unless conditions dictate a lower altitude for safe operation.

Seaplane pilots may buzz the lake several times before landing. They are doing this to take a closer look at the intended water runway. A pilot will overfly the landing area to get a look at the surface and obstructions both on the water and below the surface and assess traffic in the area. In most cases the pass is a good indicator of the general direction and area the pilot intends to land.

Regarding specific rules or laws governing this activity, here is the citation from Minnesota Rules 8800.2700:

*Approaches and Takeoffs: All approaches and takeoffs from the water area shall be made in such a manner as to clear all structures on the land by at least 100 feet, and wherever the area of the body of water will permit, such landings and takeoffs shall be made at a distance of not less than 300 feet, both laterally and vertically, from any boat or person on the surface of the water, or as near to 300 feet as the area of the water will permit.*

Once a seaplane is on the water it is considered a boat and must obey most of the same rules a boater has to follow.

So what should you do as a boater when you spot a seaplane that may land on the lake or is on the lake. The simplest answer from a seaplane pilot is that you don't add to the risks by maneuvering your boat in an unpredictable or conflicting manner. The worst thing to do is to cross in front of the intended path of either arrival or departure and leave a large wake for a seaplane to have to cross. Seaplanes do not like big waves and especially ones that are not expected or present a hazard. If a boat crosses in front of a seaplane or leaves a dangerous wake to cross often it will result in an aborted takeoff or landing. In a similar manner do not try to race a seaplane on takeoff or approach. Seaplanes are limited in their ability to maneuver and the added distraction of a vessel racing alongside will often cause a pilot to abandon a takeoff run or landing approach. While it is a lot to ask, many times it's best practice for a boater to stop and watch and enjoy the show.



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If you are concerned about a seaplane following unsafe practices you should notify the Becker County Sheriff.

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## *October 2020 Road Pickup*

Seventeen of your neighbors gathered on a cool refreshing October afternoon to do our Fall road pickup. This Twice-a-Year activity, now in our 14<sup>th</sup> year, began in 2006. We do a Spring pickup in May which usually yields a larger amount of trash that remains covered by the snow all winter. October is a lighter load because many of our residents pickup on a regular basis while on their summer walks. The crew reported that the garbage of choice thrown out by litter-bugs are beer cans (Keystone) and cigarette packs (Marlboro) !!



Normally we end the day with a potluck dinner but not this year because of Covid-19. But we did enjoy some cold beverages and Hot Coffee !! Our next pickup will be May 2021 so hope you can join us.



October 2006 Fall Pickup Crew



October 2020 Fall Pickup Crew

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## *Automated External Defibrillator (AED)*

A new resident on Boot Lake recently asked: “Being 20 miles from Park Rapids, what kind of response can we expect for a medical emergency, i.e. a heart attack.”

This same question came up several years ago. Here is the answer updated for 2020.

For any medical emergency you need to call 911. There are three First Responders that live and work within five miles of Boot Lake. They all carry AED’s. The Two Inlets store also has an AED, and an oxygen tank. The First Responders will be sent by the 911 Dispatcher followed by the Becker County Sheriff, North Memorial Ambulance and Park Rapids Fire Department as needed.



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## *Calendar of Events*

**NOTE: CONSIDERING THE CURRENT SITUATION, THE BELOW EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

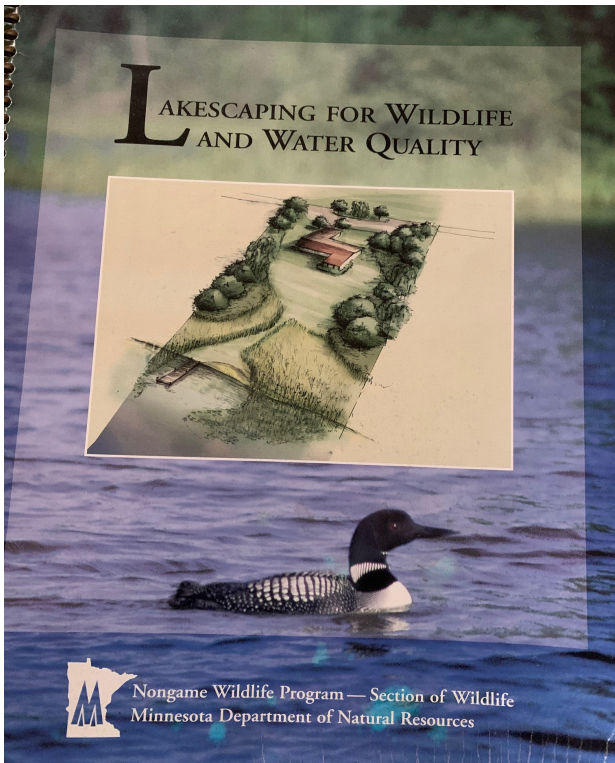
- Road Pickup / Potluck                      Thursday, May 13, 2021 hosted by Al and Sue Rost
  - Fourth of July Boat Parade              Sunday, July 4, 2021
  - Annual Meeting                                Sunday, August 8, 2021 (host tbd)
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## ***Lakescaping for Wildlife and Water Quality***

An alternative that differs from the typical approach to home landscaping is called "lakescaping." The Association has purchased a book called "Lakescaping for Wildlife and Water Quality". It is an excellent source of information for planting a diverse natural lakeshore landscape. You can learn about techniques to restore wildlife habitat, wildflowers, and clean water. It will help preserve or restore the natural beauty that attracted you to Boot Lake in the first place.

It will provide a good read over these cold winter days. You can dream about spring, lay out your "lakescape" plans, and be ready to "spring" into action when the snow leaves us again.

**If you would like to checkout the book email us at: [Boot.lake.association@gmail.com](mailto:Boot.lake.association@gmail.com) and we will arrange to get the book to you.**



### **IF YOU OWN LAKESHORE PROPERTY, YOU NEED THIS BOOK!**

Are you tired of spending your "quality time" at the lake mowing grass, chasing geese off the lawn, and watching the lake turn lime green with algal blooms? There *is* an alternative: **Lakescaping for Wildlife and Water Quality.**

This book shows how to plan and plant a diverse natural lakeshore landscape. Read about techniques to restore wildlife habitat, wildflowers, and clean water—preserve or restore the natural beauty that attracted you to lakeshore living in the first place.

The principles and techniques in this book are also applicable for landscaping along rivers, streams, and wetlands.



## **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.



