

SPRING 2023

# BOOT LAKE NEWS

## Ah, (nearly) Summer!

Ice is out (officially May 4, four days earlier than last year!) and the trees are greening up. I can probably speak for most of us that, as we roll out the docks and drop in the boats, we look forward to a summer filled with friends, fun and making lots of fond memories.

Boot Lake is a beautiful place that many of us are blessed to call home. For many others it's your/ their home away from home - your 'happy place'.

Part of what makes Boot Lake so special are the pristine waters that haven't been impacted with some of the problems, such as Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), that other lakes are struggling with - and we hope to keep it that way!

In this issue, **Craig Kulla shares some insights on AIS.** Please take time to read it, become acquainted with the laws and ensure that you and your summer guests follow the DNR laws for putting boats in the water. Together we can maintain the beauty of this special place.

In a new section, **'Beauty Around the Lake'**, we're sharing some pics taken on Boot Lake; we encourage you to submit your pics for future issues. It's always fun to see the lake from the perspective of another property!

Summer means it's time to renew your Boot Lake membership! As a creative incentive we're offering something new - an **Ice Out contest** next spring for those who are paid up! Details are inside.

Finally, check out the **updated calendar.** It's a great tool to keep track of all that that's going on at the Lake: If you haven't joined us for a road clean-up and potluck, the Happy Hour/Dinner Floats, the Ladies' monthly coffee or the Annual Meeting, you don't know what you're missing! They are all great places to meet neighbors and make new friends!

See you on the water!

Tori Erhardt, Boot Lake Association Chairperson

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Website: <https://bootlake.mnlakesanddrivers.org>



# PRESERVING OUR LAKE

by Craig Kulla



*Zebra mussels can reach a population of tens of thousands in a square yard and damage lake ecosystems*

Back in the 80s and early 90's, my bass fishing friends and I would do fall lunger hunts, hitting key spots and jumping from lake to lake, water still dripping out of our live wells.

That's become a thing of the past as Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) are increasing at an alarming rate.

I will briefly outline some information as space permits. You can also go to the MNDR website and search **[Aquatic Invasive Species](#)** to find everything you want to know. [Learn to identify aquatic invasive species here.](#)

**AIS covers many different species, but we'll cover Zebra Mussels and Eurasian Watermilfoil.**

**Zebra Mussels** are not native to our lakes but are native to Eastern Europe and Western Russia; they are quickly taking over the native mussel population. Zebra Mussels got here from cargo ship ballast water released in the Great Lakes in 1988 and were found in the Duluth Harbor in 1989.

A female zebra mussel can produce 100,000 - 500,000 eggs per year and beds of mussels can reach tens of thousands of mussels within a square yard. Zebra mussels are filter feeders, which means they feed by clearing nutrients from the water passing through them. The end result is the waterbody becomes more clear - which can be perceived as a good thing - but they can also be filtering out so much phytoplankton and nutrients typically available to other aquatic life that they effectively change the food web. This may result in irreparable damage to the ecosystem. Not to mention that, as mussels pile up on beaches, recreation is also affected.

**Eurasian Watermilfoil**, native to Europe and Asia, was discovered in the US in 1900's and in Lake Minnetonka in 1987. It was introduced in the 1940's as a decoration in aquariums and may have been dumped into a lake or pond which started the spread.

Eurasian Milfoil looks similar to our native Northern Watermilfoil but is far more invasive and damaging. It grows fast, reducing the amount of light in a lake or pond and shading out other native aquatic plants. Each plant can grow 20 feet tall, but typically grows 3 to 9 ft. Eurasian milfoil can also reproduce very fast - all it takes is a tiny fragment of a broken stem - like those that are carried by boats from one lake to another - to start a new plant. The entire plant must be removed in order to control spread.

AIS are usually transported by watercraft and also by moving docks and lifts. To stop the spread, the DNR requires a quarantine time of 21 days minimum for docks and lifts moving from one body of water to another. Clean, drain and dry is now the law!

#### **Requirements for watercraft are:**

- *clean, drain and dry live wells*
- *remove drain plugs to drain bilge water*
- *lower the motor to drain all water prior to leaving the access*
- *inspect and remove any vegetation from watercraft and trailer*
- *no transporting of bait water from one body of water to another. This includes dumping of bait in any waterbody.*

Please be mindful as it only takes one watercraft, lift or dock to contaminate a body of water with any AIS.

I will have some informative materials from the DNR available at the lake association annual meeting, and for resorts and anyone else that would like one.

Boot Lake is a special place in a beautiful part of Minnesota. Let's all do our part to keep it that way.

Have a great summer!

Craig Kulla

*Eurasian Milfoil - plants can quickly reproduce with a tiny fragment left on a boat or dock*



# NEWS YOU CAN USE

With so many new people living or vacationing on the Lake, we're re-sharing some important information - and offering something new!



## Boot Lake Emergency Info | Automated External Defibrillator (AED)

(this is information from 2020)

For any medical emergency 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.

- *Becker County Sheriff's department: 218-847-2661*
- *Park Rapids Police Department: 218-732-3124*



## Volunteer Water Monitoring

Fred and Chris Luckeroth are currently the only ones on the lake that participate and monitor the clarity of the lake with secchi disk readings that they take. At one time there were two people taking readings -- one on the south end and one on the north. Fred has said that they will continue in this role as long as they reside on the lake. But if anyone else is interested in participating, i.e. the south end, they can contact the MPCA and get signed up. This might be a good way to provide uninterrupted continuity in the event the Luckeroths end their tenure.

- <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/get-engaged/volunteer-water-monitoring>



## Make some Money!

Next spring we will hold an "ice out" contest, with a \$25 Amazon gift card to anyone guessing the correct ice out date. To be eligible your Boot Lake Association Membership must be paid up. Any ties will be decided by a drawing. To make sure your dues are up to date, contact our Association Treasurer:

- *Craig Neiman @ [cnieman55@gmail.com](mailto:cnieman55@gmail.com)*

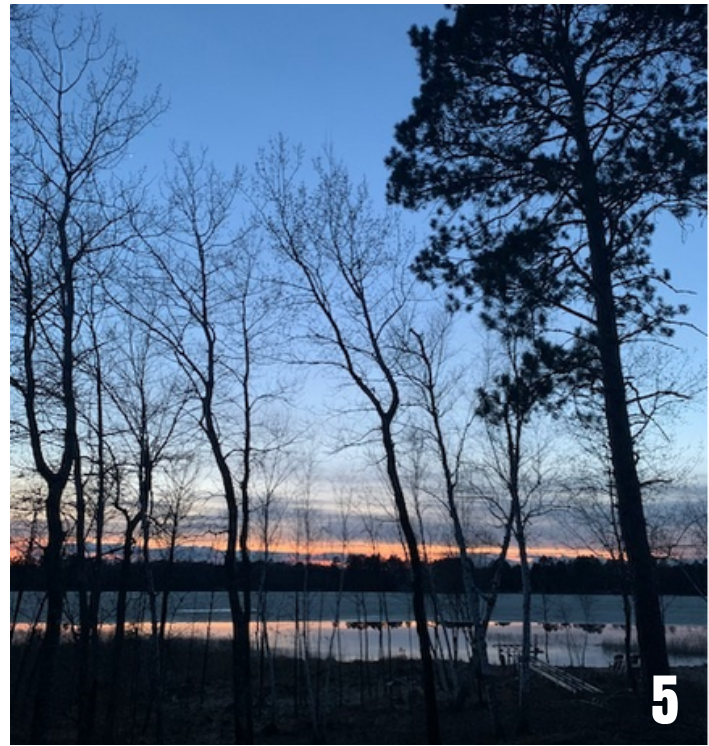
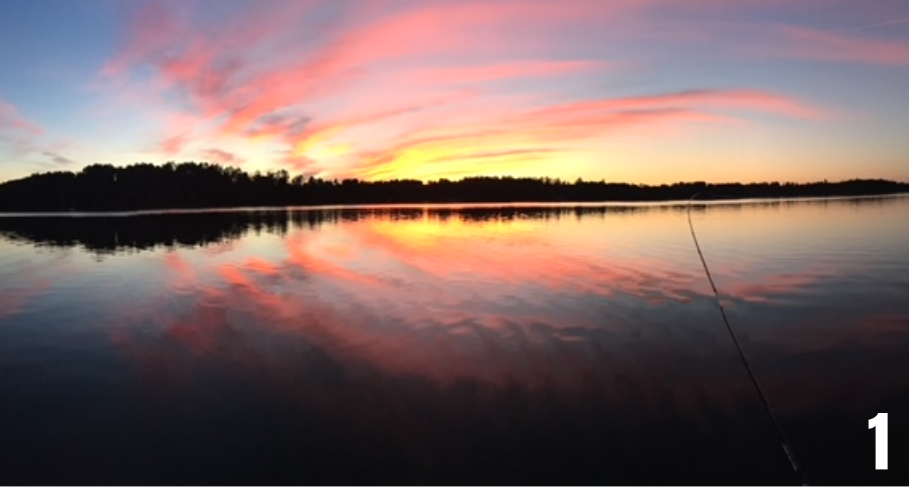


## Comments/Suggestions?

This is YOUR newsletter! Let us know if there's anything you'd like to see and we'll see if it can be done! Or (warning) you might be called upon to contribute :)

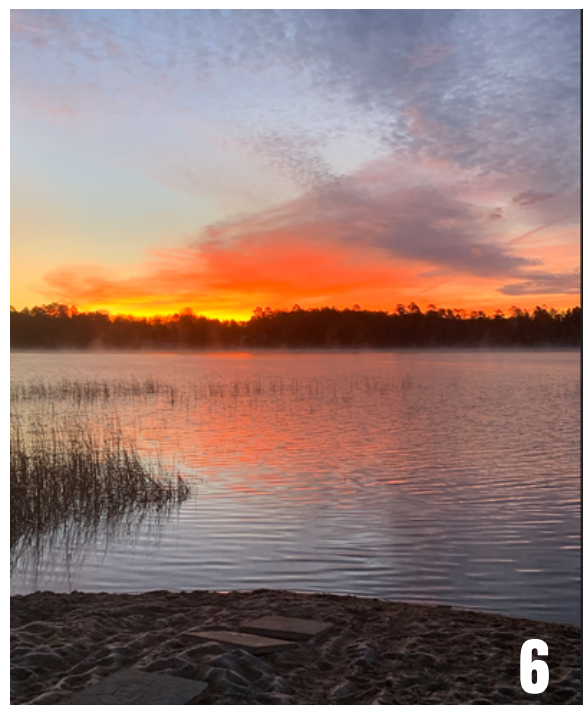
- *Send a note to the Association @ [boot.lake.association@gmail.com](mailto:boot.lake.association@gmail.com)*

# BEAUTY AROUND THE LAKE



## Photo Credits:

1. Panoramic sunset - Craig Kulla
2. Baby loons - Half Moon Trail website
3. Northern lights @ Half Moon Trail - source: internet
4. Summer sunset - Teri Erhardt
5. Almost ice out - Teri Erhardt
6. Sunrise from Reski beach - Dave Reski



# calendar of events

## APRIL

12th - Ladies' Coffee TBD

## MAY

10 - Ladies' Coffee Teri Erhardt's

18 - Spring Road Pick-up and Potluck  
Hosted by Gary and Kathi Doroff



## JUNE

TBD - Ladies' Coffee

6 - Floating Dinner 5:00 - BYO and meet on the lake near Evergreen Bay Resort



## JULY

TBD - Ladies' Coffee

1 - 4th of July Boat Parade

18 - Floating Dinner 5:00 - BYO and meet on the lake near Evergreen Bay Resort



## AUGUST

TBD - Ladies' Coffee

13 - Annual Meeting and Potluck  
Hosted by Craig and Shirley Kulla

15 - Floating Dinner 5:00 - BYO and meet on the lake near Evergreen Bay Resort



## SEPTEMBER

TBD - Ladies' Coffee

12 - Floating Dinner 5:00 - BYO and meet on the lake near Evergreen Bay Resort



## OCTOBER

TBD - Ladies' Coffee

5 - Fall Road pick-up - Nieman's



## NOVEMBER

TBD - Ladies' Coffee



## DECEMBER

TBD - Ladies' Coffee



Don't miss the monthly **FLOATING DINNERS** this summer!  
They're a great way to meet neighbors and make some new friends!  
See calendar for info.