

FALL/WINTER 2023

BOOT LAKE NEWS

Focus on Friends

As a child I looked forward to the signs of fall; crunchy leaves, campfires and pumpkin pie to name just a few. What made many of these times memorable were the friends with whom I shared those experiences.

Since my husband Scott and I moved to Boot Lake in 2019 we have met so many wonderful people, expanded our social circle and re-vitalized our social life! Many of the special people in my life today I met at events/activities on the lake.

The Boot Lake Association hosts multiple opportunities throughout the year to connect with neighbors and meet new friends:

- *monthly ladies' coffee*
- *twice-a-year road pickup events/potlucks*
- *the annual meeting/potluck*
- *monthly summertime floating dinner/happy hour cruises*
- *the annual holiday get-together and more!*

Take a look at the [Events Calendar](#) in this issue and be sure to put some of those dates on your own calendar, including our [annual Holiday Party!](#)

Here's to the joys of the coming season - hot apple cider, sparkling snowfalls, cozy fires - and wonderful friends!

Teri Erhardt, Boot Lake Association Chairperson



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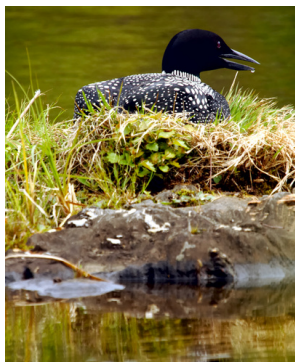
[Events Calendar](#)



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



WHERE IS OUR STATE BIRD?



Minnesota has more loons (roughly 12,000) than any other state except Alaska, making them a precious natural gift to our lake.

Yet they only stick around for part of the year; once the weather turns, the loons head to warmer climes.

Have you ever wondered what happens to them when they leave Minnesota?

Here are a few fun facts we dug up.

In September, Minnesota's adult loons travel south in small flocks to their winter home along the Atlantic coast - from North Carolina south to Florida, or on the Gulf of Mexico - where they winter in relative obscurity. Younger loons follow a month or so later.

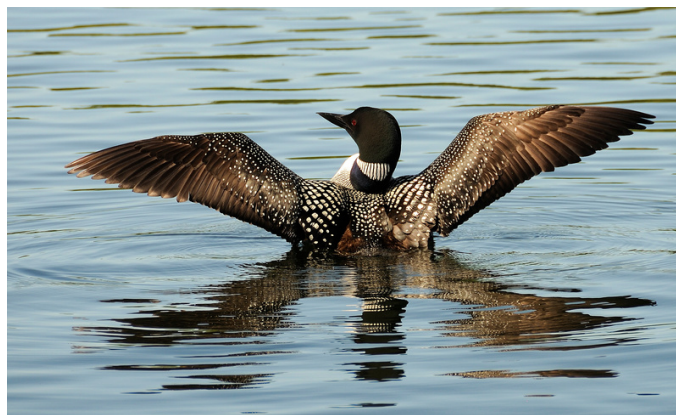
- *During winter, loons shed their signature black and white plumage for duller tans and grays, and feed on different types of fish in their new saltwater environs.*
- *Loons rely on some unique features that allow them to dive as deep as 250 feet in search of fish.*
 - *Their bones are dense, not hollow like most birds and they have red eyes to help them see at deeper depths.*
 - *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 so they tend to favor larger or longer lakes.*
- *They have strong feet, which don't work too well for walking on land, but help them in their takeoff as they run on water.*
- *Loons can fly more than 75 miles per hour.*
- *Scientists think loons can live for 30 years or more*

- *Loons, like many animals, are also "canaries in the mineshaft", indicating if the environment is OK.*
- *Unfortunately, studies on loons have told us that mercury accumulates in their bodies at harmful levels.*

The DNR monitors loon populations with the help of volunteers to improve understanding of what our state bird needs to maintain a strong, healthy presence here.

Looking forward to 'our' loons returning in the spring!

Source(s):
MN DNR



AROUND THE LAKE



Clockwise from top left:

- Spring road clean-up potluck
- Ken Shepard Memorial Boat Parade (2)
- Monthly Ladies' coffee (2 lower left)

WHO KNEW??!

(a little lake history)

We'd like to begin compiling and sharing memories from those who have lived on or vacationed on Boot Lake. If you know the history on a special piece of lake property we'd love to hear about it.

Please contact boot.lake.association@gmail.com

Pine-O-Rama

- from Grant Ovsak

I grew up camping and enjoying the outdoors with my family in the Park Rapids area and have many fond memories of summers spent up north, however my favorite were made at Pine-O-Rama Campground on Boot Lake in the '70's. (Pine-O-Rama was owned by the Thiesens and located on the property across from Half Moon Trail Resort).

To me it was magical – no school to worry about, lots of kids to run around with, pinball and pool in the rec room, gigantic tractor tubes in the water, a perfect lake for waterskiing, and even live bands in the old green barn (which was the main building and the one you can see from the lake) on Saturday nights.

My late grandfather was enjoying this time with us also which made our weekends on Boot Lake very special.

I'll never forget an incredible storm that came through one night which caused us kids to crawl into the RV, happy to just sleep on the floor near the heater as we dried off.

Fast forward 20 years as I was converting some old film reels to tape and was struck by a crazy sight: I had forgotten we brought a super8 film camera to Pine-O-Rama for a weekend to capture the skiing and shenanigans thinking that we were young filmmakers. I was speechless - in taping our skiing on the lake there is actual footage of 13yr old me – skiing in front of the land we now call home!

I'm so thankful I get to share this special place with my wife Cathy and our three children. Four generations of my family have enjoyed and created memories at Boot Lake - and each time I sit on my dock I get to look across to Thiesen's former Pine-O-Rama campground those fabulous memories come flooding back.

Pine-O-Rama closed in 1984.



NEWS YOU CAN USE



Boot Lake Emergency Info | Automated External Defibrillator (AED)

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*



What's covered by my Association Dues?

The mission of the Association is to unite Boot Lake area property owners, residents and others who share concern in preserving our lake, conserving our wildlife, promoting education relative to these ideals, and offering opportunities for social activity.

Annual dues (\$30 as of 1/1/24) covers our annual membership to Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates (MLR) and our website. MLR works to protect our lakes and our lake investment through advocacy and education. Dues also covers supplies for road pickups and the annual meeting, and gift cards for the 4th of July Boat Parade and the Ice Out Contest.



Ice Out Contest

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*

NOTE: PAID-UP MEMBERS (BY SPRING) CAN REQUEST A PRINTED COPY OF THE LAKE DIRECTORY. MORE INFO ON THAT TO COME.



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!

- *Send a note to the Association @ boot.lake.association@gmail.com*

calendar of events

OCTOBER

- 5th - Fall Road Pick-up - Nieman's
- 11 - Ladies' Coffee, Chris Luckerth's

NOVEMBER

- 8 - Ladies' Coffee, Roxanne Heilig's



DECEMBER

- 13 - Ladies' Coffee
 - 16 - Annual Holiday Party, Blueberry Pines
- [RSVP TO ATTEND. CLICK HERE](#)



JANUARY 2024

- 10 - Ladies' Coffee, Shirley Kulla's



FEBRUARY

- 14 - Ladies' Coffee, Joanne VerSteeg's

MARCH

- 13 - Ladies' Coffee, Iris Shepard's

APRIL

- 10 - Ladies' Coffee, Kathi Doroff's

MAY

- 8 - Ladies' Coffee, Teri Erhardt's

- 16th - Spring Road Pick-up and Potluck
Hosted by Mark & Mary Johnson



JUNE

- 12 - Ladies' Coffee, Laura Parkhurst's

Floating Dinner TBD

JULY

- TBD - Ladies' Coffee

- 4th of July Boat Parade - Ken Shepard Memorial



Floating Dinner TBD

AUGUST

- TBD - Ladies' Coffee

- 11th - Annual Meeting and Potluck
HOST NEEDED!

Floating Dinner TBD

SEPTEMBER

- TBD - Ladies' Coffee

- OCTOBER 3 - Fall Road pick-up - Hosted by Shockley's