

SPRING/SUMMER 2024

# BOOT LAKE NEWS

## For the Love of the Lake

Scott (my husband) and I returned after 5 weeks away over February/March to find that an entire new home (well, the bones of it) had popped up directly across the lake from us while we were away!

Whether you've been here all year or will be returning for the summer, you'll notice that there has been a lot of development happening around the Lake.

One of the many reasons people are drawn to Boot Lake is the beauty, the serenity and the water; Boot Lake is one of the clearest lakes in the state.

But water clarity is becoming a bigger issue in Minnesota as more and more lakes deal with problems like Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and algae bloom. And as Boot Lake becomes more developed, and more people interact with it, the Lake becomes more vulnerable to these same problems.

In "Leaving a Legacy" we dig a bit deeper into these issues and, more importantly, discuss what can be done - both as individuals and as a lake community - to care for and protect this precious natural resource so that we can enjoy it today and pass it on in a pristine state to future generations.

Also, It takes a 'village'. There are always opportunities to get involved and make a difference. Consider hosting the Annual Meeting this year, or stepping into a Board Member role as seats vacate (there will be several in August). Please think about how you can become involved - you can make a difference!

Finally, as we approach a new season, it's time to renew your Boot Lake membership! Check out the "News you can Use" section to see what your membership covers and how to ensure you are paid up.

- Teri Erhardt, Boot Lake Association Chair

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[Website:](#)

[https://bootlake.mnlakesanddrivers.org\\_](https://bootlake.mnlakesanddrivers.org_)

## Officers

Teri Erhardt - Chairperson

Dave Reski - Vice Chair

Kathi Doroff- Secretary

Craig Neiman - Treasurer

Craig Kulla - At Large

Sue Shockley - At Large

The Boot Lake Association Mission: Uniting 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.

# LEAVING A LEGACY

Water quality is a serious issue facing Minnesota lakes. Apart from the intervention of humans, lakes can usually take care of themselves, but once people are involved - grooming their lawns, removing natural habitat, moving boats from one lake to another, etc. - the delicate natural balance is disrupted. This can create serious problems like algae blooms and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) along with the loss of valuable habitat for fish - and loons, frogs, butterflies and more.

All of which can lead to degraded water quality, an issue which half of Minnesota lakes are facing.

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**Among many factors affecting lakeshore property values, water clarity is most important, according to a study at Bemidji State University.**

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Many of us likely make Boot Lake our home or relaxation destination partly because of the water quality. We are very fortunate that, so far, Boot Lake continues to be one of the clearest lakes in Minnesota. But the more that our lakeshore is developed, with more people accessing the shores and waters, the more vulnerable our lake is to those problems.

Which leaves it up to us - as stewards of this natural resource - to be very thoughtful about our actions.

**Here are some practical ways we can continue to keep our waters clean, clear and healthy:**

## Take ownership.

- Recognize that lakes are vulnerable – and to support lake health and beauty, all of us, both individually and collectively, must assume responsibility for their care.
- Know that what we do on land and in the water affects the lake. We need to learn to balance our lives and lifestyles with the needs of our lake.
- Change your thinking about the weeds along your lakeshore. They are a barrier to protect the lake from runoff from the lawn. They also provide habitat for the wildlife needed to maintain ecological balance and a cleaner, healthier lake.

## Understand AIS

- The primary problem with AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) is us - humans. AIS is spread by the people who use the lake.
  - By forgetting to clean that boat trailer and draining the live well.
  - From dumping bait into the lake and transporting minnow buckets from lake to lake.
  - AIS gets a leg up when native aquatic plants are removed by lakeshore owners who want to get rid of those “icky weeds”.
- Educate anyone who visits you at the lake with a boat or water toys about the importance of cleaning their boat and emptying their live well. This prevents spreading AIS from lake to lake. It takes just a tiny snip of invasive weeds to eventually impact an entire lake.
- Talk about AIS prevention with your kids and your grandkids. Start when they are babies. Make the future boaters think of AIS prevention like we think about strapping on a seatbelt or recycling.

Its up to us - as individuals and as a community to help keep our lake clean, healthy and beautiful - for now. For our families. For always.

## Minnesota PCA Protecting Lakes



# AROUND THE LAKE



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***A great turnout at Blueberry Pines for our Holiday Celebration. Many thanks to Cathy Ovsak who graciously organized the gathering. It was a great time to visit and meet a few new friends and neighbors!***

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# AROUND THE LAKE

## Supporting the Community (& Ladies Coffee)



1-4 Salvation Army bell-ringing at L&M organized by Shirley Kulla

1. Eli Ganzer and Shirley Kulla
2. Craig and Brianna Kulla
3. Mabel Ahrendt and Scott Erhardt
4. Fred and Chris Luckeroth



Left: April Coffee at Kathi Doroff's

# WHO KNEW??!! (a little lake history)

Last fall we began sharing more memories from those who have lived or vacationed on Boot Lake. Here are some memories from Laura and Larry Parkhurst. If you have history on a special piece of lake property would you be willing to share? We'd love to hear about it! Please contact [boot.lake.association@gmail.com](mailto:boot.lake.association@gmail.com)

Not long after World War II, after Larry's father returned from helping to rebuild Pearl Harbor, the Parkhurst family began the tradition of leaving the stifling heat and humidity of Kansas City, driving straight up Highway 71 for two days, and fishing in the north woods. Initially they stayed at Two Inlets, then migrated to the Bates' two cabins at the far south end of Boot Lake. While Larry and his grandfather, Charlie Parkhurst, were fishing and exploring, they took a path up to a two-story farmhouse along the NW side of the lake. Elsie Pearce invited them in for coffee. She lived there alone, very independently, taught at the one room schoolhouse on the Shepard property, and at times delivered the mail. In 1954, she sold the house to Larry's grandparents, and moved to be closer to nieces and nephews as she grew older.

The house was built of vertical logs from the property. That summer, after Larry graduated from high school, he and his grandfather spent the summer here, paneling the interior, expanding the main floor, and adding electricity and indoor plumbing. Charlie and Larry's grandmother, Amy, began spending more and more of their summertime up here, eventually spending many months each year. Charlie became good friends with George Thelan, Sr. and Cecil Henshaw, and helped Cecil plumb the new cabins being built at his resort. According to George, the Savannah Township Sportsman's Club was a favorite hangout of Charlie's, where he would regale the other men with tales of his youth: Jumping a freighter to the Panama Canal where he worked for two years, contracted yellow fever, got caught in a Nicaraguan civil war, was shot, and stabbed with a stiletto by a barmaid. Larry still has his small handwritten diary from those very adventurous years.

Larry has been here every summer, except for two years, since 1954. If he were to tell you the story, it would take an afternoon, and quite possibly all day. He would tell you of going out and fishing late at night, night after night, and of the night of the full moon when they caught so many walleyes with frogs that they finally just had to quit; of eating endless fried fish, Campbell's soup, and saltine crackers; of his grandfather snoring so loudly it woke up everyone else. And he would certainly tell you about the day that the herd of pigs from across the lake all jumped into the water, swam all the way across the lake, and landed in the yard of our summer house. They refused to swim back home, and had to be loaded into a truck and driven back.

Our children grew up coming every summer to that old house. Then they grew up, got married, and began having their own children. During the summer of 2015, Ryan Ahrendt, newly graduated from college, built a beautiful sunroom to accommodate our expanding family. Two years ago we began building our permanent home and are now up here permanently, enjoying the beauty and serenity of Boot Lake along with many new friendships.

What a blessing this lake, our neighbors, and that old house have been to us for five generations.

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*Goodbyes are always hard - this one a few years ago in the old kitchen.*



# NEWS YOU CAN USE



## Did you know?...

The Boot Lake Association has a website that is hosted by the Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates. We pay annual dues to be part of that organization which helps to educate property owners and advocate at the state level on keeping Minnesota lakes and rivers clean and healthy.

You can access lots of info, including past [Boot Lake Association newsletters](#), on this site. Whether you're new to the lake or have been here for years/decades, you might find some good stuff!

<https://mnlakesandrivers.org/>



## What does my Association Dues of just \$10 Cover?

- *annual membership to Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocacy*
- *several social events throughout the year*
- *oversight of the current issues of the Boot Lake area*
- *information sharing about the lake*
- *association newsletter*
- *communications with local units of government and natural resource agencies*
- *good neighbors*
- *free beer at the association pot lucks*

IF YOU ARE A PAID-UP MEMBER BY THE ANNUAL MEETING IN AUGUST YOU MAY RECEIVE A [DIGITAL PDF COPY](#) OF A SOON TO BE AVAILABLE LAKE DIRECTORY.

You will be able to review your information at the Annual Meeting and let us know whether or not you want to be included.

If you do NOT expect to attend that meeting, please let us know if you would like to be included in that directory.

**To pay your dues or for dues questions, contact [@cnieman55@gmail.com](mailto:@cnieman55@gmail.com)**

**Being part of the Association Board is a great way to get involved in things fun and important around the lake.**

We will be voting on several Board positions at the annual meeting in August: Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer. If you have questions as to what is involved, please reach out to any of the Board members for more info.



# calendar of events

## 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  
(tentative)

19th - Floating Social



## JULY

TBD - Ladies' Coffee ?

6th - Ken Shepard Memorial Boat Parade

17TH - Floating Social



## AUGUST

TBD - Ladies' Coffee ?

11th - Annual Meeting and Potluck  
PLEASE CONSIDER HOSTING

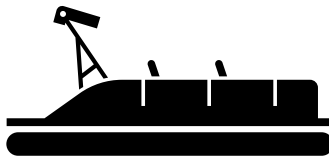
21st - Floating Social



## SEPTEMBER

TBD - Ladies' Coffee

18th - Floating Social



## OCTOBER

3rd - Fall Road pick-up - Hosted by Doug and Sue Shockley

Ladies' Coffee TBD



## NOVEMBER

Ladies' Coffee, TBD



## DECEMBER

Ladies' Coffee, TBD



## JANUARY

Ladies' Coffee, TBD

TBD - Holiday Gathering



## FEBRUARY

Ladies' Coffee, TBD

## MARCH

Ladies' Coffee, TBD

## APRIL

Ladies' Coffee, TBD