



# Bone Lake Newsletter

*Bone Lake — Once called Onondogacona which means lake of small pines*

SPRING 2020

LIFE AT THE LAKE...



Blue vervain, *Verbena hastata*, is a great shoreline stabilizer. Beautiful, too.



Find out more at [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov)

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[www.bonelakewi.com](http://www.bonelakewi.com)

## COVID-19 impacts meetings, inspections, classes

The Bone Lake Management District Board of Commissioners met online using Zoom to conduct our April 18, 2020 meeting, while observing *stay at home* orders in place in Wisconsin and Minnesota at that time. Lake Districts are required to follow Wisc. Open Meetings Law, and the Wisc. Dept. of Justice released guidance that if done properly, a virtual meeting can constitute an open meeting.

Annual meetings are different. In the opinion of the Wisconsin Lakes organization, the statutory requirements to qualify as a voter in a lake district election, as well as prohibitions on proxy voting or absentee ballots probably preclude an annual meeting or special meeting online. Wisconsin Lakes is researching how lake districts can operate under Ch. 33 during the crisis and we await official guidance from them on how to hold Bone Lake's annual meeting scheduled for August 15, 2020.

For now, please save the date and note the location. Further information will be sent over the summer via Bone Lake eNews and the Bone Lakers facebook page. The annual meeting notice will be mailed to District members at the end of July.

**Clean Boats Clean Waters inspections suspended.** The watercraft inspection program has been suspended for now. Inspections at our landings will hopefully begin again in June, however, we may be encouraged to observe social distancing and Centers for Disease Control recommendations<sup>1</sup> for some time to come. Updates are posted at the CBCW website.<sup>2</sup>

**Boating safety classes.** The two-day, in-person boating safety classes typically available through the Polk County Sheriff's Department are suspended. The boating safety course and boating certification exam are offered online.<sup>3</sup> Wisconsin law requires those born on or after January 1, 1989, to pass a boater safety course and to carry a boater education card.

**There will be Fireworks on the 4th.** Fireworks are scheduled for Saturday, July 4, 2020 at the south end of Bone Lake at dusk, sponsored by the Joel Owens family in honor of our veterans, active military and the fallen. The Owens family is establishing a 501(c)(3) organization to manage contributions. Watch for updates.

**Please be safe, and stay well.**  
—BLMD Board of Commissioners

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Pages/programs/cbcw/FAQ.aspx>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.boat-ed.com/wisconsin/>

Save the date...

BONE LAKE  
MANAGEMENT  
DISTRICT

**ANNUAL  
MEETING**  
SATURDAY  
AUG. 15, 2020

9 AM • BONE LAKE  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Dear Bone Lakers,

It is indeed an understatement to say these are unusual times due to COVID-19. The entire board wishes you and your family comfort, safety and peace for however long the mitigation efforts last.

Due to the current social distancing, financial instability and corresponding summer uncertainty, this is not the best time to pursue an alum treatment vote at the 2020 annual meeting. The BLMD Board, at our April 18 meeting, cancelled this scheduled vote and will plan to conduct a property owner survey in the fall.

### BONE LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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Wildlife and Natural Beauty  
Cris Dueholm, Karen Engelbretson

##### Alum Committee

Phil Foster

##### Aquatic Plant Management

Bob Boyd, Cary Olson  
Clean Boats Clean Waters  
Richard Mackie

##### Boating Safety & Buoys

Mike Musial

##### Communications

Karen Engelbretson

##### Reduced Wake/High Water

Cary Olson

##### Audit

Kirk Larson

The survey will ascertain your interest in using alum to improve our water clarity. While a majority of the attendees at the last annual meeting voiced an interest in pursuing alum, a relatively small percentage of total property owners were represented. Since we have the extra time, a survey will help determine a broader interest level before moving forward.

Based on your survey input, the board will decide at our October 2020 commissioner meeting whether to schedule an alum vote at the 2021 annual meeting. See page 6 for more information. A big thank you to the alum committee for their continued work.

We continue to be blessed with an outstanding board, our consultant, Cheryl Clemens, many volunteers, and grant dollars to aid in our efforts to improve Bone Lake. This is an excellent time for you to use these resources to install a waterfront or stream runoff reduction practice on your property. While we are considering using alum to treat the 53 percent of Bone Lake's phosphorus loading coming from our lake sediments, we need to keep reducing the 30 percent of phosphorus loading coming from waterfront property runoff. Doing so will help improve our lake's water clarity, maximize the benefit of using alum if so elected, and assist in obtaining future DNR grants.

A big thank you also to the aquatic plant management committee for their work over the winter updating this important plan which includes, among other things, our curly leaf pondweed treatment, aquatic invasive species prevention and control activities. The APM Plan will need your approval at our annual meeting. See page 4 for more information. Go to our website to access the plan and related documents.

The Board will be using Bone Lake eNews for upcoming lake activities, updates to the status of our annual meeting planned for August 19 at Bone Lake Lutheran Church, and for further information about the alum survey. Be sure you're signed up for Bone Lake eNews: go to our website, [www.bonelakewi.com](http://www.bonelakewi.com), and click/tap "Join our Mailing."

Even though this summer is shaping up to be different due to COVID-19 prevention, I hope you truly enjoy the solace and beauty of Bone Lake. ■

—Phil Foster, Chair

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**ADVERTISING COORDINATOR** Please consider this paid position. Contact the editor.

Website: [bonelakewi.com](http://bonelakewi.com) Facebook: BoneLakers  
Instagram: [#bonelakewi](https://www.instagram.com/bonelakewi)

Bone Lake water data:  
[dnr.wi.gov/lakes/clmn/](http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/clmn/)

## Paddleboarding? Life jacket required!

**P**addle boarding, or stand-up paddle boarding is one of the fastest growing sports in the world! New inflatable board designs are making the sport even more accessible with their portability and lower cost.

But did you know? Wisconsin law states all vessels, including canoes, kayaks, and paddleboards, must have at least one USCG-approved wearable life jacket for each person on board. Wisconsin DNR strongly recommends wearing it.

“Wearing a life jacket significantly reduces the chance of injury or death.”

Today’s life jackets are more advanced than they used to be with new designs and stylish options available—belt packs and other jackets that are low profile, lightweight, easy to move in, and come in many sizes, styles and shapes for every person and every sport. There are even ones for pets.

Be safe paddling on Bone Lake. Match your skill level to the water and weather conditions. Take a boating safety class and hone your skills. Wear your life jacket! ■



PHOTO: WISCONSIN DNR

## Slow-no-wake safety rules for boats and PWCs

**S**low-no-wake means moving as slow as possible while still maintaining control of your boat’s direction. Here are the Wisconsin slow-no-wake rules.

**The 100 Foot Rule** While operating a *motorboat* on any lake, slow-no-wake speed is required when operating within 100 feet of the lake shore, and within 100 feet of a raft, pier, a buoyed restricted area such as a dam or marked swimming area.

**The 200 Foot Rule** While operating any *personal watercraft* (PWC), slow-no-wake speed is required within 200 feet of the shoreline. Why? That’s where most swimmers, anglers, docks, lifts and overhanging trees are. Not a place for fast operation, sudden turns or careless activities. It’s also where most wildlife live.

Think you’re good at guessing distances? Stand in one place and have a friend go to a spot you think is 100 feet away. Measure the distance. Try it with a spot you think is 200 feet away. Most people find that distance is hard to judge on land, but even harder to judge on the water. Boat operators will be held accountable for knowing these distances when operating boats or PWCs. ■

**Please remember: be safe, courteous, and responsible to ALL boaters so we can have a safe summer. — Mike Musial**

### WHO CAN LEGALLY DRIVE A MOTORBOAT...

Operators 12-15 years of age must either have a DNR safety certificate or an adult on board while operating a motorboat.

A person 10 or 11 years old may operate a motorboat *only if* accompanied by a parent, a guardian, or a person at least 18 years old designated by the parent or guardian.

A person younger than 10 years old may not operate a motorboat.

### WHO CAN LEGALLY DRIVE A PWC...

A person younger than 12 years old may not operate a PWC.

A person 12-15 years of age may operate a PWC *only if* he or she holds a valid boating safety certificate issued by WDNR. Parental supervision is not a substitute for a boating safety course certificate as with other motorboats.

A person at least 16 years old may operate a PWC *only if* he or she holds a valid boating safety certificate issued by the DNR.

**Source:** [dnr.wi.gov/topic/boat](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/boat)

Wisconsin law requires those born on or after January 1, 1989, to pass a boater safety course and to carry a boater education card. For information about online boating safety classes, see page 1.





# Bone Lake Aquatic Plant Management Plan updated

The Bone Lake Aquatic Plant Management Plan was revised and updated this spring and approved by the District commissioners on April 18th following a public comment period. The plan will now be submitted to WDNR for approval.

Our APM Plan presents a strategy for managing aquatic plants by protecting native plant populations, alleviating nuisance conditions, and preventing establishment of invasive species. The plan includes data about the plant community, watershed, and water quality of Bone Lake. Based on this data and public input, goals and strategies for the sound management of aquatic plants in the lake are presented. This plan will guide the District and WDNR in aquatic plant management for Bone Lake over the next five years, from 2020 through 2024.



## PLAN MISSION STATEMENT

Bone Lake is a precious resource and one of the premier recreational lakes in this area. The overall goal of the aquatic plant management plan is to maintain Bone Lake aquatic plants so that they support a healthy lake that offers recreation, sport fishing, clean water, and natural beauty to our children, grandchildren, and others for decades to come.

## PLAN GOALS

**GOAL 1.** Maintain recreational uses important to lake residents and users while preserving important native aquatic plant functions and their values.

**GOAL 2.** Prevent introduction of aquatic invasive species.

**GOAL 3.** Manage curly leaf pondweed to minimize navigation problems and protect native plant populations.

**GOAL 4.** Protect the natural functions of diverse native plant communities.

**GOAL 5.** Educate lake residents and visitors about the goals and objectives of the aquatic plant management plan.

Two advisory committee meetings were held in February to gather input for the new plan. The plan was finalized and went out for public comments from March 25 to April 10, 2020.

Please thank the committee members: Bob Boyd, Alex Chorewycz, Cris Dueholm, Karen Engelbretson, Dick Mackie and Cary Olson; advisors Aaron Cole and Alex Smith (WDNR), and our consultants Cheryl Clemens and Steve Schieffer, in guiding us through the process to develop this 134-page document.

As part of the plan, the District filed for a permit to treat approximately 29 acres of the lake with the aquatic herbicide Endothall to control CLP in the same areas done in 2019. We were granted the permit and treatment will occur between April 15th and June 1 this year. WDNR has funded 50 percent of the total cost which is \$31,789. The remaining balance comes from District funding.

Find the APM Plan and supporting documents at our website, [bonelakewi.com](http://bonelakewi.com)

—Cary Olson and Bob Boyd, APM Co-Chairs

## How to fix an ice berm

We encourage you to protect and maintain near shore berms pushed up by ice action along the lakeshore. These berms trap surface runoff from waterfront property and prevent nutrients and sediment from being carried into the lake.<sup>1</sup> Ice berms also stabilize shorelines when the roots of trees, shrubs, and other plants grow among rocks pushed into the soil.

Landowners may sometimes want to correct severe ice push when there is significant exposed soil and very high banks.

A landowner may level a berm created within the year without a permit if soils and materials are kept out of the lake. Typically, the material is pulled back away from the water or a tracked piece of equipment pushes the ridge down by traveling over the ridge along the shoreline. No equipment may operate below the ordinary high water mark or on the lake bed. No dredging or filling are allowed.<sup>2</sup> ■

<sup>1</sup> <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Waterways/shoreline/info-erosion.html>

<sup>2</sup> Dan Harrington. Email communication. 05/14/2019



# Native plantings control erosion, add beauty

by Alex Chorewycz

**B**one Lakers, some of you may have caught an article posted in the Bone Lakers Facebook group on March 15 by David Klopp, a Bone Lake property owner. This is his description of what he has done on his property to restore the shoreline.

The Klopp family took advantage of a grant program offered 15 years ago providing cost sharing to those who wanted to help improve their lake's water quality and restore habitat. Their lake lot looked like a "city park," manicured and requiring constant maintenance. It didn't offer much habitat for wildlife nor did it do anything to improve water quality.

Now, after the Klopp's installation of a waterfront runoff mitigation project, a much smaller area is mowed down to the dock. The majority of their shoreline has native plants extending from the shore and into the lake. The plants in the water give strong protection for tadpoles and minnows. Fishing from the dock has greatly improved. The Klopp family also enjoys the privacy provided by the native plantings at the shoreline. They report that they can sit at their shore and feel they are in the north woods.

Today, as the Twin Cities grow and Bone Lake has become more populated, the Klopp family appreciates having native plantings and a view to the lake that is so different from in town. They are no longer concerned about shoreline erosion. The shoreline is able to absorb a fair amount of wave energy from wake boats. And, there are no unwanted geese 'hanging out' and nesting on the lawn.

In response to Klopp's post, a few Bone Lake property owners responded with: "We did ours two years ago and it is maturing well, and I hope to add more native plantings this year. I don't mow or trim anything by the shoreline anymore." Another adds, "We changed the hill going down to our shore, from lawn grass to native plants, with the aid of a grant cost share program. It looks much more natural/cabin like. We like it."

Take advantage of available cost share dollars for a runoff mitigation project or native planting at your property. Please call Mary Chorewycz at 651-454-9456 to discuss and schedule a free, no obligation, site visit. ■



Pennsylvania sedge  
*Carex pennsylvanica*

## < Before restoration

"When we started the restoration, my parents, who spent so much time getting the yard to look like a golf course, had reservations. After some persuasion, they let me go through with it and with help from Dragonfly Gardens in Amery, we replanted.

"The photos below are directly after the second tornado last year. As you can see from the photo of my yard, the burreeds got pushed over, but held the shoreline very well. At the neighbor's yard to the north of mine, the rip rap (rocks) didn't hold up and the yard had erosion issues. The waves must have been enormous—our steel dock got moved and bent the poles." —David Klopp



After the storm: A neighbor's eroded shoreline; Klopp's native shoreline planting flattened, but intact.

## Alum Committee Update

*Last October, the BLMD commissioners voted to bring a motion to District members at the August 2020 annual meeting on using alum in Bone Lake to improve late summer/early fall water clarity. The board tasked the alum communication committee with composing a plan to inform property owners on aspects of using alum in the lake. A comprehensive communication plan was developed over the winter with the aim of the plan receiving final approval at the April 18, 2020 commissioners meeting.*

*Now, the board has decided to postpone the alum motion until a later date due to the impacts of COVID-19. Public meetings cannot be held until large group gatherings have been deemed safe, including the District annual meeting. Therefore, the alum communication plan is being adjusted.*

*We are starting our information sharing and outreach with this Bone Lake Newsletter. Other communications will be coming this spring and summer via Bone Lake eNews, area newspaper inserts, social media postings and mailings from the District.*

*To collect your feedback after receiving our communications, we will send a survey in late September 2020. Following review of the survey results, the BLMD board will decide whether to bring a motion to District members at the BLMD 2021 annual meeting to treat Bone Lake with alum.*

**→ The proposed alum treatments would potentially improve water clarity in Bone Lake by 2.5 to 3 ft. in late summer.\***

**→ Bone Lake typically experiences algae blooms in mid-to late-summer that can affect the safety and enjoyment of the water. Alum treatments can reduce these blooms.**

**→ Alum treatments are costly. The funding would primarily come from an annual special assessment on Bone Lake properties.**

**→ If the Board brings a motion to members at the 2021 annual meeting, District members will have the opportunity to vote for or against funding alum treatments.**

**→ We know you have questions. Following are questions and answers about the costs and funding of alum treatments for Bone Lake.**

**\*Measured by secchi disk reading**

## Answering your questions about alum

### What is the estimated cost to treat Bone Lake with alum?

The total cost of treating Bone Lake with alum is approximately \$2.6 million for the first 10 years based on the treatment plan and financing method approved by the alum committee. The overall cost can change based on financing expense of any loans, grant funding received, and timing of applications.

Our treatment cost is based on:

- Approved special assessment to Bone Lake property owners.
- Four doses of alum applied over nine years. Additional doses may be required in years 18-20 at a reduced dosage of 50-60 percent to maintain effectiveness; this has not been included in the costs.
- Alum material cost increase of three percent per year. District property value increases are not included.
- Pay-as-we-go.
- Treatments begin in year two after special assessment is approved.
- One grant from the DNR for \$200,000. We could receive up to four grants over the 10-year period.
- \$200,000 from District funds.
- No bank loan. A bank loan could be used to accelerate the schedule of alum treatments.

### How would we pay for alum treatments?

Alum would be paid for by a special assessment to Bone Lake lakeshore property owners. The cost would be spread over 10 years, the maximum Wisconsin law allows, and appear as a special assessment on your property tax statement.

It will take two years of special assessment collection, one \$200,000 DNR grant, and \$200,000 in District funds to start treating Bone Lake with alum.

### How much money will we receive from grants?

We expect to receive at least one \$200,000 grant and could get up to a maximum of four grants over ten years.

In order to receive grants, we must first approve the alum special assessment by vote at a District annual meeting. We can then file for a permit and make a grant request to the DNR.

East Balsam Lake and Cedar Lake each received a \$200,000 grant this year.



## Would we proceed with alum treatments without grants?

No. If we do not receive at least one grant, we will not move forward with alum.

## What are the chances of getting grants in future years?

It is difficult to predict whether the DNR will continue to make grants available for alum over the next ten years.

## How will this increase my property taxes?

A special assessment will appear on your tax statement. Back lots that have no direct access to the lake would be excluded from the special assessment. Back lots make up 12 percent of district property owners. Excluding back lots from the special assessment increases the cost to the remaining property owners by 5 percent.

With back lots excluded, the special assessment to the remaining District property owners is about \$130 per \$100,000 in property value, annually for 10 years.

For instance, based on a \$350,000 tax-valued property, the special assessment for alum is \$455 per year for 10 years.

### Annual Alum Special Assessment On Sample Property Values

Sample property value	Annual alum special assessment
\$200,000	\$260
\$250,000	\$325
\$300,000	\$390
\$350,000	\$455
\$400,000	\$520
\$450,000	\$585
\$500,000	\$650
\$550,000	\$715
\$600,000	\$780
\$650,000	\$845
\$700,000	\$910
\$750,000	\$975
\$800,000	\$1,040
\$850,000	\$1,105
\$900,000	\$1,170
\$950,000	\$1,235

The alum finance committee reviewed many scenarios to find the best cost option. Special assessment funding is limited to a maximum of 10 years.

A detailed spreadsheet estimating the alum treatment costs incurred and the special assessment per \$100,000 of taxable value is available on the BLMD website, [bonelakewi.com](http://bonelakewi.com).

## When would I see a property tax increase, if the alum motion is passed?

If the alum motion passes at the August 2021 annual meeting, the alum special assessment will appear on your 2022 tax statement.

## How could successful alum treatments affect the value of my Bone Lake property?

Water clarity is often a factor when deciding on which lake property to buy. Higher clarity lakes generally have higher lakeshore property values.

A study by the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire examined 324 lake properties in northern Wisconsin and reported a 3-16 percent increase in property value with a three ft. increase in water clarity.<sup>1</sup> This was an average increase of \$26,000 in property value.

A study from Ohio State University indicated Buckeye Lake, Ohio, lost \$101M in property values in the years 2011 to 2016 due to algal blooms.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.wpr.org/clearing-murky-lake-water-has-impact-nearby-property-values>

<sup>2</sup> [https://eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2017-08/osu-abc081617.php](https://eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2017-08/osu-abc081617.php)

### Bone Lake alum committee:

Phil Foster, Chair. Members: Bob Boyd, Michael Downey, Kathleen Killeen, Jerry Lutgen, John McCall, Cary Olson, Shelley Rose, Pat Schmidt, John Ukura, Wayne Wolsey.

**W**hile alum can be effective in controlling phosphorus loading from lake sediments, runoff from our developed lakeshore properties constitutes 30 percent of the phosphorus load to Bone Lake.

Phosphorus loading from lakeshore property runoff occurs during summer rain events when water flows quickly off roof tops, along pathways, across lawns and down slopes to the lake. Capturing this runoff in a rain garden is an effective way to stop mid-summer phosphorus loading to the lake.

This new webinar available for free from UW Extension/Lakes brings rain gardens to life. Give it a view:

**Shoreline Gardening for Healthy Lakes and Rivers**  
<https://youtu.be/RvEncgtfUzA>.

*Funding is available for projects at your property.*





Thrushes are of the order: Passeriformes, family: Turdidae.

**Besides the American robin, how many of these thrushes do you know?**

- ☐ Eastern bluebird
- ☐ Western bluebird
- ☐ Mountain bluebird
- ☐ Townsend's solitaire
- ☐ Varied thrush
- ☐ Veery
- ☐ Gray-cheeked thrush
- ☐ Bicknell's thrush
- ☐ Swainson's thrush
- ☐ Hermit thrush
- ☐ Wood thrush
- ☒ American Robin

Source: allaboutbirds.org

**How many thrushes appear around Bone Lake?**

Go to [www.bonelakewi.com](http://www.bonelakewi.com) wildlife and natural beauty page and check our bird survey!

## Ice Out

Ice out was declared on April 10, 2020 at noon.

### Ice Out Contest Winners

1st place: John McCall  
2nd Place: Brent Nygaard  
3rd place: a tie...  
Carol Adelman and  
Tim Laughlin  
There were sixty  
participants in the contest.

—Bob Boyd

## Quick—name the state bird!

I hope you remembered that we're talking about Wisconsin and named the American robin—that is the correct answer.

The American robin is the largest bird in the thrush family and that means they are stocky songbirds with large rounded heads, straight bills, long legs, and plump bellies.

American robins are found just about everywhere, lawns, parks, woodlands, forests, lakes and rivers, making them very common across North America.

Robins are gray-black with an orange underbody and dark heads. The females will have a paler head that will contrast less with the rest of the coloration of her body. You can always tell the difference of juveniles as they will have lighter gray colors and a black speckled orange breast.

Both are the same size, with a length of 8-11 inches long, a wingspan of 12 to 16 inches and weight around 3 ounces. Count out 30 pennies and feel the average weight of a robin.

Robins eat bugs, earthworms, beetles, insects, caterpillars and a very large variety of fruit. When you see them turning their heads toward the ground, they aren't listening for that worm, they are looking for the meal instead. Try putting a penny on a table in front of you and then cover one eye and you'll see that you have to turn your head to see it. It's the placement of the eyes on a robin that makes them turn their heads.

The female robin will choose a nest site where she feels safe, although sometimes where we don't want it! She will use dead grasses, feathers, paper, and moss, and reinforce the outside with mud, grasses, and sticks. She will lay 3 to 5 eggs, one per day, and sit on them for two weeks, rarely leaving the nest for more than a few minutes. After 14 days they'll all leave the nest and she'll teach the fledglings how to find food as they'll soon be on their own. She may lay two more clutches during the summer.

Robins gather in large groups in the fall and move to more abundant food sources together. We think of them as harbingers of spring but we often see them here during the winter. In spring the first arrivals are males, setting up their territories and calling for the female as if to say, "have I got a spot for you!" If you have witnessed the same bird from year to year, you must have the best location around!

As I write about the birds it looks like an idyllic life but truth be told, birds face many hazards in migration and it is hard for juveniles to survive their first year. Learning how to eat and stay safe is a tough job!

That's why hearing the first spring robin's song always makes me glad. ■

—Cris Dueholm  
Spring 2020

## DNR Grants Update

The District received an \$8,000 Clean Boats Clean Waters DNR grant for boater education and inspection at both public landings again this year. In addition, we received a third extension to our Lake Management Plan grant for shoreline and stream runoff mitigation and wildlife/natural beauty practices. This grant has approximately \$60,000 remaining. Consider improvements at your property. Contact Mary Chorewycz at 651-454-9456 to discuss and schedule a free, no obligation, site visit.

### Help support our birds.

They need juicy bugs and caterpillars to feed their young, as well as small fruits and berries for energy. Add some native, flowering and fruiting shrubs to your property and refrain from using mosquito sprays. Mosquito spray kills all insects, including pollinators.



## New purple martin house at north landing

The purple martin house, or colony, was installed on April 26 by David Klopp and members of the District wildlife and natural beauty committee at Don Langel Park, north landing. Together we took the initiative to add the colony to the park along with the District's waterfront runoff demonstration projects. The District paid a portion of the cost and David donated the high quality components and much of his time. Thanks to the Lions Club and the Town of Bone Lake, for their support of the project.

Purple martins have returned to the area and we hope they'll find this top-notch house to their liking. According to David, "I think it is one of the most beautiful locations on our lake. I bet the martins move in soon."

The colony features four cedar houses with 14 nesting compartments, each fitted with David's custom cedar nest boxes lined with pine needles as a starter. The typical round openings are covered by plastic plates that admit only the martins and not starlings. Four nesting gourds provide additional housing opportunities.

Owl guards, the vertical steel rods mounted to the perches, will keep the birds safe from a predator strike. Decoys help too—because owls go after the slowest moving target. Perches top off the custom made steel pole. David designed and arranged for fabrication of the pole, mountings, cabling and brake winch to raise and lower the house.

Purple martin houses don't get any better than this! Thank you David Klopp! ■



Bone Lake's new purple martin house takes its place among the waterfront demonstration practices at Don Langel Park, north landing.

PHOTOS: KAREN ENGELBREYSON

**Purple martins, *Progne subis*, are very large, broad-chested swallows.** They have stout, slightly hooked bills, short, forked tails, and long, tapered wings. Adult males are iridescent, dark blue-purple overall with brown-black wings and tail. Females and immatures are duller, with variable amounts of gray on the head and chest and a whitish lower belly.

Purple martins fly rapidly with a mix of flapping and gliding. They feed in midair, catching large, aerial insects. They also get water while flying, skimming the surface of the lake. Martins feed and roost in flocks, often mixed with other species of swallows. They are colonial, with dozens of martins nesting in the same spot; they feed in open areas, especially near water. Around here they nest almost exclusively in nest boxes and houses; in the West you'll find them nesting in natural cavities.



Enjoy the martins when you visit the north landing. Put up a purple martin house along your shore and be treated to a close-up look at these engaging birds all through the breeding season. P.S. *Purple martins eat a lot of mosquitoes!*



## Town of Bone Lake Andy Brown, Chairman

As many of you know, the dam project on the Straight River ended up needing to be redesigned and rebid last October. The bids came back and raised the overall cost of the project significantly. On a split vote the town board decided to end the project due to excessive costs. This was a tough decision and the culmination of years of hard work by many people. The Straight River will continue to flow into Big Round Lake at its current level without restriction.

On a brighter note, the old narrow culvert/bridge over the river was replaced with a new wider metal culvert and guard rails and the road will be repaved in May or June.

Our beloved Town Clerk, Darrell Frandsen, has announced that he will retire in April of 2020 and we'll begin looking for his successor soon. Our clerk is appointed by the board, not elected by the voters. The township thanks the Luck Lions Club especially Gerry Albright for the work that they do maintaining Don Langel Park (north landing). ■

## \$2,500 Septic replacement incentive

If you have a failing or non-compliant system and choose to replace it, you are eligible to receive a cost share of 50 percent, up to \$2,500, from the Bone Lake Management District.

Failing septic systems can contribute phosphorus and other nutrients into groundwater that enters Bone Lake.

Polk County Zoning Department defines a failing septic system as one that causes or results in any of the following:

- Discharge of sewage into surface water or groundwater.
- Introduction of sewage into zones of saturation.
- Discharge of sewage through a drain tile or into zones of bedrock.
- Discharge of sewage to the surface of the ground.
- Failure to accept sewage discharges and back up of sewage into the structure served by the private sewage system.

**Call Richard Mackie, Bone Lake septic ranger, at 715-857-5205 to arrange a free, no obligation review of your system.**

## Keep in touch

**Subscribe to Bone Lake eNews!** Get Bone Lake updates between newsletters throughout the year. Go to [bonelakewi.com](http://bonelakewi.com) and click [Join Our Mailing](#) on the front page. Be sure to reply to the confirmation email to complete your subscription and click the link to add [enews@bonelake.com](mailto:enews@bonelake.com) to your address book. Signed up but not getting emails? Contact [karen@kje.design](mailto:karen@kje.design).

**Bone Lakers Facebook group page.** More than 1,500 members are sharing photos, events, recommendations and news about life around the lake. To join, go to [facebook.com/groups/BoneLakers](https://facebook.com/groups/BoneLakers).

## Polk County

### Doug Route, Polk County Supervisor, District 2

The Polk County board environmental services committee, along with the county health department, continues to deliberate zoning and conditional use permits for confined animal feeding operations in Polk County.

CAFOs are large scale farms with 1,000 or more animal units (a unit is 1,000 pounds of animal weight). CAFOs pose threats to clean air and water quality. So far the county board has enacted a 1,000 ft. setback for CAFOs from any body of water in the county.

Supv. Route says, "We can't stop a CAFO from entering Polk County but we can enact controls. State government also has rules."

Polk County is finishing a six-month moratorium on swine CAFOs that began in October, 2019. It may be moved to a month-to-month moratorium for a maximum of six months, expiring October 2020 at the latest.

Supervisor Route has encouraged us to call or email county board supervisors with opinions and questions.

"The process is difficult," he said. ■

County board supervisors are listed at [www.co.polk.wi.us](http://www.co.polk.wi.us). Find more information about CAFOs and their potential impact on our lakes and rivers at [www.knowcafo.org](http://www.knowcafo.org).

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