



Bone Lake Newsletter

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

SPRING 2021

NEW COMMITTEE

Boating and water safety, courtesy encouraged

The new District Boating and Water Safety Committee* met in April to share ideas to improve safety for everyone enjoying the waters of Bone Lake.

The committee's messages are bigger than these pages can hold, so please check the new Bone Lake Blue Boating Brochure included with this spring *Bone Lake Newsletter* mailing. The brochures have also been delivered to Wilkins, Sunset Cove, and Rest Point resorts residents.

The blue brochure includes a boating safety checklist so you're good to go before leaving the dock, a map of Bone Lake with sensitive areas of plants, fish and wildlife habitat marked; reminders and ways to clean equipment to prevent aquatic invasive plants and animals from getting into the lake. Courtesy reminders are included, and emergency numbers are displayed.

The committee acknowledges the many types of boating on Bone Lake. Safety and courtesy practices are expected of everyone on the water so everyone can enjoy their experience on Bone Lake.

Boating and water safety brochures for visitors

Our blue boating brochures are available at the north landing kiosk and handed out to visitors by our Clean Boats Clean Waters monitors. Copies are available at the Wilkins information table and at other public locations around the lake.

The official *Wisconsin Boating Laws and Responsibilities Handbook* can be found at Bone Lake's north and south landings and at the Wilkins information table.

Please make these brochures available to your family and friends who are boating on Bone Lake. Renting your cabin? Contact the committee to get a few extras for your guests.

Other safety news

Lake buoys are in place thanks to an early ice off; the north and south landing docks are in. Please note that buoys can move due to storms, high winds, and vandalism. If you see any buoys out of place, call Mike Musial at 612-207-5254.

Boating safety classes are available online at www.boat-ed.com. Anyone born on or after January 1, 1989 must pass a boater safety class and carry a boating education certificate card to operate a motor boat in Wisconsin.

Kids Don't Float life jacket kiosk is open at the north landing. Pick up extra PFDs if you need them for use while boating on Bone Lake. ■

Let's expect a great 2021 season enjoyed by everyone on Bone Lake.



KAREN ENGELBRETON

Spring birds and blooms

Early bloomers flower in the woodlands before the trees leaf out, providing nectar for the first insects awakening from winter. Migrating warblers follow this food source north; they are arriving now around Bone Lake. The story continues on page 8.

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www.bonelakewi.com

*The new BLMD Boating and Water Safety Committee members, who held their first meeting in April, are: Mike Musial, chair, Bonnie Musial, Teri Albright, Gerry Albright, Phil Foster and Karen Engelbretson. If you'd like to join and contribute to the committee, contact Mike at 612-207-5254.

Dear Bone Lakers,

Spring brings signs of new growth each year—hope and new beginnings.

Hopefully, any hardships, ailing health and suffering from COVID will also be lessened and healed over this spring and summer.

Regarding Bone Lake Management District activities, we have new beginnings on some activities, growth on other activities and a continued sense of purpose.

We have received six new DNR grants in 2021. These grants, coupled with our existing curly leaf pondweed (CLP) grant, enable the District to start a new activity in shoreline stabilization and continue efforts on other priorities.

Our top District priorities remain boat and water safety, prevention and control of invasive species, improving our water clarity and enhancing Bone Lake's wildlife and natural beauty.

Two key programs help improve Bone Lake's water quality: the septic incentive, and waterfront runoff mitigation.

The District offers a \$2,500 incentive to replace non-conforming septic systems as defined by Polk County. Defective septic systems can impair lake quality by leaking nutrients to the lake, as well as impact your drinking water.

We offer free, no obligation site visits by Cheryl Clemens, our consultant, on ways you can reduce runoff at your property which often impairs the lake's water clarity.

We get tremendous support from Wisconsin DNR and Cheryl Clemens in assisting/aiding us, but it is through our volunteer and property owner participation in these programs that we make a difference happen.

We continue to need new volunteers so please consider joining us this year. You will meet more of your fellow Bone Lakers in a rewarding experience. ■

—Phil Foster, Chair

2021 ANNUAL MEETING ELECTIONS

Two District commissioners will be elected for three-year terms at our BLMD Annual Meeting on August, 14, 2021. Send nominations for commissioner to Shelley Rose, BLMD Nominations Chair, via email: shelleykayrose@gmail.com.

Website: www.bonelakewi.com Facebook group: BoneLakers
Instagram: #bonelakewi

KAREN ENGELBRETSON



Save the date...

BONE LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
ANNUAL MEETING
SATURDAY • AUG. 14, 2021 • 9 AM
ONLINE VIA ZOOM + IN PERSON AT WILKINS

BONE LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Phil Foster

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Milltown, WI 54858
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TERM EXPIRES AUGUST, 2021

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TERM EXPIRES AUGUST, 2021

Karen Engelbretson

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TERM EXPIRES AUGUST, 2022

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TERM EXPIRES AUGUST, 2022

Mike Musial

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TERM EXPIRES AUGUST, 2023

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Luck, WI 54853
(715) 501-9824

Doug Route

Polk County
Supervisor, District 2
2689 80th St.
Frederic WI 54837
715-472-2620

Committees, Chairs:

Lake Management Plan

Phil Foster
Evaluation and Studies
Bob Boyd
Fishes
Bob Boyd and Mike Belich
Waterfront Runoff
Alex Chorewycz
Watershed
— Chair position is open
Wildlife and Natural Beauty
Cris Dueholm, Karen
Engelbretson

Aquatic Plant Management

Bob Boyd, Cary Olson
Clean Boats Clean Waters
Richard Mackie

Boating Safety & Buoys

Mike Musial

Communications

Karen Engelbretson

Audit

Dan Youngberg

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

New DNR grants received

Bone Lake has been fortunate to receive six more Wisconsin DNR grants this spring to help us maintain and improve the lake.

- We received several grants related to reducing waterfront runoff using shoreline plantings, runoff diversions and rock infiltrations and for shoreline stabilization planning. One of the grants includes funds to assist with the Sunset Cove boat landing runoff reduction.
- A grant to fund our aquatic life assessments and mapping (e.g., birds, frogs, geese, herptiles, zooplankton) will help us understand potential changes in populations since previous studies were done—some as long as ten years ago.
- A grant to continue with our Clean Boats Clean Water activities at north and south landing whereby we provide boater education on preventing the introduction of new aquatic invasive species from watercraft.
- In addition, we have some carry forward funds from a prior grant for spraying curly leaf pondweed for the approximately 18 acres this spring. (See page 6.)

A big thank you to the Bone Lake owners who participate in these projects, to the Bone Lake volunteers who help make this happen, to Cheryl Clemens, our consultant, for helping to get these grants and of course to the Wisconsin DNR for the funding. ■

—Phil Foster

LAGOON DREDGING UPDATE

Dredging of the North end lagoon is expected to begin mid-June. This area will be closed for the duration of the project which is expected to take 4-6 weeks, weather permitting. District members voted to contribute \$25,000 from District funds to help with this \$200,000 project. The remainder is paid by the lagoon property owners.

Shoreline stabilization planning grant award

Last fall the call went out for property owners experiencing shoreline erosion and interested in stabilizing their shore, to take part in a DNR planning grant. The erosion is typically due to high water, wind and wave action or ice push.

The objective of the grant is to stabilize the shoreline with rock, plants and trees that hold the shoreline together, while supporting wildlife and creating a pleasing natural space on the shore. Site visits and designs will be completed by Karsten Peterson, Polk County Land and Water Resources Engineering Technician. The designs will be developed with a natural aesthetic and according to Natural Resources Conservation Service standards.

The grant deliverable is shovel-ready designs for six properties. In November, 2021, the District will apply for an additional grant to fund the construction of the designs with a 75/25 cost share (grant/owner).

The goals of the grant align with our Bone Lake Management Plan (2015) to improve lake water clarity, protect and improve the lake's fishery, maintain and enhance natural beauty, protect and enhance wildlife habitat.

Thank you to those who volunteered to stabilize your shore in this way. We received the grant because of your commitment to keep Bone Lake healthy. Site visits will begin in May. ■

—Karen Engelbretson



These photos, provided by property owner volunteers, show two types of erosion along the shore.

Do you smell something stinky?

A failing septic system can cause unpleasant odors, and even backed up sewage! Failing systems also contribute phosphorus and other nutrients into groundwater that enters Bone Lake.

Polk County 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.

Contact Richard Mackie soon! Inspections are free.

Important news on septic replacement awards

by Richard Mackie

In our continuing effort to reduce the amount of phosphorus entering Bone Lake, the District is expanding the number of septic replacement awards available in 2021.

In the past we have made three awards of up to \$2,500 per site each year. Since 2011, we have helped 30 families improve their septic systems, and in the process, helped improve our lake water clarity.

Nutrients that reach the lake from septic systems feed algae that turns the lake green in late summer.

This year we will make six awards, and possibly more as funds permit.

To qualify, District lake home owners must currently have a failing septic system as defined by the Polk County Sanitary Ordinance. This would be a system which is leaking effluent into ground water or on the surface of the ground.

- We are looking particularly for older systems (pre-1980) that are approaching the end of their working capacity, or have already reached that point.
- These are systems that may have to be pumped frequently because their drain field has collapsed.
- They may be systems that never have to be pumped because they are discharging their load directly into the soil.
- They may also be indicated by soft spots in a yard, or a distinctive odor.

It should be noted that newer systems may also qualify providing there is evidence of failure.

Test your well water.

If you have an older septic system and a shallow well it is always a good idea to have the well water tested periodically to make sure you don't have any contamination in your ground water. Contamination may be another possible indicator of a failed septic.

The process of applying for an award is simple.

Contact Richard Mackie at 715-857-5205 or seesallyrun@lakeland.ws and he will arrange to visit your site for an evaluation of your septic system.

The grass may always be greener over a failed septic, but a better kind of green is found in the award money used to eliminate a faulty system. ■

Volunteer needs

We have many committees helping to protect and improve Bone Lake: Boat and water safety, Clean Boats Clean Waters, waterfront runoff, watershed, fisheries, aquatic plant management, wildlife and natural beauty, communications.

We are always needing fresh ideas and energy. So, if interested in getting involved or learning more, please contact the committee chairs listed on page 2, or contact Phil Foster at 715-553-0719. Of particular need at this time are volunteers for our watershed committee which focuses on improving water quality of streams entering Bone Lake.

Work continues to keep runoff out of Bone Lake

For more than a decade, the Waterfront Runoff Committee and Bone Lake Management District have been offering assistance to Bone Lake property owners who wish to reduce runoff from their land into the lake.

Over the years we have been fortunate to receive a number of grants for projects that mitigate runoff, reduce algae growth and help improve the clarity, quality and overall health of our lake.

If this spring/summer, you are considering a waterfront runoff reduction project at your property, please contact Mary Chorewycz at 651-454-9456 to set up a free, no obligation site visit by our lake consultant, Cheryl Clemens, who can advise you as to what project(s) would be best suited for your location.

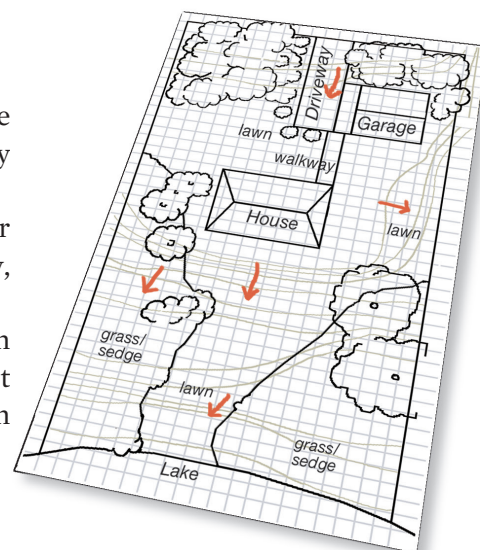
Working together, Wilkins and the District completed a major runoff reduction project

By late fall 2020, work was complete on a multi-step runoff reduction installation at Wilkins.

When you drive into the parking lot, you may notice that the lot has been regraded and paved. You will definitely notice the rain garden which now captures water from the parking lot so pollutants and nutrients do not flow into Bone Lake.

The District again thanks the owners of Wilkins—Bill and Jan Jungbauer and Sis and Steve Bol for their commitment and desire to maintain the health and clarity of Bone Lake.

Please note that a grading and rain garden project like this, on a smaller scale, would be beneficial on many properties around the lake. ■



A site visit can determine how water flows on your property and offer solutions to capture or divert it. Rain gardens, diversions, and infiltration practices can keep harmful runoff from reaching the lake so we keep improving Bone Lake's water clarity.



The Wilkins runoff project, a parking lot regrading and rain garden installation, effectively captures water, pollutants and nutrient that used to flow toward Bone Lake. The fenced area is planted with flowering and deep rooted native plants that help infiltrate water into the soil, as well as add natural beauty to Wilkins entrance.

New Polk County water patrol officer

The Polk County Sheriff's Department has hired a new recreational patrol officer and purchased a new boat to accommodate the officer on Polk County lakes.

Deputy Tyrel Hanson, is in charge of water and ATV patrol. This is a full time position for Deputy Hanson. He can be reached via email with any questions or concerns: tyrel.hanson@co.polk.wi.us, or call the Sheriff non-emergency line. ■



Deputy Tyrel Hanson ready to go at the Bone Lake north landing.

DNR TIP LINE

1-800-847-9367
(voice or text)

Sheriff Non-Emergency
715-485-8300
(24 hr)

EMERGENCY 911

Be sure you know how to operate the watercraft you're using. Match your skills with conditions on the water. Wear your life jacket.

Observe no wake rules: No wake 100 ft. from shore for all motorized craft, 200 ft. for PWCs.

Be safe, courteous, and responsible to ALL boaters so we can all be safe on the water.

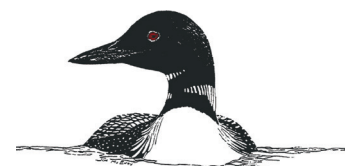
Slow-no-wake safety rules for boats and PWCs

Slow-no-wake means moving as slowly 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 ft. of the shoreline, and within 100 ft. 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 ft. 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. ■



Respect: the rights of others.

Environment: enjoy wildlife from a distance.

Safety: heed the boating regulations. go slowly.

Peace: watch your noise and your wake.

Enjoy: have fun, share the moments with your friends and family.

Consider: the other people and creatures on the lake.

Trash: take your trash home.

RESPECT.

Consider how much nicer your day would be if everyone showed just a little more respect!

WHO CAN LEGALLY DRIVE A MOTORBOAT...

Operators 12-15 years of age must either have a WDNR 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...

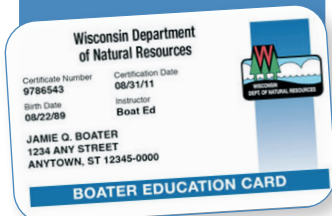
A person younger than 12 years old may not operate a PWC.

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 WDNR.

Source: dnr.wi.gov/topic/boat

Anyone born on or after January 1, 1989 must pass a boater safety class to operate a motor boat in Wisconsin.



The Boating Safety course is offered online. Go to boat-ed.com/wisconsin to access the course materials and take the test.



Fourth of July on Bone Lake

Parade and fireworks Saturday, July 3!

Boat parade

Wilkins will organize the boat parade again this year on Saturday, July 3, 2021. Registration 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. at Wilkins. Parade starts at 1 p.m., traveling south from Wilkins and continuing clockwise around the lake.

Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place entries.

Fireworks

Fireworks will be held on Saturday, July 3, 2021, at the south end of the lake at dusk. The fireworks are sponsored by the Joel Owens family in honor of our military veterans.

The Owens family is forming a new foundation to accept donations and will provide more information about contributions soon; the family appreciates your help and support.

Watch for more information via Bone Lake eNews (sign up at our website) and the Bone Lakers facebook page about where to send your donations. ■



KAREN ENGELBRETON

Flashback to this parade entry towable from 2012 when aliens invaded Bone Lake!

Curly leaf pondweed treatment 2021

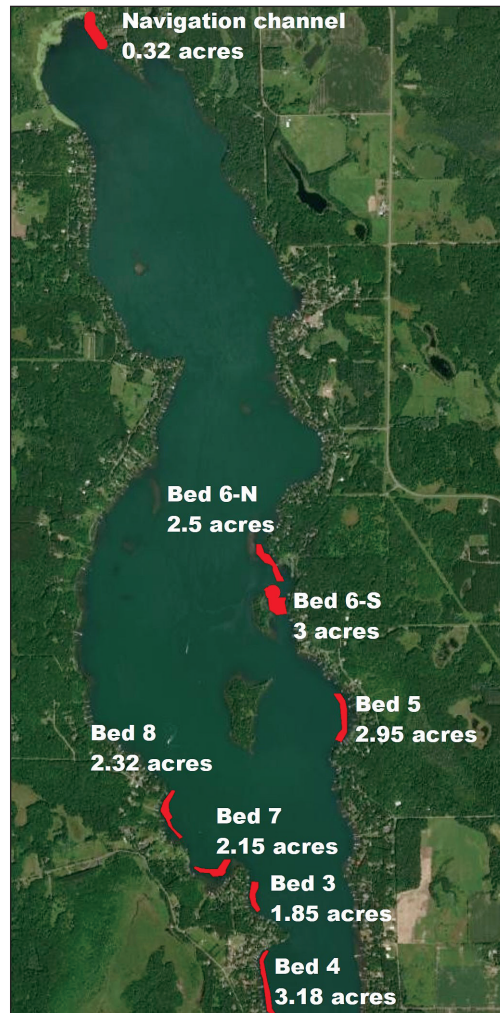
Curly leaf pondweed treatment areas are different this year. Here's how:

- Deep areas beyond beds 7 and 8 will not be treated.
- The south end of 6B and 6C will not be treated.
- The total area of treatment has decreased to focus more on navigation issues this year.
- Treatment was reduced near one or more sensitive areas.
- A navigation channel at the north end of the lake will be treated this year.

In the past, treatment areas were increased to reduce the amount of plants to control phosphorus levels in the water, although the effect was found to be small. Phosphorus is released by the plant when it dies off in late June.

Areas treated have been and are now focused on navigation improvement and success of treatment based on the water depth, density of the beds and number of property owners impacted. ■

CLP Treatment areas, 2021



Bloodroot flowers, *Sanguinaria canadensis*, emerge on long stems encircled by their leaves, as if wrapped in a protective spring coat. The petals drop soon after and the seed pod forms. Meanwhile the fan-shaped leaves grow large and thick. The plant spreads rapidly and makes an excellent ground cover. The red juice from the underground rhizome was used by Native Americans as a dye for baskets, clothing, and decoration, as well as for insect repellent. The rhizome, however, is poisonous. The generic name, from the Latin *sanguinarius*, means "bleeding." Grows in shade and part shade, moist to wet soils. Mulch with a thin layer of leaves during winter. Source: wildflower.org



JULIE MAKIN

Bone CLP Treatment Bed Information

Bed	Area (acres)	Mean Depth	Acre-feet	Herbicide Target Concentration	Notes
3	1.85	7.4	13.69	2.5 ppm	Bed unchanged from 2020
4	3.18	8.6	27.35	2.5 ppm	Bed unchanged from 2020
5	2.95	8.2	24.19	2.5 ppm	Bed unchanged from 2020
6-N	2.50	5.6	14.00	2.5 ppm	Portion around sandbar eliminated
6-S	3.00	6.3	18.90	2.5 ppm	Southern portion of 2020 bed eliminated
7	2.15	7.4	15.91	3.0 ppm	Deep area of 2020 bed eliminated
8*	2.47	6.5	16.06	3.0 ppm	Deep area of 2020 bed eliminated
Total	18.10		130.09		

*Slight increase in Bed 8 area after map printed showing 2.32 acres.

What's that racket?

by Cris Dueholm

When I hear the unmistakable raspy, rattling calls from the fields on the southwest and east side of the lake, I know the Sandhill cranes are back!

Sandhills are a prehistoric bird, with fossil records dating back 2.5 million years, which is over one and a half times older than the earliest remains of most living species of birds.

We have the Greater Sandhill Crane in this area, standing 4-5 feet tall, weighing 10-14 pounds, and with a wingspan of up to seven feet. They have an iridescent reddish gray plumage, but that red patch is not feathers. As they age their feathers recede, revealing the red skin on the tops of their heads.

Their graceful, flighty dance is performed during courting, yet the dance is believed to be a part of their normal development and to relieve tension.

Sandhills like open fields that have access to wetlands so they can raise and feed their young, called *colts*. They are ground nesters, so their nest will be very close to the water's edge or on a hummock for protection. They lay 1-2 eggs, and sit for 29-32 days. As soon as the colts are born they are able to get up and walk with their parents to find food and protection.

The colts will grow an inch per day, to a height of five feet in just three months! Think of all the food needed to make that happen. Their diet consists mostly of seeds, but includes fruits, small mammals, insects, reptiles, amphibians, and tubers of plants. It is believed that they mature around three years of age before they mate.

Sandhills live as a family group until late summer and then gather into larger groups until migration, about the time the lake freezes up. Then they travel together to Texas, Florida, New Mexico, California or Mexico for the winter months.

It's the epic spring journey back that they are famous for. Migrating Sandhills stop and feed near Kearney, Nebraska along the North Platte River, typically for several weeks in March, congregating by the hundreds of thousands before continuing on to their exact location year after year.

Around here, Sandhills gather at Crex Meadows near Grantsburg, Wisc. to begin their fall migration. Starting in November, visit Crex Meadows to see them drop into the wetlands at sunset or leave at sunrise to feed in the fields. They stay until the wetlands freeze, sending them on their way south.

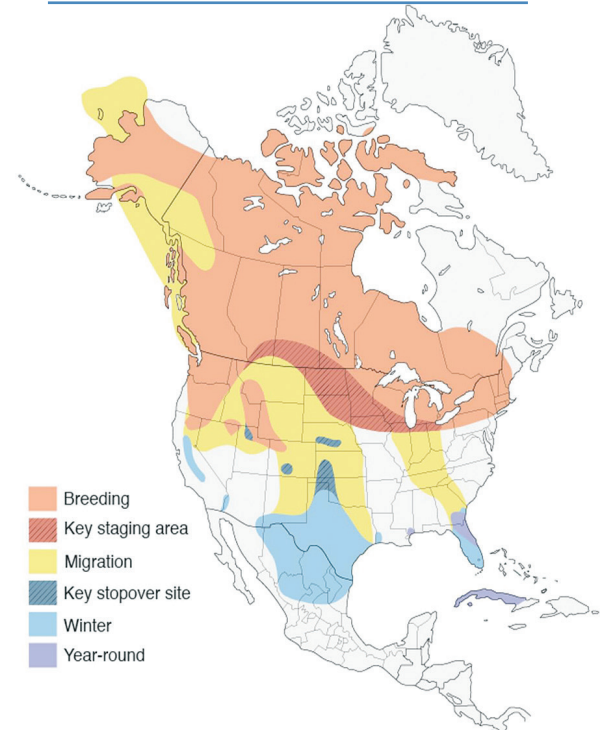
In the morning hours of early winter here on Bone Lake, you will hear them high in the sky after leaving the Crex, on their way along the ancient flyways. ■

For more about Crex Meadows State Wildlife Area, visit crexmeadows.org.



JOHN JAMES AUDUBON

The magnificent Sandhill Crane



Sandhill crane migration

ALLABOUTBIRDS.ORG

Help support our Bone Lake birds. They need juicy bugs and caterpillars to feed their young, as well as small fruits and berries for energy. Plan to add some native flowering and fruiting shrubs to your property. Beauty for you, help for the birds.

Boyd's Nest ice out contest

The last ice sheets went out on March 29, 2021 at approximately 8 p.m., pushed by a strong south wind.

The ice out contest winners are, in order: Trevor Witt, Lyn Dueholm, Judy Gammel, Connor Nygaard, and in the non-resident category, Katelin Anderson. We had 69 participants this year.

In the Boyd records going back to 1967, the ice has gone out six times in March. ■

BONE LAKE ICE OUT DATES IN MARCH

YEAR	DATE
1967	March 28
1987	March 29
2000	March 25
2012	March 24
2017	March 31
2021	March 29



Find out more at dnr.wi.gov



Left: On March 29 at 4 p.m., the ice piled up to ten feet high at Don Langel Memorial Park, north end of the lake, pushed by the strong south wind. Right: Ice piling up at the southwest side of the lake. ■

Being a little philosophical, we are only temporary witnesses to the ice out on Bone Lake and to the return of wildlife that has been going on in some fashion for approximately 10,000 years since the last ice age. We are pretty fortunate to see it.

—Bob Boyd

Renting out your lake home

Many properties around Bone Lake are now being rented for short-term and long-term stays. You must have a Polk County Land Use Permit and all proper licensing to rent your property. Polk County Board of Supervisors has created a *Tourist Rooming House Ordinance* that defines the rules for renting your property and for the activity of renters during their stay. Find the list of rules at bonelakewi.com.

Please remember our advertisers this year—they help support our newsletter. Most have adjusted their business to stay open. Your support means a lot.

It's easy to recycle around Bone Lake

Georgetown Town Hall
Second and fourth Fridays and Saturdays of each month, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Questions? Call 715-483-1088.

Luck Next to the public ice rink, west of the Library on 3rd Ave. Self-serve. Available 24/7.

St. Croix Falls Hwy. 8 across from Menards, any weekday.

Balsam Lake Hwy. 46 by the Government Center, any day, 24/7.

www.co.polk.wi.us/recycling

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Bone Lakers Facebook group page. More than 2,000 members are sharing photos, events, recommendations, and news about life around the lake. To join, go to facebook.com/groups/BoneLakers.



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