



# Bone Lake Newsletter

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

FALL 2021

## POLK COUNTY AIS UPDATE



KAREN ENGELBRETSON

Native bee balm, *Monarda fistulosa*

## Watercraft decontamination now required

Most of us have heard the saying, “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” The second part of the saying is, “A little precaution before a crisis occurs is preferable to a lot of time cleaning up afterward.” That certainly applies to efforts to stop the spread of aquatic invasive species such as zebra mussels.

Monitoring by Polk County showed the presence of adult zebra mussels in the outlet of Deer Lake last year. Zebra mussels were verified as being present in Deer Lake in 2016 after being reported to Polk County Land and Water Resources Department staff by a citizen. Increased watercraft decontamination is a key component in the push to prevent further spread of zebra mussels and other invasive species in the county.

In August 2021, the Polk County Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to approve an amendment to the Illegal Transport of Aquatic Plants and Invasive Animals Ordinance which requires decontamination where it is available. Washburn and Burnett County were the first to pass a decontamination ordinance in response to the presence of zebra mussels in Big and Middle McKenzie Lakes. Barron and Bayfield County have also passed similar ordinances.

Polk County law now requires that “If a decontamination station is available for use at a public or private access, the boater shall decontaminate equipment per posted directions using the station provided and/or pursuant to the direction of decontamination personnel present.”

A decontamination station is defined as “a device provided at a public or private navigable water access to remove and neutralize all aquatic plants and invasive animals. The station may consist of high temperature water (140 degrees or more) applied with a pressure washer by trained personnel, a recommended chemical solution applied with a low-pressure sprayer, or other techniques or devices.”

Beginning with county owned landings, Polk County staff are working to make decontamination equipment available using the same design as those in Washburn and Burnett County—a small hand-pump sprayer with a very mild bleach solution, and other tools for cleaning watercraft.

Please report any new findings of zebra mussels Polk County. Contact Katelin Anderson or Colton Sorensen at the Polk County LWRD, 715-485-8699. ■



DEANNA MEYER, LWRD INTERN

Adult zebra mussel

2021 testing for zebra mussel veligers (microscopic forms) was negative in Bone Lake, Balsam, Wapogasset and Mud Lakes while populations in Deer Lake have increased.

This summer, the invasive Eurasian water milfoil was discovered in Half Moon Lake by Polk County staff.

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

## Dear Bone Lakers,

This is my first letter as the new Chairman of Bone Lake Management District. I'm looking forward to serving the members of BLMD and continue to make it a great place to enjoy.

I start out, unfortunately, saying goodbye to BLMD Chair Phil Foster who resigned on August 26th after suffering health issues, rightly deciding to step back to recover. Phil has been on the board for 20 years serving on multiple committees and as chair since 2019. Phil will still lead the watershed committee. Please join me in thanking Phil for his leadership and long time dedication to making Bone Lake better.

### BONE LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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##### Lake Management Plan

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Bob Boyd  
Fisheries  
Bob Boyd and Mike Belich  
Waterfront Runoff  
Alex Chorewycz  
Watershed  
Phil Foster  
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

Ron Rosenthal

**Election and District officers named** Our annual meeting on August 14 was held online via Zoom and in person at Wilkins. At this meeting, Phil Foster and Cary Olson were elected for three-year terms and as District chair and vice chair respectively. Seventy-one members signed in at Wilkins and 51 attended via Zoom.

On August 31 the board held a special meeting to appoint a commissioner to fill the vacancy following Phil's resignation, and to elect new officers, along with other business. Shelley Rose was nominated and elected unanimously to the BLMD Board of Commissioners. Cary Olson was named chair, Shelley Rose, vice chair. Other officers remain unchanged. All District officers are named in the box on the left of this page.

**Annual meeting** We're hoping that by our August 13, 2022 annual meeting we will be fully safe for in person attendance. We will still investigate using Zoom or other live video broadcast vehicles for those who can't attend in person.

**Water clarity** I hope everyone enjoyed the long summer and the good lake water clarity. The lake didn't lose stratification until late September. The water was still relatively warm on October 23rd when I pulled my dock. Our continued focus on curbing waterfront runoff, our septic system incentives and the efforts of property owners are paying off. See the water clarity information on page 6 of this newsletter.

**AIS ordinance change in Polk County** Polk County now requires that "If a decontamination station is available for use at a public or private access, the boater shall decontaminate equipment per posted directions using the station provided and/or pursuant to the direction of decontamination personnel present." See page 1.

A District committee has been following this development and presented its initial research at the annual meeting. Use of bleach or high-pressure hot water was not favored by the committee.

The District will now request a grant from the DNR to help pay for a CD3 Decontamination System at the north landing. See page 3.

**Other grant applications** BLMD has also submitted grant requests for curly-leaf pondweed spraying over approximately 19 acres, the same as this past year, and a grant to continue our CBCW (Clean Boats Clean Waters) inspection program at the north and south boat landings.

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

**Website:** [www.bonelakewi.com](http://www.bonelakewi.com) **Facebook group:** BoneLakers

**Instagram:** #bonelakewi

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR, CONTINUED

The intended shoreline stabilization grant to implement grant-funded erosion control designs at five Bone Lake properties will not be submitted this year.

**CAFOs and BLMD** You may have heard about CAFOs, confined animal feeding operations, and seen signs around the county reading *No Factory Farms*.

At our August 31 meeting the board discussed what we should do in regard to impacts to the quality of Bone Lake from outside sources.

The board's position approved at the meeting states:

The BLMD Board of Commissioners may develop positions on public issues, e.g. factory hog farms (CAFOs), ordinance changes, local government elections, which may negatively affect air quality, water quality, and safety, to protect the best interests of the Bone Lake community of property owners and users of the lake.

Our communications committee is planning a Bone Lake eNews with information and what you can do to help stop factory hog farms from setting up near lakes and rivers in Polk County. In the meantime you can find out more about the land, water and air pollution impacts of large swine operations at [www.nocafos.org](http://www.nocafos.org). Also see the Town of Bone Lake report on page 8.

**Thank you** We continue to have an outstanding group of volunteers—thank you for your dedication to Bone Lake! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Cary Olson at [caryolson@comcast.net](mailto:caryolson@comcast.net) or call 612-581-6626.

I wish everyone a safe and happy fall and winter season and hope to see you again once the ice is out. ■

—Cary Olson, Chair



### New BLMD commissioner Shelley Rose

Shelley is a third-generation property owner on Bone Lake. Her grandfather, Leo Nelson, and his brothers, Clarence and Leonard, purchased land with 500 feet of lakeshore on the southwest side of the lake in 1948.

She and her husband spend much of their time at Bone Lake and enjoy many recreational activities in the area including hiking, golfing, fishing, boating, and swimming.

Shelley retired after selling her business in 2017. Over the years she has served on various committees and boards including a county workforce investment board and the St. Paul Police Foundation. More recently, she worked on the BLMD alum committee with other District volunteers.

"I care a great deal about Bone Lake. It's an amazing resource for all of us," she said. "I look forward to serving the District membership and will strive to be a good steward of the lake."

## CD3 Decontamination System

The District has submitted a grant application to DNR to help pay for a CD3 Decontamination System. It is a free standing, self-contained unit that incorporates boat cleaning tools, a blower to dry the boat and blow off weeds, and a vacuum to draw water from live wells. The unit would be placed at the north landing. If granting is approved, we would install it during the 2022 boating season.

In August, Polk County implemented a new ordinance that if a decontamination system is in place at a boat landing, it must be used.

In October, we were informed from Polk County that their annual survey of county lakes found an increase in the population of zebra mussels in Deer Lake. We were also informed that infestations of Eurasian water milfoil are present in nearby Half Moon Lake.

This news, combined with the new AIS ordinance amendment, deemed a decontamination system at Bone Lake necessary.

After consideration of the various system options in use, the committee to decide to submit a grant to the DNR for a dry system from CD3. Find out more about the unit at [cd3systems.com](http://cd3systems.com).



## Great news!

by Alex Chorefycz

### 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.**

The Bone Lake Management District has been awarded a grant to assist property owners with native planting projects. The good news is that you may be eligible for grant share dollars *not only* if you are interested in a first-time project, but also if you wish to extend or add onto a previously installed native planting project. Either way, you may do so and receive cost share dollars—75 percent grant funded and 25 percent property owner funded.

This is a wonderful way to help our lake's water clarity and health. Installing a native planting project along or within 35 feet of the shoreline will reduce runoff that would otherwise go into the lake and contribute to algae growth.

If you would like to learn more, or are ready to take the next step, please contact Mary Chorefycz at 651-454-9456 or [amchorefycz@yahoo.com](mailto:amchorefycz@yahoo.com) to receive additional information and arrange for a site visit by our lake consultant Cheryl Clemens who will work with you and advise you as to various ideas that are best suited for your location.

### More great news...

The Bone Lake Management District is offering a \$2,500 cost share incentive to lake property owners who wish to replace their non-compliant septic system.

If you are interested in replacing your system, you must first call the District's representative, Dick Mackie who will provide a free no obligation inspection/review/evaluation of your current system to determine if you qualify for the septic incentive. Dick Mackie's number is 715-857-5205 or email him at [seesallyrun@lakeland.ws](mailto:seesallyrun@lakeland.ws).

**The District is particularly hoping that any owner with a system installed before 1980 that may be nearing or has already reached the end of its working capacity will consider replacement of a non-conforming system.**

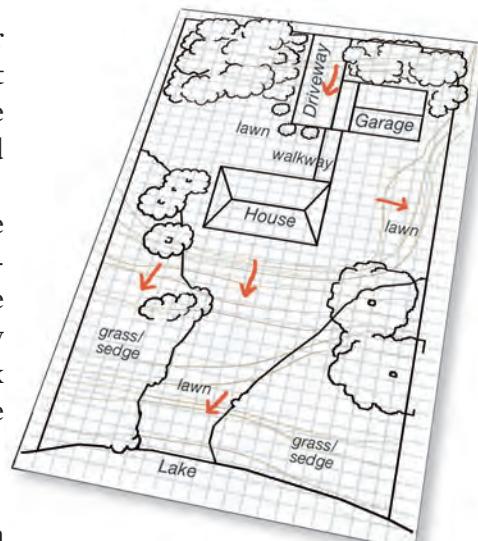
### Test your well water.

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 system.

### The process of applying for septic cost share incentive is simple.

Contact Richard Mackie at 715-857-5205 or [seesallyrun@lakeland.ws](mailto:seesallyrun@lakeland.ws) and he will arrange to visit your site for a free 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. ■



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 keep harmful runoff from reaching the lake so we keep improving water clarity.

# Plant native trees and shrubs for natural beauty, water clarity and habitat

by Karen Engelbretson

**I**t takes a lot of time and energy to maintain the landscape around your home, and you'd rather not bother with a lot of yard work at the lake, right? If you prefer a low-maintenance landscape, native trees, shrubs and flowering plants may be good options for you.

What is a native plant, anyway? It is a plant that is a part of the balance of nature that has developed over hundreds or thousands of years in a particular region or ecosystem. Only plants found in this country before European settlement are considered to be native to the United States.

Typically, plants native to local soils and weather conditions will thrive without added fertilizer, or the use of pesticides and insecticides. Their blossoms will support pollinators, their fruits provide food for birds, wildlife and for our families, while their beauty is undeniable. You need to get to know them better.

Two inserts are enclosed with this newsletter, one describing natives to help nature, and the other, by Dragonfly Gardens in Amery, listing native trees and shrubs suited for the Bone Lake area.

Here are a some suggestions for native trees and shrubs for our lakeshore landscapes.

**Evergreens** Choose White Spruce, Eastern White Pine or Eastern White Cedar. Avoid non-native spruce varieties that are prone to fungus and needle cast disease.

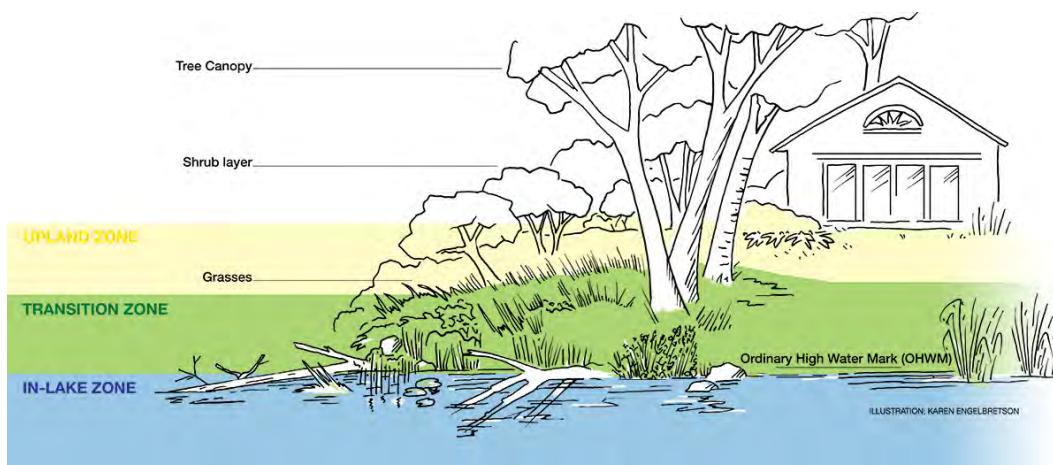
**Oak trees** support more butterfly and moth caterpillars than any other woody plant!

**Spring bloomers** Tree-like shrubs such as Serviceberry, Chokecherry, Elderberry and Nannyberry all bloom early, provide summer fruit for birds and people, and add fall color to the landscape.

**Fast growing privacy hedge** Choose Red Osier Dogwood with its spring blooms, all-season fruits, and red branches in winter. Add Hazelnut for its attractive foliage and edible nuts.

**Stabilize your shoreline** by planting Meadowsweet or Steeplebush. Flowering in white and pink, they grow in many conditions along the shore. Both attract butterflies. See page 8.

Bone Lake water clarity depends on well vegetated shorelines that hold soils in place, control erosion and slow runoff. We hope you'll help by choosing native plantings next spring. Peruse the newsletter inserts and check the websites listed at the right to learn more. ■



Some areas around Bone Lake were hit hard by the July 2019 storms, losing trees, shrubs, and in some cases, the entire cabin. Cleanup takes time, and replacing trees and shrubs may be far from your to do list.

The District would like to make that task easier, and suggests you consider restoring the lakeshore canopy with native shrubs and trees listed in the enclosed publications.

## Helpful websites include:

National Wildlife Federation  
[nwf.org](http://nwf.org)

Create a bird-friendly yard  
[audubon.org](http://audubon.org)

More plant lists for Bone Lake  
[bonelakewi.com](http://bonelakewi.com) > Water Quality



KAREN ENGELBRETSON

Cedar waxwing in Serviceberry.

Establish and maintain a tree and shrub canopy at your property. The tree canopy slows rainfall during storm events and provides cooling shade in summer. The shrub layer provides food and shelter for birds and wildlife. Deep rooted grasses and flowering natives hold soils together along the shore. Trees that fall in the water provide habitat for fish, waterfowl and turtles, and can buffer wave action.

## It was a good year for water clarity

by John McCall

On the heels of a major study to determine the benefits and financial feasibility of treating Bone Lake with alum to improve water clarity, the decision was made to not make the investment and to continue monitoring the lake's clarity. Twenty eighteen was an exceptional year and there was an interest in determining if the year was a one-time event or part of an improving trend. Twenty nineteen and 2020 were both relatively good years but not exceptional.

How did we do in 2021? This past year represented the most intense monitoring of clarity on Bone Lake on record. Bob Boyd and I took nearly thirty readings from April through September, and as the season came to a close, monitored weekly, sometimes semi-weekly. We were very interested in the timing of the algae bloom and its relationship to turnover. Oddly enough, water clarity remained good even with an early thermocline.

Twenty twenty-one was a good year for clarity but not exceptional. Late in September, the algae bloom was noticeable and would have precluded swimming, but the season was over for most by then. Turnover was in full force by late September to early October, with the water appearing to clear somewhat in mid-October.

The past several years have been indicative of a slowly improving trend in water clarity. The graph below displays a history of Bone Lake clarity since 2011 with a minimum baseline showing a modest improvement year by year in water clarity.

The lake is on a good track that will hopefully continue. As acknowledged in the alum study, the lake has excellent clarity for most of the season with gradually improving late season clarity due, perhaps, to many efforts such as shoreline management practices. Twenty twenty-one is a continuation of a healthy trend. ■



Secchi disk is an opaque disk, all white or black and white, used to gauge the transparency of water by measuring the depth (Secchi depth) at which the disk ceases to be visible from the surface.

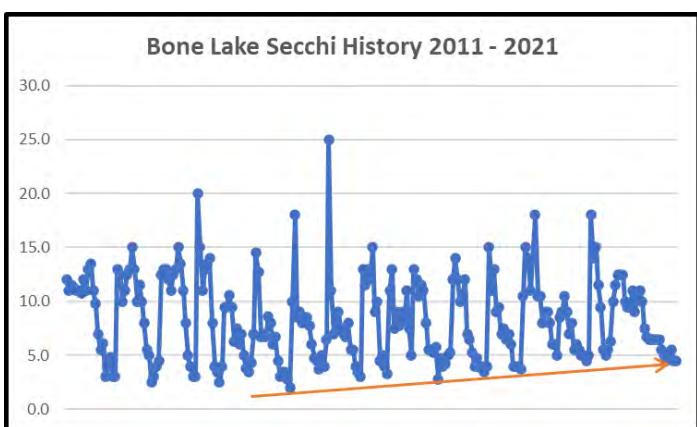
### Did you know?

Lake stratification is the separation of a lake into three layers of temperature.

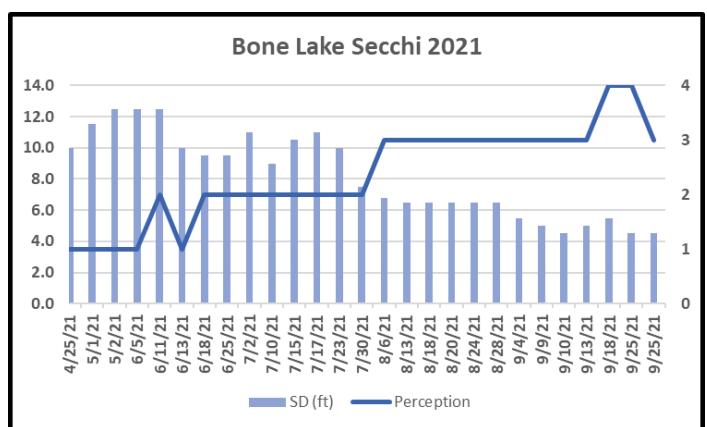
*Epilimnion*, top-most layer of the lake is exposed to wind, atmosphere and sunlight, typically the colder layer in winter, warmer in summer.

*Metalimnion* (or thermocline), is the middle layer. Temperature can change with depth throughout the day.

*Hypolimnion*, the bottom layer of a stratified lake, is typically the colder layer in summer and the warmer layer in winter.



The graph shows a long-term improvement trend in water clarity. Continued management practices to reduce runoff will help continue this trend.



In the graph above, secchi depth readings are shown on the left scale and the quality perception value on the right. Perception value:

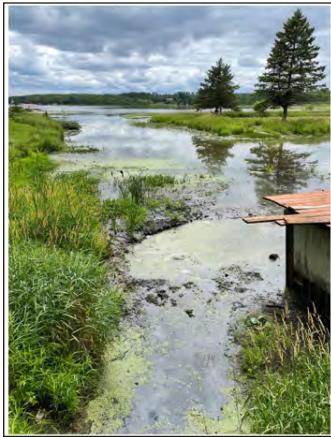
- 1 Beautiful—could not be nicer
- 2 Very minor aesthetic problems
- 3 Enjoyment somewhat impaired (algae)
- 4 Would not swim but boating OK (algae)

# Lagoon dredging is complete

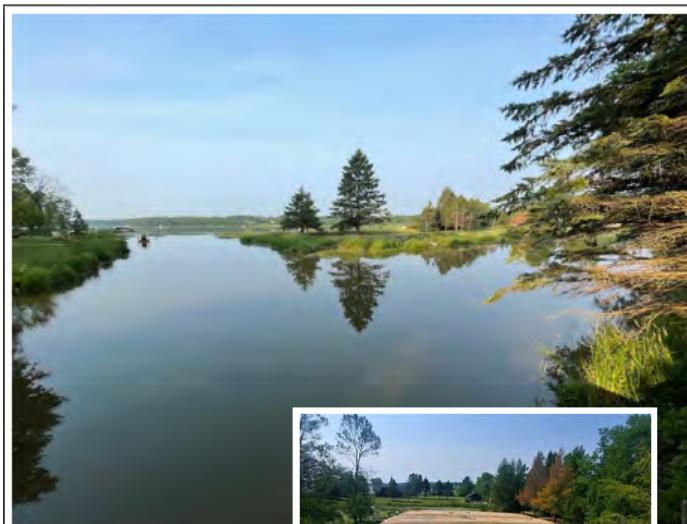
Dredging of the lagoon at the north end of the lake is complete. Six thousand cubic yards of material were removed. The water depth is now three feet and navigation is improved.

A cable-driven hydraulic dredge pumped muck and water from the bottom of the lagoon which was mixed with polymer and filled into porous bags. The water drains off to the lake and the muck stays in the bags. When sufficiently dry it will be hauled away.

BLMD members voted to contribute \$25,000 in District funds to the project at the annual meeting last year. The remaining cost of \$204,000 was paid by lagoon property owners. ■



^ Before dredging.  
> After dredging



Four bags, 100 ft. x 45 ft. each were placed in Mike and Bonnie Musial's back yard. When sufficiently dry, the bags will be emptied and the material hauled away. The bags are designed to be re-used.

## The ice pushed up my shoreline. What can I do about it?

When the early spring winds come up on Bone Lake, ice sheets can be pushed onto the shore disturbing landscaping, lake bed sand, shoreline vegetation, and even displacing riprap rock.

The push can create a ridge along the shore, also known as an ice berm.

Property owners experiencing an ice berm commonly have the area graded to level it with the shore. This activity loosens the soil making the area unstable and vulnerable to erosion. During times of high wind and summer wave action the soil washes away.

The best solution is to leave the berm in place and add native plantings where the soil is exposed. The berm itself will help control runoff from your property and native plantings will keep the soil together, halting erosion.

Shoreland erosion and runoff contributes nearly half the phosphorus load to the lake that causes algae blooms.

See pages 5 and 9 for planting suggestions and please refer to the inserts in this newsletter for planting native trees and shrubs.

Note: All lands within 1000 feet of a navigable lake or pond or 300 feet of a river or stream fall under the Polk County Shoreland Protection Zoning Ordinance which requires a land use permit for many activities within this area. Contact the Polk County Zoning Office at 715-485-9279, before you begin your project so they can assist you in obtaining the necessary permits.

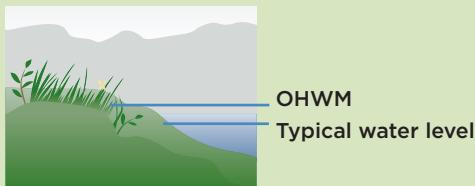
## About that sandy beach...

Volunteers serving on the District board and its committees occasionally hear from people who are concerned about property owners dumping sand into the lake, or from property owners wondering if they can put sand into the lake in front of their lakeshore property. The following is current information from Jesse Ashton, DNR Conservation Warden assigned to the Bone Lake area:

Any substance placed below the ordinary high-water mark of a property, including sand, needs to be approved by the Water Regulations Department of the Wisconsin DNR. Placement of sand on most shorelines is not allowed, because it tends to move from the site, and can impact fish and wildlife habitat.

Any sand placed above the high-water mark at the property to create a sandy beach area, needs to be permitted by the Polk County Zoning Department. (715) 485-9279.

Ordinary high water mark is the point on the bank or shore up to which the water leaves a distinct mark indicated by erosion, destruction of or change in vegetation, or other easily recognizable characteristics.



# Bone Lake 2021 water elevation

by John Ukura

The difference between high and low water levels this year was nearly 8 inches, much less than neighboring lakes without as many springs as Bone Lake. The raw number is the measurement from my staff gauge. A measurement of 1.10 feet equated to 1152.675 feet per the county surveyor.

Date	Raw	Elevation ft.
6-May-21	1.60	1152.17
13-May-21	1.50	1152.07
20-May-21	1.40	1151.97
27-May-21	1.42	1151.99
3-Jun-21	1.36	1151.93
10-Jun-21	1.20	1151.77
17-Jun-21	1.08	1151.65
24-Jun-21	1.10	1151.67
1-Jul-21	1.10	1151.67
8-Jul-21	1.05	1151.62
15-Jul-21	1.14	1151.71
22-Jul-21	1.04	1151.61
29-Jul-21	1.21	1151.78
5-Aug-21	1.40	1151.97
12-Aug-21	1.36	1151.93
19-Aug-21	1.24	1151.81
26-Aug-21	1.20	1151.77
2-Sep-21	1.20	1151.77
9-Sep-21	1.12	1151.69
16-Sep-21	1.10	1151.67
23-Sep-21	1.15	1151.72

## Bone Lake Township Report

by Andy Brown, Chair

Bone Lake Township is working with three other townships to create an operations ordinance that strengthens environmental and infrastructure protection to a higher level than basic state standards.

Our board feels that this is a priority to protect our ground and surface water resources. Locating a CAFO in Bone Lake Township would currently require a zoning change application by the company that would first be sought at the township level. The town board could deny such an application as our zoning is residential agricultural (RA)-5; CAFOs need to be zoned RA-20 to locate in a township.

We have enacted a one-year CAFO permit moratorium while we study the issue and create the operations ordinance.

The township hopes to pave part or all of 250th Ave. from Cty. GG to Cty. I next summer depending on our road budget.

Respectfully submitted by Andy Brown

## Native Spirea — a beautiful choice for shoreline plantings



PRAIRIE MOON NURSERY

**Meadowsweet** is technically a shrub, but often is mistaken for a wildflower. Big clusters of white flowers appear almost fuzzy due to the long stamens and are frequently buzzed by pollinators. The stems grow upright and become woody with age. *Spiraea alba* and its close relative *Spiraea tomentosa* (below) are both lovely native alternatives to the Japanese spirea used in many traditional landscape designs. —Prairie Moon Nursery



PRAIRIE MOON NURSERY

Pink spikes of flowers in mid to late summer make **Steeplebush**, *Spiraea tomentosa*, a popular species. A mound-shaped form with unbranched stems, bright pink flowers, orange-red bark, and yellow fall foliage make this a shrub with year-round interest for the landscape. It grows best in moist acidic soils in full sun. Slow rhizomatous roots help this beautiful plant to spread. —Prairie Moon Nursery

# Who's that calling?

by Cris Dueholm



BARRED OWL: BRIAN COLLINS

You are sitting around a campfire on a late-October night and the silence is pierced with the call of an owl—calling for his mate or re-establishing its territory.

The owl you are most likely hearing at this time of year will be the Great Horned Owl, *Bubo virginianus*, as they are the first to nest in January of the new year. If you listen carefully, you may hear the mate calling back and the process of nesting will start to take place. They are great at using a nest from a previous year or hole in a tree, at the edge of a woods where they can see more prey.

Why nest so early? Well, it's a big bird and it takes longer to grow-up! She will sit on the eggs for about 37 days and then the juveniles will stay in the nest for about 40 days until they *can walk* but not fly. The parents will lure the juveniles out of the nest and onto branches with food. They learn to use their legs and talons so that in time they will be able to crush the spine of their prey!

The other owl that we hear around the lake is the Barred Owl, *Strix varia*. Since these two don't get along, you'll hear them on opposite sides of each other's territory. They also like a hole in a tree but a previous nest of someone else is just fine. She will sit on the eggs for about 33 days at the end of February beginning of March and the juveniles will leave the nest in about 35 days. The parents will teach the young how to hunt and fly pretty much the same way a Great Horned does.

Also in the area from time to time is the Eastern Screech-owl, *Megascops asio*, more common in southern Wisconsin, and about the size of a robin. They nest in typical fashion like the great horned and barred owls. They lay eggs in mid-March, sit, and juveniles will leave the nest in about the same number of days as the other two birds, learning to climb trees to stay safe. (I was able to learn this first-hand several years ago with a Great Horned Owl.)

Depending on their size, owls like to eat a variety of small prey including skunks, rabbits, squirrels and chipmunks; mice, rats, and voles, birds, amphibians, reptiles, invertebrates and waterfowl. Their home range usually includes some open habitat, such as fields, wetlands, pastures, croplands and older growth forests. Sounds like a Bone Lake landscape to me!

One of the most interesting things about owls is that you can't hear them fly. Their specialized feathers have a fringe on them that enables near-silent flight by altering air turbulence and absorbing noise. They fly unnoticed and sneak up to get their prey.

Hear the calls of these three owls and others at [audubon.org](http://audubon.org). Then enjoy recognizing them as you sit around your campfire listening to the night sounds.

Until next time, "Happy owling!"

Great Horned Owl: Series of low, sonorous, far-carrying hoots, hoo, hoo-hoo, hoo, hoo, with second and third notes shorter than the others.

Barred Owl: A loud barking hoo, hoo, hoo-hoo; hoo, hoo; hoo, hooo-aw! Sounds like "who cooks for you. who cooks for you-all"

Eastern Screech-owl: A tremulous, descending wail; soft purrs and trills.

**Hear the calls at [audubon.org](http://audubon.org).**

## Help support our Bone

**Lake birds.** Plan to add some native flowering and fruiting shrubs to your property. See the insert mailed with this newsletter.



GREAT HORNED OWL:  
JOHN JAMES AUDUBON



EASTERN SCREECH-OWL: MARK BOYD

## Thank you, volunteers

These volunteers were recognized at the annual meeting in August for their help in improving Bone Lake. Each received a hand crafted ceramic platter with an outline of Bone Lake created by artist Win Herberg of Osceola.



### **Ben Novotny Clean Boats Clean Waters**

Ben has been involved for eight years in this effort to keep our lake free of invasive species. He is now the lead at both landing sites, scheduling volunteers and training them each year on new data, plus how to inspect and approach boaters.



### **Mary Thole, Communications Committee**

Mary and her husband are retired and have owned their cabin on Woodland Shores since 2017. They have been enjoying meeting folks on the lake. Mary reviews our great newsletter and other outgoing information before publication.



### **Al Koester Fox Creek**

Last year when we had the high lake water levels, Al discovered that beavers had dammed the culvert. He volunteered to remove it and has since been monitoring the area.



### **Greg & Kathy Lindquist**

The Lindquists supported Bone Lake residents in improving the lake's water clarity by putting in a holding pond to capture sediment from a stream running across their 240th Ave. property. (Greg Lindquist pictured.)



### **Doug Route BLMD Commissioner and Polk County Supervisor, District 2**

Doug is our voice on Polk County matters that impact Bone Lake. He keeps us apprised of potential ordinance changes that can impact the lake, such as building regulations and now CAFOs.

### **Volunteer needs**

We have many committees helping to protect and improve Bone Lake. Fresh ideas are always welcome. If

interested or if you want to learn more, contact the committee chairs listed on page 2 or Cary Olson at (612) 581-6626.

## Renting out your lake home

Many property owners around Bone Lake are now renting their lake homes 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 out more at [bonelakewi.com](http://bonelakewi.com).

## 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 2,000 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).

## Recycling 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 Luck Library on 3rd Ave. 24/7.

**St. Croix Falls** Hwy. 8 across from Menards. Any weekday.

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

[www.co.polk.wi.us/recycling](http://www.co.polk.wi.us/recycling)



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