



Bone Lake Newsletter

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

SPRING 2022

BOATING SAFELY THIS SUMMER



Few species match the majesty of a mature white oak (*Quercus alba*). They support more food for birds than any other tree species and are a great choice for replacing the many trees lost to storms around Bone Lake. With a little TLC, white oaks can be grown from an acorn seedling, reaching 10 feet tall in five years.

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www.bonelakewi.com

Bone Lake is busy—stay safe on the water

by Mike Musial

Be mindful of these simple practices to keep yourself, your family, and friends safe on the water this year.

Take the boating safety class. Anyone born on or after January 1, 1989 must pass an approved boater safety class to operate a motor boat in Wisconsin and carry a boater education card. That's age 33 and under this year, but even if you're older, you can benefit from taking a boating safety class. Go to boat-ed.com for state-approved boater safety courses, education materials and to take the test. For available in-person classes, contact Amanda Warner at 715-825-3515 or awarner@unity.k12.wi.us.

Make sure your boat or PWC is properly equipped and licensed.

Check your registration decals and your navigation lights. Have enough wearable PFDs on board plus a throwable; you need a Type B-1 fire extinguisher, a horn, whistle or bell, and a paddle. PWCs need an engine cut-off switch. This is a partial list from the *Handbook of Wisconsin Boating Laws and Responsibilities*. Pick up a handbook at the Bone Lake boat landing kiosks or at the Wilkins information table.

Remember: kids don't float and neither do adults. Life jackets are available at the north boat launch to borrow for a day if needed. Please follow the rules and return items daily.

Buoys mark hazards and keep us safe.

There has been an increase of buoys damaged and vandalized over the last couple of years. Many have had to be disposed of and replaced with new buoys. If you notice any missing, damaged, or misplaced buoys, please contact Mike Musial at 612-207-5254 and they will be attended to as soon as possible.

Polk County Sheriff Department

has a new water safety officer, Deputy Adam Birr. Reach him at adam.birr@polkcountywi.gov or 715-485-8300. ■

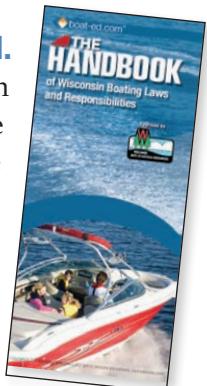
DNR TIP LINE

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

Sheriff Non-Emergency

715-485-8300 (24 hr)

EMERGENCY 911



Vandalized and damaged buoys ready for disposal. They will be replaced with new buoys to be installed this year.

Dear Bone Lakers,

As I sit and write this letter for our spring newsletter, mother nature is still reminding us that she is in control and after a very long winter, the ice is finally going out (see page 10).

COVID is waning and mask mandates are dropping, but new variants keep reminding everyone that we still need to be careful to protect our health, especially those of us with compromised immune systems. In consideration, we will continue to adapt our annual meeting to current recommendations. We plan to have an in-person meeting with online access this August.

Our priorities for the Bone Lake Management District

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TERM EXPIRES AUGUST, 2024

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Lake Management Plan

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Evaluation and Studies
Bob Boyd
Fisheries
Bob Boyd and Mike Belich
Waterfront Runoff
Alex Chorowycz
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

continue to focus on boat and water safety, prevention and control of invasive species as local lakes found zebra mussels and Eurasian water milfoil, improving our water quality, and enhancing Bone Lake's wildlife and natural beauty.

Through the winter months we submitted three grants, all awarded in January. We continue on with a new three-year grant for curly leaf pondweed spraying over the same 19 acres we did last year. We continue to review the beds before and after spraying to see how effective the spraying was and make adjustments over the prior year.

We received a number of concerns over difficult lake access due to weeds and how it got worse over the summer. Wisconsin DNR only allows spraying for CLP and the application is tightly controlled to make sure we are not affecting any native plants or sensitive plant communities. CLP dies by the end of June so concern after that date is due to native plants such as northern water milfoil which we cannot spray.

The Clean Boats Clean Waters program was again granted funds for one year. This grant focuses on boat inspections and boater information and education at our north and south public landings to stop invasive species from entering Bone Lake. Young locals make up the inspector workforce at the landings.

Last August, Polk County amended its Illegal to Transport Aquatic Plants and Invasive Animals Ordinance to require decontamination of watercraft where a decontamination system is in place at a boat landing. In October, we were informed that Polk County's annual survey of county lakes found an increase in the population of zebra mussels in Deer Lake. We were also informed that Eurasian water milfoil is 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

SAVE THE DATE

Bone Lake Management District

ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, August 13, 2022

Bone Lake Lutheran Church

Election for two commissioners will be held this year. To submit a nomination, contact Deb Dawson, Nominations Chair at jeffdebdawson01@msn.com, or call Deb at 651-894-2050.

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Website: www.bonelakewi.com Facebook group: BoneLakers

Instagram: #bonelakewi

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR, CONTINUED

use, the district decided to submit a grant to WDNR for a dry system from CD3. It is a free standing, self-contained and self-directed 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. We have been awarded a DNR grant which will fund forty percent of the purchase price of the station.

This spring a committee has been formed to finalize the exact location of the system to insure best efficiency at the north landing. Once sited, we expect the unit to be operational within eight weeks. The committee includes District leaders, local fishermen, property owners, the Town of Bone Lake that owns the land, Luck Lions Club which manages the landing and Don Langel Park, and CBCW workers who will teach watercraft owners how to use the equipment.

In addition, we are in contact with the Half Moon Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District which has also received a grant for a CD3 system to be installed at their landing. We plan to coordinate installation and signage for cost savings and consistency of messaging.

I wish everyone a great summer and look forward to seeing you on the lake. ■

—Cary Olson, Chair

All of our grants and continued committee work rely on our Bone Lake volunteers. Without their dedication to our lake and the surrounding area, we would not be where we are at in improving our local environment. In fact two members of our team, Karen Engelbretson, BLMD Secretary and Cheryl Clemens, our consultant presented at the Wisconsin Lakes Convention about Bone Lake's active volunteerism, the importance of a lake management plan and strategies to implement it.

We are always looking for new voices and ideas. If you are interested please contact me at caryolson@comcast.net or 612-581-6626.

Sensitive Area Survey and Aquatic Life Assessment

One of our active grants funds a survey of Bone Lake's eleven sensitive areas first established by WDNR in 1987. The areas are being surveyed for aquatic plants, zooplankton, benthic invertebrate, herptiles, and amphibians.

In addition, our full lake frog and bird surveys will be repeated using the same protocols used in 2011.

All of these studies will help us determine the condition of Bone Lake's aquatic life so we can better manage and protect it.



A CD3 Watercraft Cleaning Station similar to this one will be installed at the north landing this summer. By Polk County ordinance, boats must be decontaminated before entering and after leaving the lake, if a decontamination station is available, to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. The invasive zebra mussel and Eurasian water milfoil are present in nearby lakes.

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.

Consider planting these pretty spring-flowering natives in your lakeshore gardens. They support early pollinators and provide nectar for our Bone Lake birds!

Great news for Bone Lake property owners!

by Alex Chorewycz

The Bone Lake Management District has grant dollars available to assist Bone Lake property owners with a variety of runoff mitigation projects. These include native plantings, rain gardens, rock trenches, and runoff diversion 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 project. The projects are typically 75 percent grant funded and 25 percent property owner funded.

This is a wonderful way to help maintain our lake's clarity and health. Installing a waterfront runoff mitigation project 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 Chorewycz at 651-454-9456 or amchorewycz@yahoo.com to receive additional information and arrange for a no cost, no obligation site visit by our lake consultant, Cheryl Clemens. Cheryl will work with you and provide you with various ideas for runoff mitigation projects that are best suited for your location.

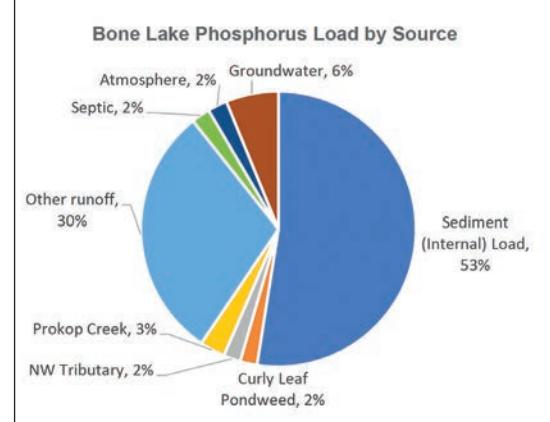
More great news

The Bone Lake Management District is offering a \$2,500.00 cost share incentive to lake property owners who wish to replace their non-compliant septic system.

A non-compliant system is one that has an outflow from the tank into the surrounding ground area. (Please see the sidebar.) Septic systems contribute two percent of the Bone Lake phosphorus load (see the chart above).

If you have a non-compliant system, and are interested in replacing this system, you must first call the District representative, Dick Mackie, who will provide a free no-obligation inspection of your current system to determine if you qualify for the septic incentive. **Dick Mackie's number: 715-857-5205 or seesallyrun@lakeland.ws.**

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



Phosphorus is the nutrient that causes algae blooms in late summer and up to 30 percent of Bone Lake's phosphorus load comes from lakeshore property. When you begin to control runoff at your property, you're helping improve Bone Lake's water clarity.



Virginia bluebells



Columbine



Prairie smoke



Pussy willow

Wisconsin Lakes Convention - protecting what we love

by Shelley Rose

For over thirty years, the Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Convention has been an annual gathering of lake lovers from all walks of life, produced by the Wisconsin DNR, the University of Wisconsin-Extension/Lakes and the Wisconsin Lakes Association. The convention was attended by field experts, lake professionals, volunteers, district commissioners and association board members, and graduate students.

As a new commissioner, I was thrilled to attend the convention along with fellow commissioner, Karen Engelbretson. The theme for this year's convention was *Protecting What We Love*. The level of expertise and learning opportunities were amazing.

After taking advantage of a day of training for new commissioners, I was free to attend a variety of sessions the following two days. Breakout sessions were organized under the topics:

- Wildlife/Fish/Natural History
- Citizen Science
- Building Organizational Capacity
- Innovative Practices/Partnerships
- Aquatic Invasive Species
- Water Resource Protection
- Other Hot Topics

There were two major highlights for me. First, I learned how Wisconsin shoreland zoning standards have helped improve water quality.

Second, it takes a tremendous volunteer effort to have an effective lake organization like we do here at Bone Lake. Karen Engelbretson presented this year and spoke about how our District engages volunteers, many of whom have worked tirelessly for years to protect this valuable resource we all love, and those who make changes at their property to improve water clarity. The discussion also emphasized the importance of following a Lake Management Plan like ours (available at our website) written with our consultant, Cheryl Clemens.

There were many great breakout sessions, keynotes, a lunchtime address from Governor Evers on clean groundwater, and great networking opportunities with field experts.

If you like learning about protecting our precious water resources but cannot take time for a conference, take a look at the Extension Lakes website for a plethora of information including recorded sessions from this year's convention and a video montage answering the question, "Why do you love your water?" ■

To access the Extension lakes website, go to www3.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes and follow the link to Events > 2022 Wisconsin Lakes & Rivers Convention Archives.

The importance and value of shoreland zoning

by Karen Engelbretson

Everything we do on land affects the water around us, and in the case of lakeshore property, the water right in front of us. State-wide and local zoning laws are written to protect the quality of our lakes and rivers yet they are continually amended to accommodate development—residential and commercial—around our lakes.

Polk County's Shoreland Protection Zoning Ordinance, was adopted in 1967 to regulate development near lakes, rivers and streams in compliance with state standards and with local standards for control of water pollution, protection of fish and aquatic life, control of building sites, structures and land use, preservation of shore cover and natural beauty.

In 2015, Wisconsin state law Act 55 stripped local control so counties may not enforce local shoreland zoning rules beyond those of NR115, the *minimum* standards for shoreland zoning. Development has since increased around our lakes, along with usage, even while those who purchase property on or near lakes are known to value natural beauty and clean water.

At what point can a lake no longer support all desired recreational use in clear, clean water? Polk County recently adopted amendments to its shoreland protection ordinance to begin to control high density use and reduce commercialization in shoreland areas. Changes were made in these areas:

- Short term property rental
- Allowable density of multi-family development
- Easements allowing lake access from back lots
- Number of boats allowed per property
- Dock space rentals
- Ag tourism
- Campgrounds
- Condominium density

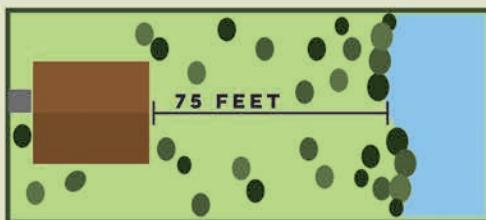
You can access Polk County ordinances at co.polk.wi.us. Choose Ordinances from the Quick Links menu and then search from Code of Ordinance - MuniCode by topic.

The graphic poster on pages 6-7 designed by UW Extension illustrates how shoreland zoning protects our waters and the quality of our recreational experience. ■



SHORELAND ZONING

A house that is set back at least 75 feet from the water allows space for trees and native plants.



THE VA SHORE ZON

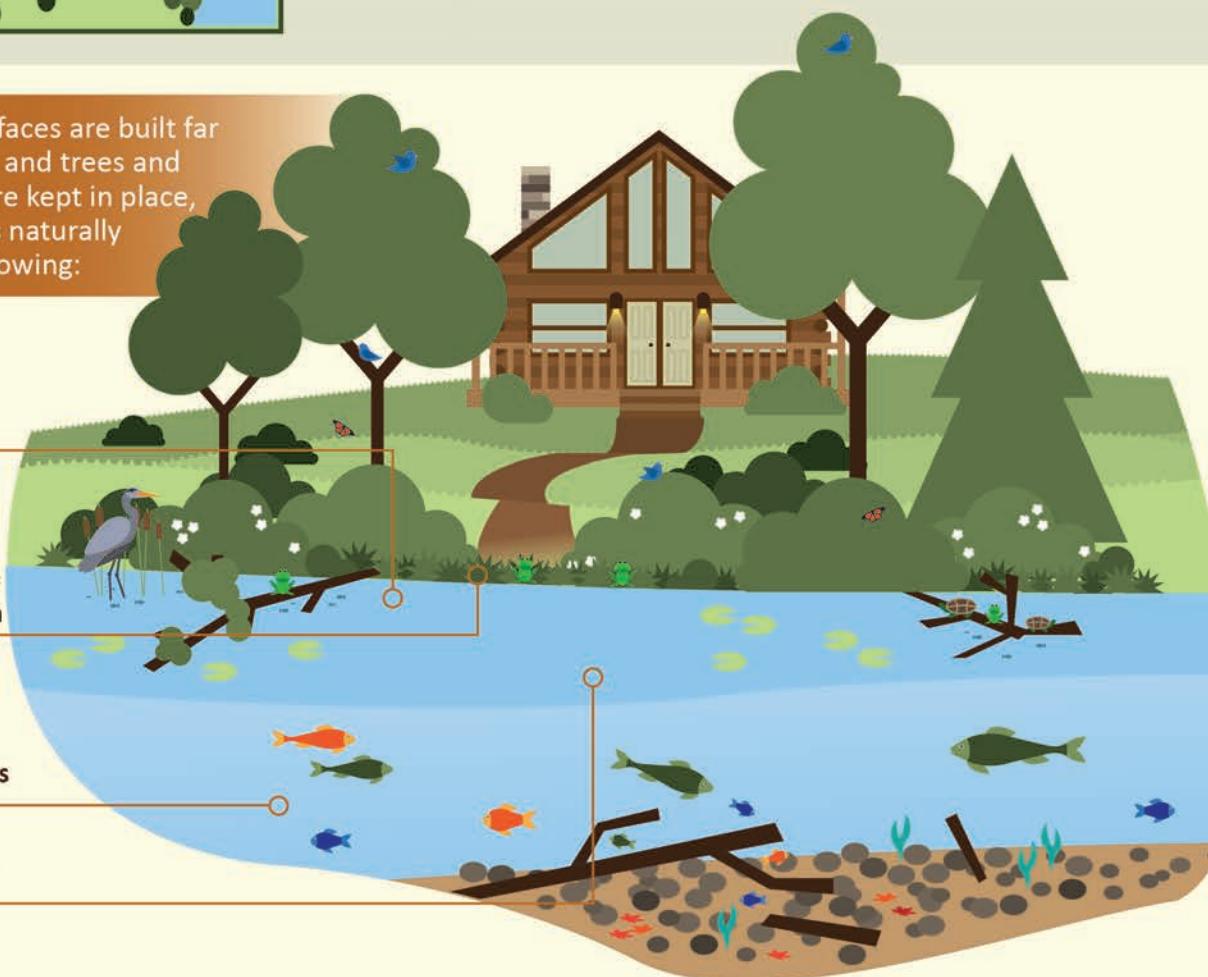
When hard surfaces are built far from the shore and trees and native plants are kept in place, the shoreline is naturally more stable allowing:

Clear water =
High waterfront
property values

More trees and
native plants =
Stable shorelines =
Less water pollution

More trees and
native plants =
More fish and frogs

Less algae growth



CONCLUSIONS

Shoreland zoning standards make it possible to carefully develop a waterfront property, stabilize shorelines, protect the lake or river, and keep waterfront property values high.

For more information, check with your local zoning office.

WHAT DO SHORELAND ZONING STANDARDS DO?

Stable
shorelines

Clearer water =
Higher property values

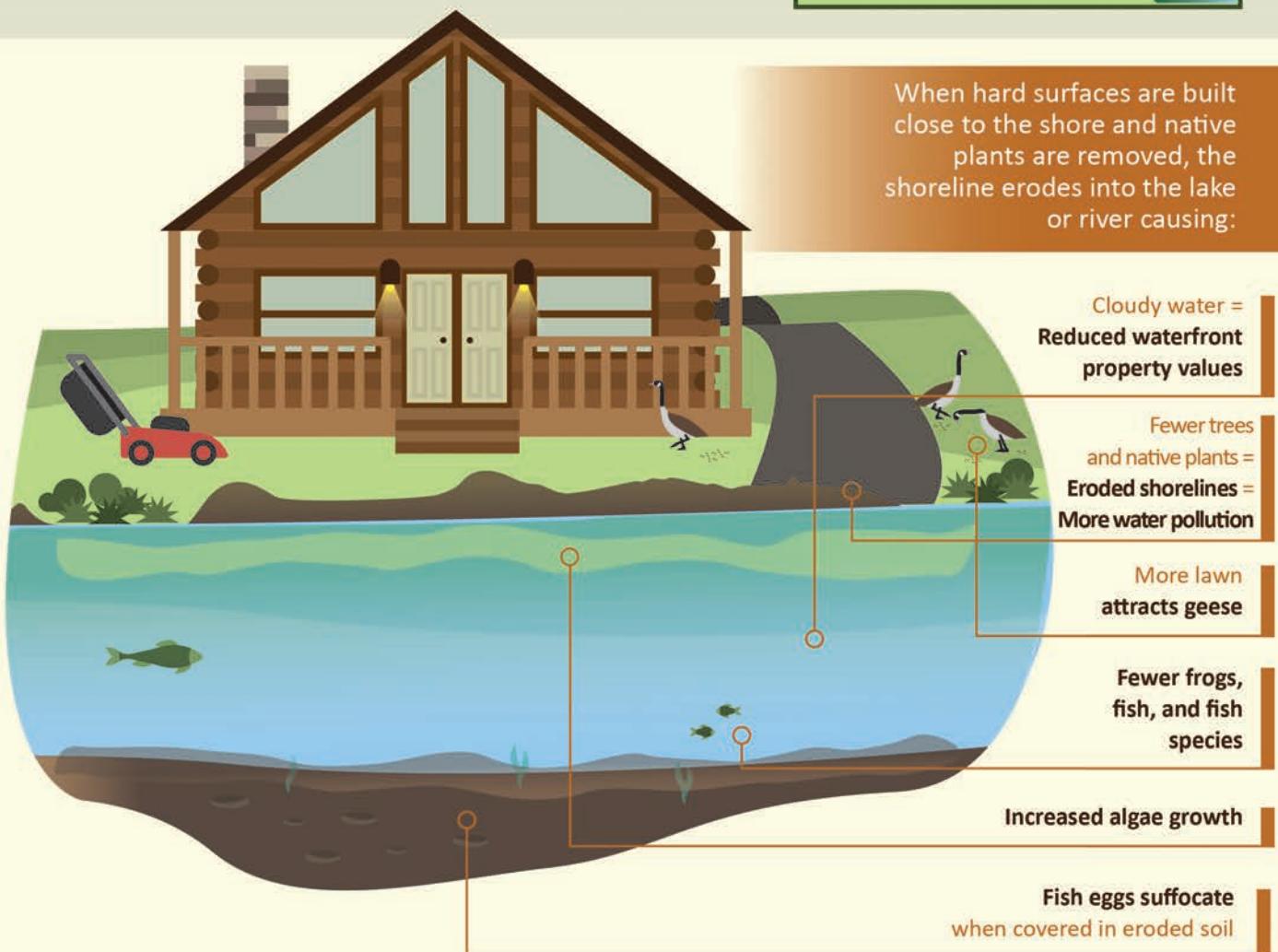
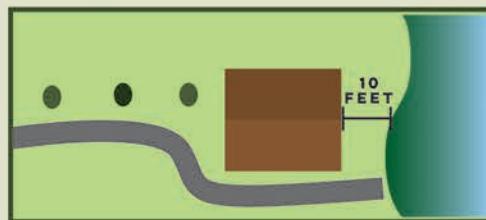
VALUE OF SHORELAND ZONING



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

NO SHORELAND ZONING X

A house that is close to the water does not leave space for trees and native plants that stabilize the shoreline.



SHORELAND ZONING ACCOMPLISH?

ues

More food and shelter for fish and frogs

More fish and fish species

CONCLUSIONS

Waterfront property developed without shoreland zoning standards can cause eroded shorelines, a degraded lake or river, and reduced waterfront property values.

Complete the Shoreland Evaluation Tool to assess your waterfront property at survey.healthylakeswi.com.

Greetings from the park!

by Gerry Albright

Visiting Don Langel Park at the north end of Bone Lake is a great way to utilize the Town of Bone Lake's hidden crown jewel. Its location is a natural draw for wildlife and the long view of the lake can't be beat!

The park features picnic shelters, campfire rings, grilling facilities, the best public boat launch on the lake, and public bathrooms. The point has a 60 ft. fishing pier and the launch has a 40 ft. boat dock. The park is lit at night by street lamps and lights in the bathrooms for those late sunset cruises.

This year the docks will be put in on May 2 (weather permitting) to get the lake ready for the Wisconsin Fishing Opener on May 7. In the fall this year, docks will be removed during the third week of October.

Bone Lake Management District volunteers maintain a *Kids Don't Float* kiosk providing loaner PFDs if you forgot yours or need extras for your day on the lake. You can find Bone Lake maps, boater safety pamphlets, and the *Wisconsin Boating Rules and Regulations* booklet at the large kiosk. On weekends, you can meet the BLMD Clean Boats, Clean Waters inspectors that are helping to keep invasive species out of our lake.



Gerry Albright, along with his wife Teri, maintain Don Langel Park at the north end of Bone Lake.

New this year is the addition of a second martin house and several nesting boxes to attract even more wildlife to the park, new signage to clarify parking policies and park guidelines, and a new boat cleaning station (see page 3). Since 250th Avenue is being paved this year, an upgrade to the boat launch area will be done at the same time.

This public park is used by many lake property owners and visitors alike. The park land is owned by the Town of Bone Lake and maintained by a cooperative joint effort of the Bone Lake Management District and the Luck Lions Club. Garbage collection, park facilities and grounds maintenance, paint, picnic table and occasional property repairs cost several hundred dollars a month. You can help maintain the park by contributing to the donations box—the bright yellow pole at the launch. All donations go directly to the Lions Club park maintenance. Your generosity is appreciated!

At the launch, please refrain from power loading your boat. Power loading creates a hole in the lake bottom, and a pile of sediment behind it that requires constant maintenance to ensure safe launching.

The park closes at 10 p.m. each night. Overnight camping or parking is not allowed. To report an issue or reserve one of the park shelters for your event, call me or Teri at 715-901-2499.

Lions Club International, whose motto is *We Serve*, is a community-minded organization providing direct local services to Luck public events and places: annual fishing contest, raffles, Luck Winter Carnival, pancake breakfast, vision screening for children, scholarships to Luck students, sponsorship of Lucky Days, Easter egg hunt, Christmas giveaway, and donations to support the needs of those less fortunate in our community. We not only care for beautiful Don Langel Park, but other wonderful parks in the area, too. Look for the Lions Club signs throughout our community.

We are always looking for new members. Won't you join us? We meet at 7 p.m. the first Monday of each month at the Luck Lion's Hall. ■



Power loading creates a hole in the lake bottom that can undercut the concrete ramp. The resulting pile of sediment makes launching difficult for everyone.

Chickadee-dee-dee

by Cris Dueholm

As I walk out the door each day from January to November, the familiar sound of *fee bee* or *chickadee-dee-dee* greets me to let me know the chickadees are eating their seeds and by the way, “you can fill this up again!”

That little bird is the Black-capped Chickadee or *Poecile atricapillus*. It reminds me of a puffy cotton ball with a black cap and bib, white cheeks & tummy, gray back, wings and tail.

The males are somewhat smaller and only the males will sing. A female might sing close to laying her one clutch of eggs for the year after she has picked the right spot. Both of them will excavate the tree hole to get it ready, she will sit on the eggs for about 13 days, then both will feed the juveniles for 16 days until they fledge. They will continue to feed them for a few days after fledging and by that time the juveniles are on their own. If you use a nesting box, put it back farther in the woods so the wrens and other critters won’t take it over. That is the type of habitat that this little bird likes.

Chickadees love to interact with people while getting to know their territory well. When my husband fills the feeders, they will sit on the ladder trying to hurry him up and talking to him the whole time. I’ve tried to hold out my hand with seeds and at this time I still haven’t had them land to eat, but I have had friends that were lucky enough! You might want to challenge your kids this summer?

The chickadee is one of the easiest birds to entice to any type of feeder. They have a spring, summer and fall diet of insects, spiders, and plant matter but in the winter, seeds, berries, suet, and animal carcasses are favorites, along with a supplement of those frozen insects. If you sit and watch them, they will take one seed at a time and cache or store it until later. Some say they know where they put them.

In autumn the chickadee will allow their brain neurons containing old information to die, replacing them with new neurons so they can adapt to changes in their social flock and environment.

They are not on the Concern list as long as we continue to keep some of the dead and older wood for their habitat. Populations are in decline in western states.

Chickadees are great acrobats, curious, intelligent, non-migratory, and social little birds that live in flocks and will gather with other small woodland birds.

Go to allaboutbirds.org to learn their different vocalizations. So, when you walk out your door, listen for your chickadee to greet you! ■



BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE: SCOTT MARTIN, ALLABOUTBIRDS.ORG

Second purple martin house installed at Don Langel Park

The Wildlife & Natural Beauty Committee members installed a second District-funded purple martin house at Don Langel Park in early April.

As of this writing, scouts are already investigating the nest boxes and gourds. Once the weather warms up, more birds will arrive and nesting pairs will populate the houses.

The District thanks committee member David Klopp for his leadership to prepare the T-14 box and gourds, pole and winch, and for sourcing all the materials for installation.



Committee members with the newly installed purple martin house in the foreground. L-R: Teri Albright, Karen Engelbretson, Steve Nusbaum, David Klopp, and Greg Klopp. Not pictured: Cris Dueholm.

Want to build a chickadee house? Go to nestwatch.org > all about birdhouses. Hear the chickadee calls at allaboutbirds.org and audubon.org.

2022 Ice Out

The Boyd's Nest Ice Out Czar called its official 2022 Bone Lake ice out time as April 25, 2022, at 8 p.m. with 90 percent of the lake ice gone, according to the contest rules.

It's always exciting to see the lake open up, but this year seemed more dramatic than other years. Strong south winds blew a lot of ice into the north end of the lake and it stayed there for a few days delaying the ice out.

The last remaining ice sheet of about 40 acres was in the north east end of the lake in front of Wilkins; it had decreased on April 26 and was then pushed into the eastern shore by a strong northwest wind.

The Wilkins Ice Out Contest called ice out on April 27, 2022, when they saw 100 percent of the lake ice gone. ■



Ice blew in at the north end of the lake on April 24, 2022.

PHOTO: BOB BOYD

Keep in touch

Subscribe to Bone Lake eNews! Get Bone Lake updates between newsletters throughout the year.

Go to 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 to your address book. Signed up but not getting emails? Contact 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.

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. Mon.-Thurs. 6:45-4:30 p.m.; Fridays: Memorial to Labor Day

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

www.co.polk.wi.us/recycling

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 Cary Olson at (612) 581-6626, or any of the committee chairs listed on page 2.



Find out more at dnr.wi.gov

Boyd's Nest Bone Lake Ice Out History

Year	Ice out date
1967	3/28
1968	4/21
1969	4/15
1970	4/19
1971	4/18
1972	4/23
1973	4/9
1974	4/20
1975	4/17
1976	4/10
1977	4/11
1978	4/18
1979	4/23
1980	4/21
1981	4/3
1982	4/26
1983	4/24
1984	4/15
1985	4/16
1986	4/10
1987	3/29
1988	4/11
1989	4/22
1990	—
1991	4/8
1992	—
1993	4/21
1994	4/13
1995	4/14
1996	4/30
1997	4/21
1998	4/4
1999	4/4
2000	3/25
2001	4/20
2002	4/17
2003	4/15
2004	4/17
2005	4/17
2006	4/10
2007	4/4
2008	4/27
2009	4/13
2010	4/1
2011	4/16
2012	3/24
2013	5/9
2014	5/1
2015	4/6
2016	3/29
2017	3/31
2018	5/4
2019	4/23
2020	4/10
2021	3/29
2022	4/25

Average ice out date:
April 14

Earliest and latest ice out dates are one year apart!



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