

# Bone Lake Property Owner Survey

RESULTS 264 RETURNED OUT OF 487 DELIVERED = 54% RETURN

Preliminary results 01/03/2008

Please complete and return in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope to:

Harmony Environmental  
516 Keller Avenue S  
Amery, WI 54001

**Do you currently own property on Bone Lake?** (Circle one)

Yes **215**      No **3**      No Response **46**

**Comments:**

- If you stopped all the people from driving their boats too close to the shoreline, we could & would all have better shoreline...TOO FAST, TOO CLOSE - ERODES OUR SHORELINE
- We are located on opposite side of Road of Bone Lake. We call it a back lot!
- A Bone Lake back lot property + cabin
- Weeds have been well documented by past & present engr. firms.
- Completed by: Jeanne Vighot 2263 Woodland Shores 1-715-857-5848
- The fireworks the south owner put on the best yet. Why waste the money. Parade ok.

**1. What recreational activities do you enjoy at the lake?**

(Check all that apply and circle the one that is most important.)

(The first numerical value is a weighted response with the circled item counted twice and others once. The percentage is the percentage of respondents who checked this item with no weighting given to circled item.)

254 Enjoying the View (92%)

239 Fishing (83%)

242 Swimming (83%)

227 Observing Wildlife (80%)

229 Appreciating Peace and Tranquility (79%)

138 Water Skiing (50%)

113 Non-motorized boating (canoe, kayak, paddleboat) (41%)

77 Jet Skiing (28%)

58 Other (list) Motor boating/Pontoon<sup>1</sup> (20%)

40 Sailing or Wind Surfing (15%)

9 Scuba Diving or Snorkeling (.03%)

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<sup>1</sup> Motor boating was inadvertently missing from the list in the original survey.

**Comments:**

- I won't allow my family to use Jet skis, boats come too close to docks
- Peace & tranquility rare on weekends
- I tried to scuba dive once - almost got killed because boats didn't respect the diving flag & drove over us.
- Duck Hunting
- NO! Jet Skiing
- Most hated: Jet Skiing!
- Your list is not complete
- Boat Fishermen not respecting safe distance to swimmers, throwing lures around them. Jet skiers coming too close to docks & boats & skiers & swimmers
- Eagles and loons
- By Jet Skiing wrote "yuk"
- Water volleyball.

**2. What issues regarding owning waterfront property concern you the most?**

(Rank each H = high concern, M = medium concern, L = low concern, 0 = no concern)

- 675 Paying property taxes
- 660 Protecting the lake environment
- 618 Water clarity at the end of my dock
- 607 Excessive aquatic plant growth in the lake
- 601 Maintaining the investment value of my property
- 481 Water clarity in the middle of the lake
- 12 Other Noise Level
- 11 Other Low Water Levels
- 10 Other Jet skis
- 9 Other Water Level
- 6 Other high electric cost per mo w/o using it
- 6 Other high taxes that increase a lot every year
- 6 Other Algae Bloom in summer
- 6 Other Thick Weeds
- 6 Other Boats not resp. swimmers
- 3 Other Non Res.Boat Traffic
- 3 Other Fireworks beyond July 4
- 3 Other Quality of Fishing
- 2 Other Private Enjoyment
- 1 Other High cost fishing license by non-resident
- 1 Other Over Development

**Comments:**

- Prop. Taxes have increased 4x the amt I paid 12 years ago.
- Controlling aquatic growth in front of my property.
- Excessive aquatic plant growth is a VERY big concern!!!!
- Water level maintained
- Maintaining overall health of lake
- Weeds so thick I have a hard time using the lake
- Dangerous, Inconsiderate boat traffic
- Protecting our lake from AIS
- Loss of frogs, turtles, toads, snakes, etc
- Safety & security of area on and off the lake
- Why was the neighbor next door to us allowed to put in a boathouse 8 feet from the lake and use red-dyed mulch which floats in lake (Pat Lyons) - but other neighbor cannot put porch on street side of cabin? We have a huge concern with this type of lakeshore mismanagement. - the Konigsons
- Paying taxes for no services offered
- Shoreline preservation. Too much mowing.
- And losing our property to high taxes!!
- Shore erosions (muskrats boring under the shoreline)
- Being able to have a SWIMMABLE beach. Having enough dock space for association.
- Except invasive species & algae bloom due to high W levels

- Re: Protecting the lake environment: The County & State are already overdoing this.
- 3- not respecting swimmers
- Inappropriate use of jet skis.
- Navigable channel (North End). Silt & Muck (3-4' deep) end of dock or in channel in general (North End).
- Fishing too close to dock. Keep Lake Water Level to level of today 10/24/2007 UP!!
- Non-phosphorus fertilizer
- People throwing cans & garbage on our property from their pontoons while swimming on/off our shore.

**3. Rank the degree each concern negatively impacts your use or enjoyment of the lake.**

(Rank each H = high impact, M = medium impact, L = low impact, 0 = no impact)

- 654 Invasive species aquatic plant (weed) growth
- 602 Algae growth
- 489 Native aquatic plant (weed) growth
- 477 Lake level too low
- 454 Loss of wildlife habitat
- 436 Boat/traffic congestion
- 415 Noise
- 394 Loss of natural scenery around the lake
- 325 Small fish size
- 307 Not enough fish
- 309 Sediment prevents navigation
- 174 Lake level too high
- 12 Other Irresponsible Jet Ski Operation
- 12 Other Boats speeding close to shore on my point. I'm losing lots of my shore that is washed away!!
- 6 Other Low Water Level
- 3 Other theft of dock section
- 3 Other neighbors wood pile
- 3 Other neighbors noise & junk in yard
- 3 Other No Walleyes
- 3 Other Trailer Camps
- 3 Other Too Many Boats
- 3 Other Jet skis
- 3 Other hunters
- 3 Other Swimmers Itch
- 1 Other Farm runoff**

## Comments:

- I interpret this to mean if the items below were a problem, what degree would they negatively impact my enjoyment.
- Damn fool chemical treatments to kill weeds or algae
- weed/plant growth immediately at shore by the dock
- How about hours on the noisy and disturbing jet skis? (Offensive noise)
- Rude people on jet skies & fast boats passing people fishing
- Why allow boathouses on lake to block views of other cabin owners?
- Noise (Jet Skis)
- "!" by Noise
- Lake Level, native (weed) growth, invasive (weed) growth = Not sure if they're native or not!
- Stop having the tournaments - boats go too fast
- Too many trailer camps & too many boats from trailer camps.
- Install something at entrance to Fox Creek to maintain a constant water level during droughts like we've had the last two years.
- Shoreland lighting that's too bright
- Tubers driving in circles
- Taxes
- Weeds
- Too many muskie & Too many Fishing Tournaments
- Jet skis chasing loon on east side
- Re: fish & water level statements, I haven't found any of these to be a reality.
- ? On sed.
- Muck on shoreline, decomposing weeds
- (Boat congestion some weekends)
- Increased rude & dangerous behavior of Jet Ski drivers
- Lack of weed control

## 4. The lake management district should consider the following actions to improve Bone Lake.

(Check all that apply) (% Checked out of 264 surveys returned)

80% Monitor for aquatic invasive species introduction

77% Monitor lake water quality

74% Prevent aquatic invasive species introduction

64% Educate residents about lake issues

63% Programs to prevent nutrient runoff from farms

61% Spray aquatic plants (lake weeds)

49% Program to prevent runoff from residences

48% Test septic systems

42% Protect sensitive habitat areas

41% Stock fish

41% Be involved in local planning and zoning

40% Harvest aquatic plants (lake weeds)

28% Offer financial incentives to residents for lake water quality practices

26% Improve boat landings

23% Expand "slow no-wake" times and locations

20% Increase boating regulation enforcement

20% Acquire property for watershed and lake protection

.01% Other Control Water Level

.01% Other Control Alum treatment

.003% Other Dredge shallow area @ north end to channel for navigation

.003% Other fisherman/resident privacy issues

.003% Other Educate landowners

.003% Other Limit/eliminate Fishing Contests

**Comments:**

- I don't know the implications of many of these, so hard to answer. Educate ignorant owners like myself. I am willing to do my part; I just don't know what needs to be done.
- Re: spray - who knows the ultimate affect on humans and the lake? Yes, some sept seep into the lake; offer education; some disregard the no wake completely; south landing has some improvements
- Stock fish but NOT Muskie
- Re: "slow no-wake"...I'm on Sandy Hork Pt. Boats come around point at high speeds, an accident in the making & also erosion problem
- Stock Walleye
- Spray if Invasive
- Let the DNR (Educate, stock fish, monitor water quality, invasive, improve boat landings) & County (test septic,) do their jobs
- Dam outlet creek
- NO to acquire property
- Especially south end boat landing
- South end boat landing
- Apply tax incentives to property owners
- Re: Boat regs. How about clearly mark, then inform, and then enforce
- Don't allow boathouses so close to lakeshore while preventing decks & patio at cabins.
- Improve boat landing at north end
- Limit fireworks
- Listen to the lake property owners concerns. Do not accept the DNR says we have to do this and not question why with a good explanation.
- Never harvest lake weeds
- Re: Stock fish means other than muskie
- Spray only if it is safe for the environment.
- Encourage shore restoration
- No spray. Loon Island Signs!!
- Spraying is a very bad idea. Septic & nutrient runoff: I believe these two approaches are the only real, long lasting methods to get the weeds and algae under control.
- South end of the lake
- All of these.
- You already improved boat landings and it's great!
- In fishing for musky this year there was a good variety of growth on east side from big island south. Need to keep the good stuff!
- Increase boat regs on 7/4. Concern: NO mosquito control West Nile. We need to mow our lawns.
- Dredge channel & "lagoon" at North end.
- Tax non-home-owners for lake use + programs (boat launch fees for non-tax payers).
- Stock small mouth bass and walleye. NO! to acquire property...

**5. How would you describe Bone Lake's aquatic plant (lake weed) growth overall?**

(Circle one)

Too few plants	Healthy amount	Too many plants	Not sure	No response
3%	36%	44%	13%	4%

**6. Which best describes the amount of rooted vegetation near the shore (in the water)?** (Circle one)

Too much	About right	Too little	Don't know	No response
38%	41%	6%	9%	6%

**Comments:**

- By our cabin
- Different at different areas of lake
- Too much by my dock, don't know over all
- Cattails should be declared an invasive weed or plant
- Depends on where you are.

**7. Which best describes the overall level of aquatic plant (weed) growth in Bone Lake?** (Circle one)

Light Growth	Moderate Growth	Heavy Growth	Choked with Growth	No resp.
3%	57%	29%	5%	6%

**Comments:**

- It not controlled
- Need to promote weed growth in depths greater than 18'.

**8. Should the Lake Management District encourage more aquatic plant (weed) removal in Bone Lake?** (Circle one)

Yes	Yes, but only invasive plants	Maybe	No	Don't know	No resp.
33%	40%	12%	6%	6%	3%

**9. Should the Lake Management District harvest aquatic plants (weeds) in the lake?** (Circle one)

Yes	Yes, but only invasive plants	Maybe	No	Don't know	No resp.
23%	27%	18%	18%	9%	5%

**Comments:**

- Harvesting just adds more weeds.
- Fishing sucked this year because of the spraying

**10. Should the Lake Management District use pesticides to control aquatic plants (weeds) in the lake?** (Circle one)

Yes	Yes, but only invasive plants	Maybe	No	Don't know	No resp.
27%	26%	16%	19%	9%	3%

**Comments:**

- Pesticides kill pests not plants (scary mistake)
- Control overgrowth due to eutrophy
- DO NOT USE - our family is highly allergic to pesticides
- If possible
- Only if they are environmentally safe and don't promote more future growth.
- Herbicides?
- But consider toxicity do fish, animals, and humans.
- Depends on what is best for the lake

- Pesticides don't control weeds!<sup>2</sup>
- = Herbicides?

**11. Have you had aquatic plants (weeds) sprayed in front of your property within the last five years?**

(Circle one)      Yes    **30%**                  No    **62%**                  No response **8%**

**Comments:**

- DON'T WANT & you better not!
- Not that we know of, owned our property for 1 yr.
- Don't know
- Not sure
- Don't know
- By Bone Lake /DNR Plan
- Don't know. We do have few weeds in front of our property.
- Unknown. First year on lake.
- Too costly
- I do pull weeds for swimming but would not consider that as "maintaining an opening" to navigate a boat per se.

**12. Do you rake or hand pull aquatic plants (weeds) to maintain an opening in the water in front of your property?**

(Circle one)      Yes    **34%**                  No    **59%**                  No response **7%**

**Comments:**

- Done by association?
- Try but not very successful
- But not very often
- Where kids play in the water

**13. Which of the following water quality landscaping practices are you familiar with?**

(Check all that apply) (% Responses checked out of 264 surveys returned)

76% Not fertilizing or using zero phosphorus fertilizer

59% Shoreline buffer zones

21% Rain gardens

12% Infiltration pits or trenches

14% Water diversions

.003% Other spraying pesticides

**Comments:**

- County ordinance requirements in affect.
- None
- All were installed with the development of my new house 2129 Maier Ct.
- Shoreline Buffer Zones are a bad idea. West Nile is increasing. Mosquitoes are awful now.

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<sup>2</sup> In fact, an herbicide is one type of pesticide.

**14. Do you think the water that runs off from your property impacts Bone Lake?**

(Circle one) Yes 18% No 64% Don't Know 13% No response 5%

**Comments:**

- Use no fertilizers, have minimally changed natural landscape
- Minimally-little fertilization and leave grass longer at lake

**15. Do you believe that establishing or maintaining native vegetation (a buffer zone) along your shoreline improves the water quality of the lake?**

(Circle one) Yes 40% No 23% Don't Know 30% No response 7%

**Comments:**

- Yes, but not enough impact to outweigh adverse affects
- We have level lot
- I don't want any buffer zones
- Possible

**16. Do you believe that establishing or maintaining native vegetation (a buffer zone) along your shoreline enhances the beauty of the property?**

(Circle one) Yes 24% No 53% Don't Know 15% No response 8%

**Comments:**

- Yes, if well planned
- Do it because it improves H2O
- Depends what it is. Rip Rap yes.

**17. Do you believe that establishing or maintaining native vegetation (a buffer zone) along your shoreline increases its economic value?**

(Circle one) Yes 11% No 52% Don't Know 29% No response 8%

**Comments:**

- Only if it helps to maintain the quality of the lake
- Yes riprap
- It can if done right

**18. What would motivate you to install a water quality practice on your property?**

(Check all that apply) (% Responses checked out of 264 surveys returned)

- 63% Improving lake water quality
- 53% Improving water quality around my dock
- 49% Proving better habitat for fish and wildlife
- 36% Increasing the natural beauty of my property
- 33% Displaying a commitment to the environment
- 26% Available financial and technical assistance
- 23% Setting an example for other lake residents
- 14% Savings on landscaping/maintenance costs
- 13% Increasing my privacy
- .004% Other: education

### **Comments:**

- I would not!
- Leave our property alone. It has been just fine for 19 years.
- Lower lakeshore taxes
- Already have in place.
- Improve shoreline for availability to not have muck on lake bottom
- Nothing would.
- None. We do NOT want those ugly buffer zones of native plants. And again, why allow a boat house (it is only 2 years old) right at the water with floating dyed mulch.
- What do you mean? If it is buffer zones, nothing, no motivation what so ever for this practice
- in return for money
- Nothing would motivate us. We have been on Bone Lake for 35 years. The lake is fine. Leave it alone and the Assoc. should turn its resources to lowering property taxes. What good is a weedless, no fish, sprayed out lake if you can't sell it or afford to live there!!
- I already have on the land our house is on. The lake access lot is shared so I don't have much control over that.
- We do this already
- I do pull weeds for swimming, but would not consider that as "maintaining and opening" to navigate a boat per se.
- We already have one
- Probably all to a degree
- Farm Runoff is the problem. I have been on the lake many years. I don't see anyone around me fertilizing. We cut grass only when needed. I suppose you want all the trees on the lake cut down so the leaves don't float down into the water.
- Stupid question
- None
- Nothing - I have great water quality with natural vegetation along the shore.

### **19. What would most encourage you to seek assistance for controlling runoff from your Bone Lake property? (Choose 2) (% Responses checked out of 264 surveys returned)**

52% A property tax rebate

30% Technical assistance that would evaluate my property for water quality concerns

28% Technical assistance that would identify appropriate practices to install

19% A cash incentive payment

18% Financial assistance that pays a portion of practice installation costs

17% Technical assistance that would explain how to install practices

8% Landscapers available for practice installation

.007% None

### **Comments:**

- Re: A Cash incentive payment "? Bullshit"
- Don't know about the problem. Need education.
- I do not believe there should be any financial, tax rebates or cash incentives to encourage people. Water Quality is a team effort of which we all reap the benefits. It's like recycling garbage, we all win. Due to this, I believe education is the key. Technical assistance will help people who want to help improve water quality but does not know how. Also fertilizers should not be allowed within so many feet of shoreline.
- Already do this
- What do you want our property to flood during the rainy season?
- Already have in place.

- Need more info
- Nothing
- None, if it means adding ugly vegetation
- What do you mean by or how be specific with these questions!
- If really is needed.
- Relating to existing ordinance.
- The land my house sits on is over 1000' from the lake and has been inspected and passed erosion control standards and is 99.9% wooded and undisturbed. I am in no way interested in anyone nosing around my property and will vigorously prevent anyone from doing so (within legal limits, of course).
- Also concerned about runoff from Township and County
- We have very limited run of from our property
- I bag my grass.
- Nothing
- Make it BIG \$
- Where would the money for these come from? The Taxpayer!!!

## 20. What water quality practices below sound potentially of interest to you?

(Check all that are of interest) (% Responses checked out of 264 surveys returned)

37% Runoff reduction practices

36% Native flower plantings

33% Natural shoreline restoration

31% Buffer zone

16% Rain garden

10% Infiltration system

8% Water diversions

6% Infiltration pit or trench

.007% None

### **Comments:**

- = Don't know what they are.
- Would like more information; don't know what some are
- I don't know what many of these are.
- I want a beautiful lawn & beautiful lakefront!
- I am unaware of these practices (ignorant)
- Can't answer. Need more education in some areas.
- Let the weeds grow. They are native and good for our fish.
- I am not sure what any of these practices are!
- We are set; have buffer, natural shoreline & infiltration system
- Already have in place.
- Not knowledgeable on any
- Need more info
- Not sure what some of these are
- Nothing
- Don't know
- We are not certain what these various practices entail.
- Leave the lake alone!
- Re: Runoff reduction practices - By the Township - County. Too much silt/soil running into Bone Lake.
- Explain rain garden
- ? No explanation what each one is.

- Too much GOVERNMENT. This is a perfect example.
- Rip Rap Shoreline

**21. Are you familiar with recent (2007) revisions to the Polk County Shoreland Ordinance?**

(Circle one)

Yes 16%                      No 78%                      No Answer 7%

**Comments:**

- Next time you have a hearing do it in the summer. Instead of trying to sneak an agenda through when no one is around to vote on it.

**22. How do you prefer to get information from the Bone Lake Management District? (Check one)**

(% Responses checked out of 264 surveys returned)

88%      Newsletter

18%      Web site

11%      Annual meeting

6%      Other - Email

3%      Signs

2%      Newspaper

.003%      Other - More meetings

**Comments:**

- More than one meeting per year.
- We think Mr. Murphy, and others like Mary Diliregherty are doing a lot to help keep the lake property owners & residents up to date with all of the issues around our beautiful Bone Lake. Thank you all!
- Otters (we've seen them) are raising havoc on our property (large area. Smashed our flowers & greenery -- also some erosion. Their droppings cause dead spots & stink really bad. Nobody seems to have a solution. Can you advise? Is there a repellent? We've found none. Al & Vera Kolgerg 953/890-7669
- Mkjohnson1921@comcast.net
- Overall comment: I had spray service this year (again) but, the weed around & beyond my dock were the worst ever, interfering with boating and fishing
- The only thing I do is fish. I would like to see Jetskis & water skiers have a time they can do these sports. From early morning to well after sunset some water skiers & Jet skis are on 'n about never giving a break to fish in peace (10AM-6PM maybe).
- Answers on this survey are based on the fact that Curley Leaf Paid Weed IS an invasive weed according to the DNR agent I spoke with.
- "Urban Building Codes" - what happened to enforce these. Maybe Bone Lake Mgt. Should look into this. How about trying to stop all the building of garages that house people so that the people paying taxes can feel that it is fair. We have way too many people that have a shit load of people come up on weekends & Holidays that tear up our shorelines with thier jet boats & speed boats because their family built a garage that is really another house!!This needs to stop!
- What is the website?
- Newsletter is best of available options. All communications lack useful information on lake mgmt + protection issues. Website is poorly designed + content is limited. All communications need improvement.
- Why don't you put a summary of changes in a newsletter?
- Special mailings
- If kept current (referring to website)
- Bone Lake was sprayed out years ago and became a Dead Sea to the fisherman. It is JUST starting to come back to where you can catch a fish. We DO NOT want any more spraying of the Lake! Joe & Kathy Tschida.
- Email- Alan@wernke.com or [Dorene@wernke.com](mailto:Dorene@wernke.com)

- Signs at landing stating no power loading of boats: power landing destroys the landing and pollutes the land
- Email updates would be great.
- Concerned about abundance of snail shells-so many, not walk able w/o shoes. Also causes swimmers itch; use to be able to swim in front of property when we bought our lot 20+ year ago but not anymore because of increased weeds
- Please keep Phil foster group. Doing great job maintaining the lake- keep it up!
- Note: the newsletter only comes to one of us
- Is there a web site?