



Bone Lake Newsletter

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

FALL 2016

WATERFRONT RUNOFF MITIGATION



Cardinal flower, *Lobelia cardinalis* is a popular choice for native plantings. The flowers attract hummingbirds.

A native planting for the Nelson’s “Lykkebo”

by Mary Chorewycz

On the east shore of Bone Lake, across from Bald Eagle Island, in front of a house painted Scandinavian red, along the shoreline of a property planted with numerous fruit trees, is a remarkably beautiful 10X35 native planting that was installed in 2015.

Jan Nelson decided to have this native planting installed last year for a number of reasons. She had reflected on the information she had acquired about waterfront runoff in previous editions of this newsletter, along with other articles on healthy lakes, and wanted to reduce runoff from her yard into the lake.

Jan and her late husband, Dave, had always tended their property in a manner that, to quote Jan, “shows respect for the lake,” and this planting would extend that deliberate effort. She then determined that she might as well take advantage of Bone Lake’s DNR grant money that would greatly reduce her costs to improve her property.

Jan selected Dragonfly Gardens to provide the plants that would be in the native planting and to do the installation along her shoreline.

Jan is very pleased with the results. She and her neighbors appreciate the colors of the flowers and the swaying of the plants in the wind. Jan enjoys receiving compliments from people who boat past or walk through her property. Her daughter-in-law found the planting so lovely that she has made greeting cards using photos of it.

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www.bonelakewi.com



The Nelson family cabin, framed by their 10X35 native planting installed in 2015.

Dear Bone Lakers,

The annual meeting was well attended this year with 127 ballots being distributed to District members who signed in. Two commissioners were re-elected, Alex Chorewycz and Karen Engelbretson. The commissioners held a brief meeting following the meeting to elect officers for the coming year: Robert Murphy, Chairman; Phil Foster, Vice Chairman; Karen Engelbretson, Secretary; Alex Chorewycz, Treasurer; and Mike Musial, Member.

The commissioners lead various committees or coordinate the large group of volunteers who give

so generously of their time to improve our lake. Our Comprehensive Lake Management Plan is directed by Phil Foster, the Waterfront Runoff committee is chaired by Alex Chorewycz; Communications committee and Wildlife and Natural Beauty committee are chaired by Karen Engelbretson; and Boat and Water Safety is chaired by Mike Musial.

As a District member, you are well served by these volunteers who donate many hours of their time performing the required tasks to manage the District organization, and also by our committee chairs Bob Boyd, Mike Belich, and Ann Miller. There are more opportunities for volunteers if you are interested. Contact any commissioner for more information.

All of the activity has helped in improving the lake. We have kept Eurasian Water Milfoil out of our lake. Our water quality has improved. We have a long way to go to reach our lake management plan goals, but we have started the journey. Not least of all we have created an awareness of what can be done to improve Bone Lake for recreation, for fisheries and wildlife, and for future generations' enjoyment. ■ —Bob Murphy, Chairman

Find minutes of the Bone Lake 2016 annual meeting and commissioner meetings at bonelakewi.com/administration.

BONE LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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Website: bonelakewi.com
Facebook: BoneLakers
#bonelakewi

Bone Lake water data:
dnr.wi.gov/lakes/clmn/

Seduced by the Glow

We all know that insects are drawn to light quite literally like a moth to a flame. But new research shows swapping your outdoor lights for warm-colored LED lights attracts fewer insects than compact fluorescent lights, halogen globes, incandescent lights or yellow “bug lights.” Also, warm LED lights scatter less intense light into the atmosphere than blue LED lights, reducing light pollution and its effects.

Source: <https://aaas.confex.com/aaas/2016/webprogram/Paper17736.html>

Keep in touch

Subscribe to Bone Lake eNews! Get Bone Lake updates between newsletters and 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.com.

The Bone Lakers Facebook group page has more than 400 members sharing photos, events and news about life around the lake. To join, go to facebook.com/groups/BoneLakers.

The Bone Lake Newsletter is published biannually for its members by the Bone Lake Management District, Polk County, WI. For reproduction rights, content suggestions and submissions, contact the editor.

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ADVERTISING COORDINATOR This paid position is open. Contact the editor if interested.

How are aquatic plants managed in Bone Lake?

A number of questions were raised at this year’s annual meeting, and afterward on the Bone Laker’s Facebook page, about Bone Lake’s aquatic plant management. The District board invited our consultant, Cheryl Clemens, Harmony Environmental, to address some of those questions.



How is aquatic plant treatment decided?

Aquatic plant management is regulated by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and guided by the Bone Lake Aquatic Plant Management Plan (2013). The plan is found at bonelakewi.com.

Where are aquatic plants being treated?

The plan includes provisions for managing aquatic plants directly in front of individual residences, in common navigation corridors, and in dense areas of the invasive plant curly leaf pondweed. Curly leaf pondweed was treated in seven treatment areas where there is dense growth which totaled about 30 acres in 2016.

Does the treatment plan ever change?

Additional treatment areas are being considered by the District board for future years. However, treatment areas are chosen carefully because in some conditions, such as where there are steep drop offs, CLP treatment has not worked well. A plan update is required by 2018, and we will seek public involvement in this process the winter of 2017/18.

Why can't I treat the plants in front of my property?

Navigation must be severely impaired in order for control of any native plants to occur. This change occurred in a DNR policy implemented in 2007. Residents may remove native plants in an opening up to 30 feet wide with hand removal methods such as rakes. Residents may also hand pull curly leaf pondweed along the entire length of their property. Mechanical and chemical treatment of plants by residents is not allowed.

Why can't we treat the CLP in the northwest corner?

The Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission reviews aquatic plant management permits. In the past they have objected to and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has not allowed treatment near the northwest corner of Bone Lake because wild rice grows nearby. ■

A true conservationist is one who knows that the world is not given by our fathers but borrowed from our children” —John Audubon

Invasive zebra mussels found in Deer Lake

In September, 2016, a zebra mussel was discovered in nearby Deer Lake and confirmed by lakes biologist Jeremy Williamson, Polk County Land & Water Resources Department.

Zebra mussels, *Dreissena polymorpha*, are an invasive (non-native) species that can compete with native species for food and habitat, cut the feet of swimmers, reduce the performance of boat motors, and impact the ecology of lakes and rivers where they live.

They are small, fingernail-sized animals that attach to solid surfaces in water. Adults are 1/4 to 1-1/2 inches long and have D-shaped shells, often alternating yellow and brownish colored stripes.



MINNESOTA DNR

Time to carefully check your boats, docks and lifts

New zebra mussel infestations are often discovered at this time of year when boats, docks and lifts are being taken out of the water. Check your equipment. If you find anything suspicious, contact Bob Boyd right away at (715) 553-0629, or email boydsnest@lakeland.wisconsin.gov.

To review invasive species prevention steps, go to dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/prevention.html

Why the green water?

by Phil Foster

Recently, several people have asked questions about why Bone Lake water has turned green (more algae) this late summer. So, here is a hypothetical conversation that may answer some questions you may have.

Why did the lake turn green in late summer?

There are two primary reasons. First the hard rains resulted in additional runoff from our watershed and lakefront properties. This runoff carries phosphorus which is the key nutrient for algae growth.

Second, the phosphorus in the lake sediment was released into the upper water area when the lake became mixed, or not stratified. When the lake was stratified in May to July, this phosphorus was held in the lower cold water layer. In mid-August the lake was no longer stratified in the deeper sections of the lake and this phosphorus was released into the upper water layer and provided fuel for a significant algae bloom.

Was this year worse?

Yes. Per our secchi disk readings, August 2016 is the worst year since 2010. One major difference this year was the frequent heavy rains causing the additional runoff.

What is the source of this phosphorus in runoff—people fertilizing their yards?

No, phosphorus has been banned from yard fertilizers, although some people may still be using it. The source of the phosphorus comes from decayed grass clippings, leaves and plants, and the rain itself with phosphorus attaching to dust and particles in the air.

So is all water runoff coming into the lake bad?

Some runoff is worse. Most phosphorus must attach to a particle of some type for it to move. The goal of waterfront runoff mitigation is to either have the water soak into the ground or to reduce the water flow allowing these particles (sediment) to settle before entering the lake.

What are good waterfront runoff practices?

Rain gardens, 10X35 native plantings, keeping an ice berm in place, and lakeshore buffer zones are some of the practices that control runoff. More information on these and other practices are in this newsletter and on our website.

What can be done to keep phosphorus trapped in the lake sediment?

We currently have a lake study evaluating this phosphorus release and hope to have the conclusion and recommendation on possible actions in the next one to two years. This study will give us a better understanding of the phosphorus loading from the lake sediment relative to other sources.

Are there other sources of phosphorus?

The topics discussed here account for 80 percent of our total phosphorus loading (waterfront and watershed runoff 65 percent, lake sediments 15 percent). Additional sources are rain and small particles like dust and pollen that fall directly into the lake (12 percent), defective septic systems (5 percent) and curly leaf pondweed die-off (3 percent).

What causes the blue-green algae and is it worse than the normal algae?

Yes, blue-green algae, also known as Cyanobacteria, is a bacteria that flourishes when the water is warm and enriched with nutrients like phosphorus and nitrogen. It also has a very bad odor.

Is it dangerous to swim when blue-green algae is present?

Yes, humans and pets should refrain from using the water when blue-green algae is present.

So what to do when the blue-green algae is present?

Short term, stay out of the water and wait for it to dissipate. Long term, we need to decrease the phosphorus loading by reducing watershed and waterfront runoff.

So what does the future hold in regard to improving or controlling our algae?

There are some negative variables like predicted climate change resulting in warmer water, and higher boat traffic with bigger waves contributing to lake mixing.

So, we must continue working on what we *can* influence—reducing phosphorus in runoff from our properties. Everyone needs to be doing something. Installing good waterfront runoff practices is very important. ■

Learn more about algae, blue-green algae and other lake topics at the DNR website: dnr.wi.gov/lakes/topics.

Septic Replacement Grant Program

- Are you someone who has never had to pump your septic system?
- Is your system close to the lake or pretty close to lake level?
- Is your system more than 35 years old?
- Do you know what kind of system you have and where it is located?

The answers to these questions may help to determine if you have a non-conforming septic system. A non-conforming system may be loading phosphorus into Bone Lake.

If you are planning to replace your lake home's aging septic system in 2016, you may be eligible for a \$1000 assistance grant. The District has funds available to those replacing a system that meets the county's definition for a "non-conforming" septic system. Over the past few years numerous grants have been awarded in a continuing effort to reduce the amount of phosphorus finding its way into Bone Lake.

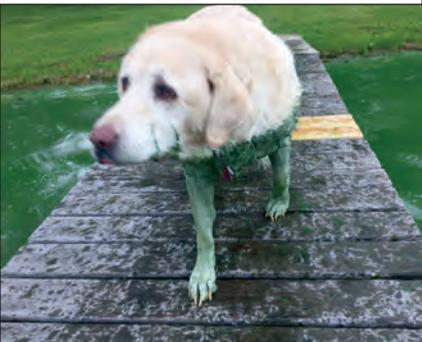
For details on the septic replacement grants contact Richard Mackie at 715-857-5205 or email seesallyrun@lakeland.ws .



PHIL FOSTER

Above: A blue-green algae bloom on Bone Lake.

Below: People and pets should stay out of the water when the lake becomes this green or when blue-green algae is present.



EARL ERDENBERGER

Lake Property Maps

Would you like to see a Bone Lake map listing each property owner's name and contact information? About fifteen years ago the District made this information available in a hard copy map, however, it was obsolete shortly after printing due to property ownership changes.

Now you can find property information which is always current by going to the Polk County website polkcowi.wgxtreme.com. Zoom into Bone Lake and view all the properties around the lake.

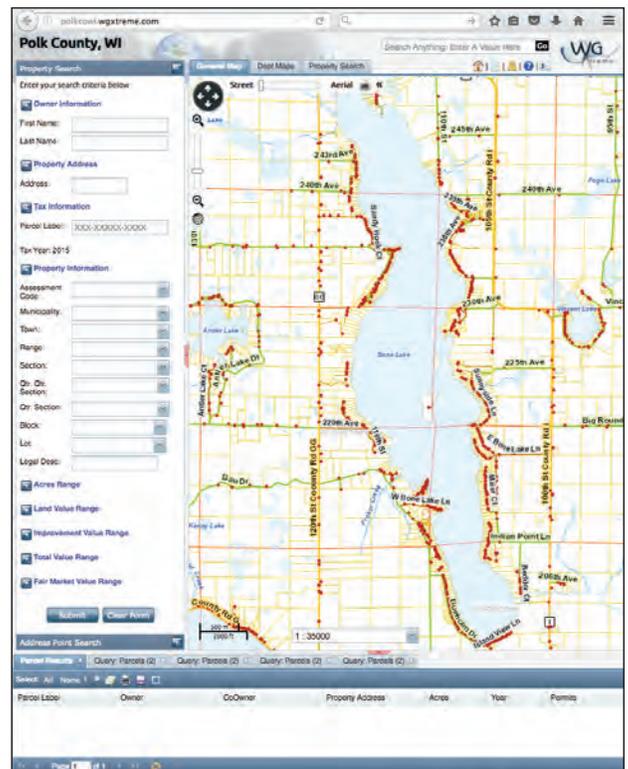
Click on a parcel in the map and the property owner name and lake address will appear at the bottom of the window.

Click on the property owner name and a "Parcels Feature Information" box will pop up.

Click "Report" in that popup box for legal description, property owner address, taxes and other information.

Also, you can search by owner information, property address and other criteria.

The District relies on this information to mail our newsletter and notices to property owners, among other tasks. If you find information that is incorrect, contact the Polk County Land Information office at (715) 485-9279.



continued from front page—

When asked what advice she would give to others who are considering a 10X35 native planting on their property, Jan had two recommendations.

1. Go around and look at others' plantings. (There are now a number of them on the lake.) Determine whether you prefer particular plants and where to locate the planting along your shoreline.
2. Ask your installer for a plant identification chart and then put markers by the plants. This way you will know exactly which plant is flowering. Perhaps you'll want to later add more of your favorite plants.

Jan concluded our interview with this comment. "I am as happy as can be with the planting. The installer was superb." ■

Note: To qualify for grant funding, a native planting must be at least 350 contiguous square feet or larger and at least 10 feet wide and 10 feet long at the shoreline. Plantings can be rectangular, round, square, triangular, kidney- or L-shaped to suit your preferences and your property characteristics, with the goal of reducing runoff to the lake.



The Lykkebo legend

On Memorial Day weekend in 1987, my husband, Dave, and I went to look at a cabin for sale on Bone Lake, and we were smitten. When we closed on the cabin, we noticed the address was Luck, WI, not Balsam Lake.

Back in 1954, Dave and I (we didn't know one another at the time) went with our church youth group for the day to a church member's cabin in Wisconsin. Well, while shopping for furniture for our Luck cabin many years later, Dave and I ran into a person who had the same name as the cabin owner from 1954. We asked him if he had a cabin, and he told us it was on Bone Lake. Here we were owners of a cabin on the same lake where we had first noticed each other over 30 years before. Soon after we moved in, we named the cabin "Lykkebo," Norwegian for "Happy Home."

All of our seven grandchildren, aged 12 to 26, have grown up going to Lykkebo. We planted a fruit tree for each grandchild, each with a stone at the base with his or her name. We all have special memories, and have celebrated many birthdays and holidays. One of our favorites is the

Millie's shore

by Mary Chorewycz

On the southeast shore of Bone Lake sits a cabin owned by a woman determined to do her part in reducing waterfront runoff.

Millie Hartleben contacted me about installing a 10X35 native planting, however, her family couldn't quite agree on this approach to reducing runoff due to the short length of their shoreline. Millie was not going to be deterred, so she considered alternatives.

With the help of lake ice, there was a simple solution for her. She decided not to remove the ice berm that had built up along the shoreline and leave the area unmowed. She was fortunate to find milkweed growing naturally in this narrow swath of land. Having learned that milkweed is essential to support monarch butterflies, Millie was pleased.

Now, along with less mowing, Millie knows she's both helping to improve water quality while enjoying the butterflies that flutter across her lawn.

Swamp milkweed, *Asclepias incarnata*, often appears in unmowed areas along the shore. It supports birds, butterflies and bees.



The Nelson family at Lykkebo.

sunset/dessert pontoon cruise around the lake. In October 2014, we lost Dave to cancer. He spent Labor Day 2014 at Lykkebo and enjoyed it very much. He knew he would not be back. All of us remember Dave's kind and loving presence at Lykkebo.

—Jan Nelson



Barb Asenbrenner Atkinson
East shore by Chaffee Island:

"We loved planting our garden. It was a fun project and makes our lakefront really pretty!"



New 10X35 native plantings along the east shore of Bone Lake

Are *you* ready to help reduce runoff to Bone Lake? Use the reply card included with this newsletter and pledge to get started. Our DNR grant dollars cover free consultation, free technical assistance and 75 percent reimbursement. There are lots of options. Questions? Contact Mary Chorewycz at 715-857-6733.



Ron Amundson
East shore by Chaffee Island:

"Our new shoreline planting. Kudos to Dragonfly Gardens for the planting and thanks to the District for the DNR grant that covered 75 percent of the cost. (The Pampas grass blowing in the breeze was something we planted a few years ago.)"

Big thank you to all Bone Lake Volunteers

by Phil Foster

We continue to be blessed with an outstanding group of approximately fifty volunteers helping to improve Bone Lake for yours and future generation's enjoyment. In 2015, these volunteers worked close to 1400 hours – almost equivalent of a full time job.

At our annual meeting in August, we gave five awards to individuals/couples for their volunteer contributions over the past years and to two individuals for their service to our lake. Each received a ceramic serving platter handcrafted by a local artist with an outline of Bone Lake.

Volunteer awards

Cris and Lyn Dueholm have been active in number of areas. Cris is a member of the Wildlife and Natural Beauty committee and the Waterfront Runoff committee. Lynn does Bone Lake water testing and they both are lake monitors.

Roses and Mike Gray have been on the Bone Lake Social committee since it started about twelve years ago.

Kathy and Tim Killeen have been doing lake monitoring since the program began. Lake monitors check for new invasive species during the summer months by throwing and retrieving a rake in the water and examining the plants they collect.

Don Langel, member of the Luck Lions Club, is the dedicated caretaker of the North Landing.

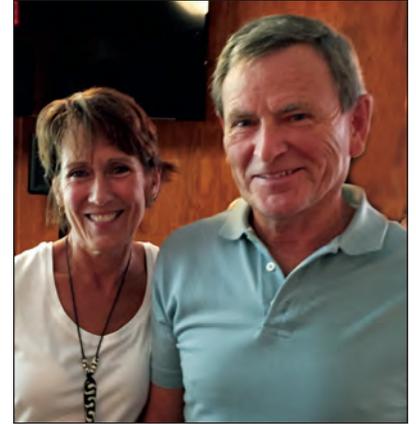
Bob and Sherri Singer are active in the Social committee which Sherri chairs. Bob is also is on the Waterfront Runoff and Watershed committees.

Service awards were given to Pat Schmidt and Cheryl Clemens

Pat was our prior County Supervisor serving on the District's Board and is a real advocate for all the local lakes.

Cheryl has been the District's consultant for the past ten years and has been extremely helpful in providing input and guidance to the District board, the various committees, and to property owners toward achieving our goals.

We could use new volunteers in all our committees. Contact information is on page 2 of this newsletter, and at bonelakewi.com, or contact me at 715-857-5304 or philsuefoster@lakeland.ws. ■



Clockwise from top: Roses and Mike Gray, Sherri and Bob Singer, Kathy and Tim Killeen, Cheryl Clemens and Patricia Schmidt, Don Langel, Cris and Lyn Dueholm.

PHOTOS: PHIL FOSTER

Winter wildlife around Bone Lake

by Cris Dueholm

On early on winter mornings, I see the birds lined up for a drink and notice the bird bath lost a lot of water overnight. When it's below zero, water evaporates quickly. We fill it right away so the birds and squirrels will have their morning drinks.

Don't the birds freeze when taking a bath in winter? It's a question I'm frequently asked about maintaining a heated bird bath in the winter. I find the birds do more drinking than bathing.

Fresh open water can attract birds you don't often see at feeders. As sunset approaches everyone is jockeying for position to get that evening drink in before retiring. Just make sure you keep your heated birdbath clean; we put in a small piece of copper tube year round, wire brushed clean, so we don't get a large algae build up.

I watch the wildlife through my telescope and see a single coyote go across the lake from Rest Point to Indian Point. It stops, looks, listens and then sits for awhile to watch the activity among the ice fishing shacks. When it reaches the bank, it finds a stick to play with—jumps on it and tosses it in the air, carries it a short distance to play all over again. Later on it might show the same behavior with its dinner—mice and other small rodents. The ice anglers hardly notice.

The lake has enough "hot spots" for winter fishing and many areas fill quickly with some sort of fishing shack to spend time in. We watch some of them being moved frequently because, it seems, the grass is always greener on the other side of the fence!

As the plows move the snow for those of us who stick around, we see deer and turkeys using the road in addition to the paths they make in the woods and fields.

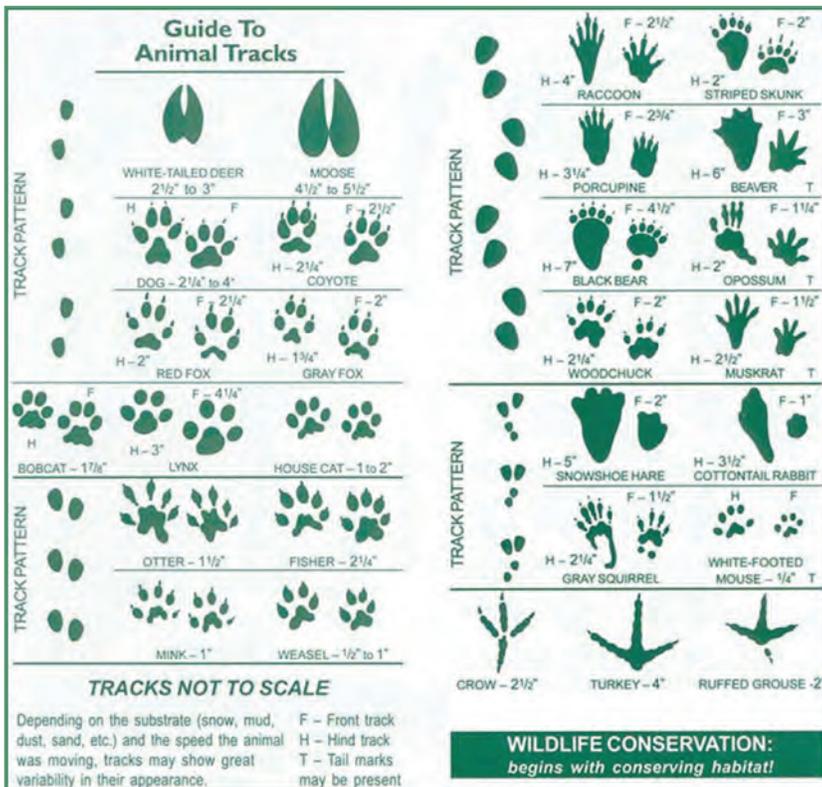
The turkeys are now in large groups, feeding during the day on fruits, nuts and maybe a stray bug or two. When the snow is too deep to scratch they will eat hemlock buds and evergreens. You will also see them eating the grit on the side of the roads as this is needed to aid in their digestion, as it is with all birds. At night they fly up into the trees to roost. The groups are larger at this time of the year because it's not time to breed and larger groups also mean safety. That little coyote would like a tasty meal of turkey.

The deer too are in larger groups and when walking along their paths through the woods you will see where they have browsed the tender tips of smaller trees and shrubs. When winter gets bitterly cold, or the snow gets deep they will strip the bark from trees. You may even find a flattened area in the snow or grass where the deer

have bed down for the night. I don't usually see any deer crossing the lake at the south end. They don't have enough cover to hide and their hooves find it slippery on the ice and snow.

I see an eagle gliding on the wind drafts and land near its nesting area on the lake's edge to get a drink from the springs that keep the water open there. I've seen them bring their immatures here to teach them to bathe and drink.

When early February comes around it's time for the eagles to start nesting, lay their eggs and raise their next brood, and my thoughts turn again to spring. ■



Use this little guide to help identify tracks around your property and out on the frozen lake this winter. A wide variety of comprehensive field guides to animal tracks are available by region and species.

Last Look...

Bone Lake offers a multitude of recreational activities for property owners and visitors alike. Whether you enjoy fishing, tubing, water skiing, wake boarding, sailing, relaxing in the sun on the sandbar or in the shade of the big island, mastering a stand up paddleboard, or indulging a need for speed on your jet ski, you have the right to a safe and enjoyable experience on the water.

To ensure this experience, you are legally obligated to know the federal, state and local regulations that apply to your watercraft and its use on the waters you navigate.

It is also your obligation to have the safety equipment

required by law, to keep it on board and in good condition, and to know how to properly use it.

It's up to each of us to act responsibly on the lake and to educate our families, children and visitors in lawful, respectful boating practices. Let's make sure Bone Lake is a safe place for everyone to enjoy the water and all its opportunities.

Anyone born on or after January 1, 1989 is required to complete a boating safety course to legally operate a motorized boat or personal watercraft (PWC) on Wisconsin waters. DNR recreational safety specialists recommend all boat operators complete a safety course.

Here's a last look at some summer fun. Four boats participated in the 2016 Fourth of July parade co-sponsored by the Bone Lake social committee and Wilkins. The Hillary/Trump boat took first place.

PHOTOS: KAREN ENGELBRETSON



Before you burn, check fire conditions and burning restrictions.

Check this website for up-to-date, daily fire conditions, burning guidelines, and the burning permit process: dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestFire/restrictions.asp

To check for daily fire restrictions by phone, call 1-888-WIS-BURN (1-888-947-2876) and enter Polk County code 49.

Find a fire warden: dnr.wi.gov/topic/forestfire/emergFireWardens.asp

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.

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