



# Bone Lake Newsletter

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

SPRING 2015

BONE LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN



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Comments? Suggestions?  
Contributions? Contact  
[karen@kje.com](mailto:karen@kje.com)

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

## ICE OUT DECLARED

After a careful review of evidence, 2015 ice out occurred at precisely 6 p.m. on April 6th.

### Ice out contest winners:

- First place: Dolly Schmidt  
4/6 12:06 p.m.
- Second place: Ann Fisher  
4/7 2:00 p.m.
- Third place: Judy Gammel  
4/5 2:45 p.m.
- Fourth place: Jim Widen  
4/5 2:00 p.m.

—Bob Boyd

## Making progress, but Bone Lake still at risk

**W**e have made some really good progress on our Lake Management Plan (LMP) over the past five years. This newsletter contains a summary of the key activities, results from our committees, and suggestions for how you can contribute.

As you recall, we established the lake's first LMP in 2009 and received a \$200,000 DNR grant to fund most of its activities. The 2009 LMP has now expired and the grant is complete with dollars invested in lake improvements.

**THE BAD NEWS.** Despite our progress over the past few years, Bone Lake is still at risk for poor water clarity. Our core sample study results indicate high phosphorus levels in our lake sediments which contribute to algae growth (see page 3).

**THE GOOD NEWS.** We have a new LMP drafted with updated goals and have received a new \$200,000 grant to implement it. The plan also addresses concerns from our 2013 property owner survey: lack of water clarity, unsafe boating, fisheries improvement, loss of natural beauty and wildlife, threats of invasive species and excess plant growth (the latter two are included in our Aquatic Plant Management plan).

Bone Lake committee volunteers and our consultant have been working over the past five years to design and implement practices that reduce runoff to Bone Lake — runoff that contributes sediment, phosphorus and other nutrients to the water. About seven percent of property owners have implemented one or more of these practices over the past five years or had taken prior action.

Our water clarity has shown improvement recently, some of which is attributed to our management efforts: Curly-leaf pondweed spraying, improved septic systems, and mitigating waterfront and watershed runoff. Yet, Bone Lake is on the Wisconsin DNR's proposed list of impaired lakes in Wisconsin due to our high phosphorus conditions.

It's clear we need to further reduce phosphorus loading in Bone Lake. If we don't, Bone Lake could regress to the high phosphorus levels seen in the 1950s to 1990s, and, according to our consultants, we may never be able to improve it.

***With your help and new grant dollars, threats to our water clarity can be avoided. Everyone can be involved and doing something to help improve Bone Lake!***

A big thank you to the property owners who have installed plantings, improved their septic system, diverted, slowed or stopped runoff from their property.

Thank you also to our fifty-some volunteers who make the LMP happen. Bone Lake is recognized by WDNR as having one of the state's best volunteer organizations, and this definitely helps us obtain grant funding.

You will be receiving a summary of our new LMP in the mail later this month including ways *you* can help. The complete LMP will also be available on our website. Please review our LMP, decide how you will be involved, and provide your comments by May 31, 2015.

— Phil Foster. 715-857-5304. [philsuefoster@lakeland.ws](mailto:philsuefoster@lakeland.ws)

**SAVE THE DATE**  
Bone Lake Annual Meeting  
Saturday, August 8, 2015  
9 a.m., Wilkins

## Hello Bone Lakers,

The April 6th ice out date is earlier than normal and could indicate an early start to the summer season, we hope.

The Board of Commissioners spring meeting was held March 26th. The agenda was full after the winter pause, with discussion on many items.

We discussed the Bone Lake Management Plan (LMP) goals and implementation for the next three-year portion of a longer, likely ten-year period. The mission is to maintain and enhance the health of the lake with clean, clear water, protect and improve the fishery, assure safe navigation, and maintain and enhance Bone Lake's natural beauty and wildlife habitat.

We are blessed with a large group of volunteers working to make all of this happen. There is plenty of

room for more volunteers and we hope more residents will join in. It is because of the volunteers, we have been able to move ahead with the implementation of the plan.

We have received DNR grants which have enabled the implementation process to move forward in a timely manner.

Another area we have addressed is core sampling of the lake bottom. These cores, when analyzed, reveal changes in the make-up of the lake sediments from the 1800s to today. Sedimentation, phosphorous and algae were items studied.

To get a better understanding of the results, Jeremy Williamson, water quality biologist at Polk County Land and Water Resources Dept. gave us a recap of the study and issued a warning that,

***“Right now Bone Lake is walking on the edge of a cliff. Continued management and monitoring will ensure it does not fall off the cliff. However, without management activities, additional nutrient loading could send Bone Lake spiraling into a blue-green algae dominated state which is very difficult to manage, if even possible.”***

I believe each of us should heed his warning and do everything we can to assure this doesn't happen. Having the results from the core samples, gives us the baseline needed to monitor concerns going forward.

Our long time Town of Bone Lake representative Wayne Shirley announced his retirement and introduced Andy Brown as his replacement. Wayne has served on the Board for many years, faithfully attending the meetings and sharing his knowledge and experience. Thanks, Wayne, and best wishes. We hope you enjoy your retirement.

Lastly, be sure to mark your calendars for the annual meeting, Saturday, August 8, 2015, 9:00 a.m. at Wilkins. See you there. ■

—Bob Murphy, Chair

Bone Lake Management District Officers and Commissioners		
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## Keep in touch

**Subscribe to Bone Lake eNews!** Go to bonelakewi.com and click "Join Our Mail List" on the front page. Once you've entered your information you'll get an email confirmation message. *Be sure to reply to the confirmation to complete your subscription, and add enews@bonelake.com to your address book. Signed up but not getting emails? Contact karen@kje.com.*

**The Bone Lakers Facebook Group** has over 100 members sharing photos, events and information about life around the lake. To join, go to facebook.com/groups/BoneLakers. ■

## How has Bone Lake changed over the past 180 years?

To answer this question the District had a sediment core sample taken in October, 2013. We have now received the results. This information will help us identify the best actions to take to improve Bone Lake's water clarity.

The core sample data show how lake sediment and water quality changed from the year 1830 to 2013.

The lake's phosphorus levels have increased most significantly from the early 1900s to 1990 during a time of logging and lakeshore development.

Since the late 1990s, the total phosphorus levels have decreased, likely due to lake management efforts, such as Curly-leaf pondweed spraying and lakefront/watershed runoff reduction practices.

Of most concern is the high levels of phosphorus present in the top 4 cm of sediment. This phosphorus easily enters the water column and fuels algae blooms during periods of internal loading, or when the lake is mixed by wind, boat traffic, and lake turnover.

### **Key takeaways from this core sample include:**

- Bone Lake was not a very clear lake 130 years ago.
- Twenty to fifty years ago the phosphorus levels were very high and the lake was near a blue-green algae dominated state.
- We have made improvements over the past 20 years.
- We must continue to implement runoff reduction practices or the lake will again reach dangerous conditions.
- Our goal to improve our water clarity is achievable with everyone's participation.
- We need further study of the internal loading process.

Toward this latter point, we have started a three-year internal load study which is partially grant funded. This study will increase our understanding of our in-lake phosphorus loading which occurs in late summer, and inform additional management efforts.

The full core sample report is on our website and will be further discussed at our annual meeting on Saturday, August 8, 2015, 9 a.m. at Wilkins. ■

Jeremy Williamson and Mark Edlund with the nearly 2 meter sediment core they recovered from Bone Lake in October, 2013.



PHOTO: BOB BOYD

### **Boating, water clarity and internal loading**

Boating is one of the activities we enjoy most at the lake, yet it has a big effect on water clarity.

Water clarity is important for a number of reasons. It affects the ability of fish to find food, the depth to which aquatic plants can grow, dissolved oxygen content, and water temperature. Water clarity is often used as an indicator of ecosystem health. Water clarity is important aesthetically and can affect property values and recreational use of a waterbody.

#### **How might boats affect water clarity?**

Propellers may disturb the lake or river bottom directly, or indirectly through the wash or turbulence they produce, especially in shallow water. This may affect water clarity by increasing the amount of sediment particles in the water or may cause nutrients that are stored in the sediments, such as phosphorus, to become available for algal growth. Waves created by watercraft may contribute to shoreline erosion, which can cloud the water.

Shallow parts of lakes are the most susceptible to impacts. Depth of impact varies depending upon many factors including boat size, engine size, speed, and substrate type. Few impacts have been noted at depths greater than 10 feet.

Find out more at [wacf.com/boating-impacts](http://wacf.com/boating-impacts).

NOTE: Also see the Fall 2014 issue of *Bone Lake Newsletter* for more about core sampling and lake turnover (page 6).

## Want to help improve and protect Bone Lake? Here's what you can do...

by Alex Chorewycz

### *Some great news...*

As noted by chairman Bob Murphy and Commissioner Phil Foster, Wisconsin DNR has issued a new grant to help us, the owners of property on Bone Lake, to continue our efforts to protect our lake. In fact, WDNR considers improvements in the ecosystem of Bone Lake one of its top priorities.

### *And a warning...*

As you've also read, if we don't reduce runoff from our properties now, Bone Lake could have algal blooms earlier in the year. Green algae would persist throughout the summer into fall. In the heat of summer, incidents of toxic blue-green algae could prohibit most types of recreation, and these unpleasant conditions could forever affect the value of the places we love.

### *Just the facts*

- Runoff from our properties carries sediments and nutrients, like phosphorus, to the lake.
- Phosphorus fuels algae growth.
- Every property contributes runoff and phosphorus to the lake, particularly if nothing has been done to stop it.
- We have the funds to help property owners correct runoff to the lake.

Over the past five years, the District has completed 17 septic system upgrades and 27 waterfront runoff projects, each designed to correct a runoff issue on a particular property. Early evidence from the core sample study indicates these practices are helping to reduce total phosphorus in the lake.

Each project was eligible for financing through a cost share agreement between the property owner, our WDNR grant dollars or District funds, and most owners chose this option. The cost share reduced the owners' out-of-pocket costs and made each project affordable for the property owner. We now have \$50,000 in new grant funds to do even more!

### *The best things you can do immediately are:*

- 1) Have a real interest in protecting our lake; 2) Visit our website, [bonelakewi.com](http://bonelakewi.com), to get more information; 3) Schedule a free, no-obligation site visit by our consultant to get specific ideas and recommendations for your property to help reduce runoff.

### *Please do your part to protect our lake.*

Our new grant will help fund improvements to Bone Lake waterfront properties. Please review the projects below and consider what would work for you. Then contact volunteers Richard Mackie or Mary Chorewycz to get started. ■

### **Septic system upgrades**

BLMD will reimburse the property owner \$1,000 to replace a failing septic system. The District offers five upgrades each year. For more information, or to schedule an inspection of your system, contact Richard Mackie.

**Richard Mackie**

**715-857-5205**

**[seesallyrun@lakeland.ws](mailto:seesallyrun@lakeland.ws)**

### **Runoff mitigation practices**

Projects like these have been installed by your neighbors at locations all around the lake.

#### **10 X 35 foot plantings**

Native plant gardens at the shore help capture runoff and add beauty to your landscape. A variety of plans are available. Reimbursement is 70 percent, up to \$500.

#### **Water diversion and infiltration projects**

Large native planting or buffer, rain garden, rock trench, rock pit, porous pavers, road ditch stabilization, or driveway diversion. For larger projects like these the cost share varies. Average reimbursement was 70 percent of the total project cost in previous years. Rates are planned to increase this year. Testimonials we have received are very positive:

*"So glad we installed the project."*

*"We noticed an increased presence of butterflies, birds and frogs after the planting was installed."*

*"The entire process was very smooth and easy."*

*"The cost-share dollars really helped to make this an affordable project."*

These property owners would love to share their experience with you. Contact Mary Chorewycz. She can answer some of your questions, put you in touch with other property owners, and arrange for our consultant to visit.

**Mary Chorewycz**

**715-857-6733**

**[amchorewycz@yahoo.com](mailto:amchorewycz@yahoo.com)**

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> "...Runoff from the hill and farm behind our cabin that used to flow down our driveway and into the lake, [is now] filtered through a bed of flowers, foliage and underground sand and rocks. While helping preserve the water quality of Bone Lake we've also enhanced the look of our property."

## Watershed projects

by Ann Miller

The watershed projects started in 2010 with testing of water flowing into the lake from various culverts around the lake. As a result of the testing, eight areas were identified as priorities for the watershed committee.

As a committee we discussed the higher priority areas and identified those that were most workable. We next visited with the property owners in each of these areas to examine the property and determine what actions could be taken to help reduce runoff. In the past couple of years the watershed committee has completed the following:

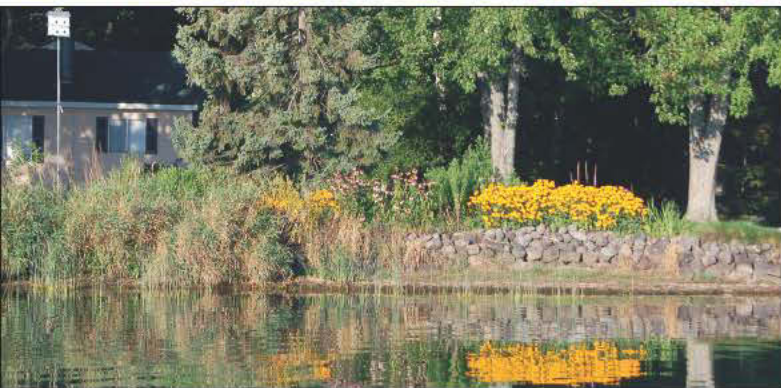
1. On the north side of the lake off of 250th Avenue we worked with the Town of Bone Lake and a property owner to replace a culvert that was undersized.
2. Water and sediment control basins were installed within the intermittent stream on two private properties to the north of 250th Avenue in the fall of 2014. These basins were created with earthen dams across the channel to hold and slow runoff water to allow the sediment load to drop out. Engineering support was provided by Polk County LWRD.
3. A culvert was replaced at 240th Avenue and another on the east side of the lake that was not functioning properly and causing pooling of water.
4. On the west side of the lake, a settling pond was designed and implemented to reduce runoff.
5. Road stabilization project along 239th Avenue.

Property owners are noticing a difference in the flow and runoff as a result of the projects. Here is what one property owner has observed:

*We have seen a significant decrease in the amount of runoff going to the lake. The culvert at the bottom of the hill remains clear whereas before it would fill with debris headed for the lake. We greatly appreciate the efforts of the Bone Lake Management District in planning and funding this project.* — Paul Werner

The watershed committee will continue to monitor results and examine other areas that could be improved to continue to enhance the water quality of Bone Lake. ■

***If you have a stream or waterway coming through your property and are interested in having us review it, please call Ann Miller at 612-867-7872. Thank you.***



10 X 35 foot native plantings like these help capture runoff while they provide habitat and natural beauty around the lake.

BONE LAKE NEWSLETTER, FALL 2013



This large native planting at the shore protects Bone Lake from runoff while leaving plenty of area for activities and recreation at this location.

BONE LAKE NEWSLETTER, SPRING 2013



## Social activities for 2015

On Saturday May 2, our Bone Lake Spring Social was held at Wilkins Resort from 4 to 7 p.m. This was a great time for fellowship and fun with fellow Bone Lakers as we had activities associated with the Kentucky Derby. Sorry if you missed it!

Notices were sent via Bone Lake eNews and posted at the Bone Lakers Facebook group. Access both from our website, bonelakewi.com.

### 4th of July celebration

The boat parade will be held on Saturday, July 4, hosted by Wilkins. Registration, meet and greet will start at 11:30 a.m. at Wilkins. They will have a dock person there to help you. The parade will begin at 1 p.m. and go north along the eastern shoreline. Entries of all kinds are encouraged and prizes will be awarded. If you have any questions, please call Sis Bols at Wilkins, 715-928-0297.

A \$500 donation has been made to Wilkins from the Bone Lake social committee to help pay for this year's parade (the motion passed at last August's annual meeting). In order to have this event in 2016, we will need donations. It's not too early to send your contribution to Bone Lake Social Committee, 1164 250th Avenue, Luck, WI 54853.

Due to lack of donations, there will be no District-sponsored fireworks this year.

### Sunken island party

On Saturday July 18th at 2 p.m. (rain date Sunday July 19 at 1 p.m.) there will be a Sunken Island Party at the sand bar north of the small island. This promises to be a fun time for everyone – families, kids, teens, young and old. Yes everyone! There will be games, prizes and food (bring a finger food to share and your own drinks). Mark your calendar for a great time to meet new friends, hang out and enjoy the company of fellow Bone Lakers. Hope to meet YOU there!

### Fall social event

There also will be an event held in September. More information to come. Watch the Bone Lakers Facebook page and subscribe to Bone Lake eNews for more info or to ask questions. Access both from bonelakewi.com. ■

**Save the date for the Bone Lake Annual Meeting, Saturday, August 8, 2015, 9 a.m., Wilkins**

## Another busy year for the Bone Lake fishery committee

by Bob Boyd

### *Black Crappie Sarcoma*

The Bone Lake Fishery Committee networked with and assisted the WDNR Black Crappie Sarcoma study during the winter of 2014-2015. Samples from infected fish were sent to several laboratories across the country.

To better understand the prevalence of black crappie sarcoma in Bone Lake and track trends over the years, the committee will collect and record crappie fishermen's overall catch, as well as the number and percentage of which appear to show symptoms of the disease. This information will be shared with the WDNR.

Anglers who catch infected fish are encouraged to keep and then discard them on land, but anglers should realize these crappies still count toward their daily bag limit.

### *Smallmouth stocking*

The District has provided funds for a smallmouth bass stocking program in Bone Lake. The Fishery Committee has stocked 12,500 smallmouth bass in the last three years under the guidance of the WDNR. The goal of these stockings is to establish a fishable population of smallmouth bass in Bone Lake. The fishery committee will work with the WDNR to evaluate the success of this project, and also monitor natural recruitment of smallmouth bass in the future.

To better estimate the success of the smallmouth bass stockings in Bone Lake, we will be interviewing bass tournament anglers to collect data on the number and size of smallmouth bass that are caught.

### *Fish habitat*

The committee has installed 80 half log structures throughout the lake. The structures consist of a hardwood log 6-8 feet long and 8-12 inches in diameter that is split lengthwise. The log is anchored to cinder blocks on the underside so that when placed into the lake there is a space between the lake bottom and the structure. The half logs are intended to provide cover for spawning fish and add additional structure for the fish community. Funding for the wood habitat projects has come from our WDNR lake protection grant and from District funds. An additional 80 half log cribs will be installed by the committee over the next three years. ■

## Polk County to purchase LiDAR

Polk County is purchasing LiDAR and should have it in place by spring of 2016, according to Dana Frey, Polk County Administrator. LiDAR will be a huge improvement in aerial mapping and will highly improve efficiency in several departments.

LiDAR, which stands for Light Detection and Ranging, is a remote sensing method that uses light in the form of a pulsed laser to measure variable distances to the earth. The light pulses which are combined with scanner and specialized GPS instrument data, generate precise, three-dimensional information about the shape of the earth and its surface characteristics: latitude, longitude, and height. The points are used to generate other geospatial products, such as digital elevation models, canopy models, building models, and contours.

Low altitude aircraft with the LiDAR sensor and airborne GPS will fly over this spring when leaf-off conditions exist. The data collected will be at one meter space with greater than one point per square meter throughout the entire county.

Polk County can use LiDAR data in various applications and do so right in the office rather than making field trips to the site. Shoreline planning, agriculture planning, forestry management, search and rescue, utility planning, plus many more uses. LiDAR will also assist the County in water quality by clearly identifying sources of runoff. Information will be made available to the public.

The cost will be covered in two annual payments along with a grant from WDNR. Polk County is joining many other counties in acquiring and using LiDAR.

— Pat Schmidt, Polk County District 2 Supervisor

## Karen Engelbretson receives Wisconsin Lakes Stewardship Award



Karen was awarded the prestigious Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Award in the business category at the annual Wisconsin Lakes Convention in Stevens Point last month. This award is given for extraordinary volunteer and professional services made to protect and improve lakes

in Wisconsin. Bone Lake has certainly benefited from Karen's outstanding support as a volunteer and from her graphic design work through her company, KJE Design. Congratulations, Karen, from everyone on Bone Lake. Very much deserved! — Phil Foster

## Simple things you can do to help reduce phosphorus runoff to Bone Lake and nearby rivers & streams

- Use phosphorus-free dish detergent, household cleaners and laundry products; many brands are available.
- Keep leaves, grass clippings and fire pit ashes out of the water, roadside ditches and storm sewer drains.
- Pick up pet waste and dispose of it properly.
- Use phosphorus-free fertilizer in lakeshore areas.
- Divert driveway and roof top runoff to an area where it can soak into the ground.
- Redirect your downspouts away from the lake or to a rain garden.
- Minimize impervious (hard) surfaces like rooftops, walkways and driveways on your property.
- Properly maintain your septic system.
- Plant trees, native shrubs and grasses in place of turf to help capture rainwater and minimize runoff.



PHOTO: ROBERT PELTZ

## Get the lead out

Lead is an extremely toxic element that we've sensibly removed from water pipes, gasoline, paint and other sources dangerous to people. Yet toxic lead is still entering the environment through widespread use of lead fishing tackle and hunting ammunition, poisoning wildlife and even threatening human health.

At least 75 wild bird species in the United States are poisoned by lead fishing sinkers lost in lakes and rivers. Bald eagles, cranes, ducks, swans, loons, geese and other waterfowl ingest lost sinkers and spent lead shot each year, often with deadly consequences. The birds mistake shot and sinkers for food or grit and can die a painful death from lead poisoning, while others suffer for years from its debilitating effects.

It costs more to buy non-toxic tackle and ammunition, and you may have to find alternative sources. Don't you think our birds are worth it? Please get the lead out.

Source: Center for Biological Diversity

# A summary of AIS prevention action at Bone Lake

by Bob Boyd

## Lake monitoring team

Members of the lake monitoring team will be out again this summer. You might see them in their blue shirts throwing rakes into the water and looking at the vegetation that they have brought up. They are looking for any new aquatic invasive species (AIS) and monitoring the spread of Curly-leaf pondweed that we presently have in the lake. They are on the front line of our efforts to detect and or control AIS in Bone Lake.

Without these volunteers and our Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) youth boat inspectors we would not qualify for our AIS grants.



It's simple, no volunteers no money. A number of these folks have been on the lake monitoring team for seven years. We don't have as many volunteers as we started with and we could use more help.

It is a simple task requiring only a couple of hours a month on the water. Training and material is provided. If you have been wondering about how you might help in our efforts to protect Bone Lake, consider joining our AIS monitoring team.

Curly-leaf pondweed, Rusty crayfish, Banded mystery snail, and Chinese mystery snail are present in Bone Lake – all are aquatic invasive species. Let's keep it at four. Call me. Bob Boyd 715-553-0629.

## Curly-Leaf pondweed treatment

Thirty-one acres of Curly-leaf pondweed (CLP) on Bone Lake will be treated again this year. The areas that are being treated will be monitored before and after treatment to evaluate the success of the treatment.

Another focus of the monitoring is to insure that no native plants were harmed by the treatment.

## 2014 North camera results

I-LIDS ran at the boat launch from 5/16/14 thru 10/18/14 and captured 3790 videos. Environmental Security Protection, LLC was able to review 3000 of those videos. There were seven suspect videos documented that showed boats entering the water with some type of plant attached. Most of these were single or small fragments. There were numerous videos where boaters were seen cleaning off their boats prior to entry.

## 2014 South camera results

I-LIDS ran at the south boat launch from 5/16/14-11/12/14 in its first year of installation. It captured 697 videos and 562 were reviewed. It uses solar power with a wireless access point from the neighboring residence. There were no suspect videos at this landing.

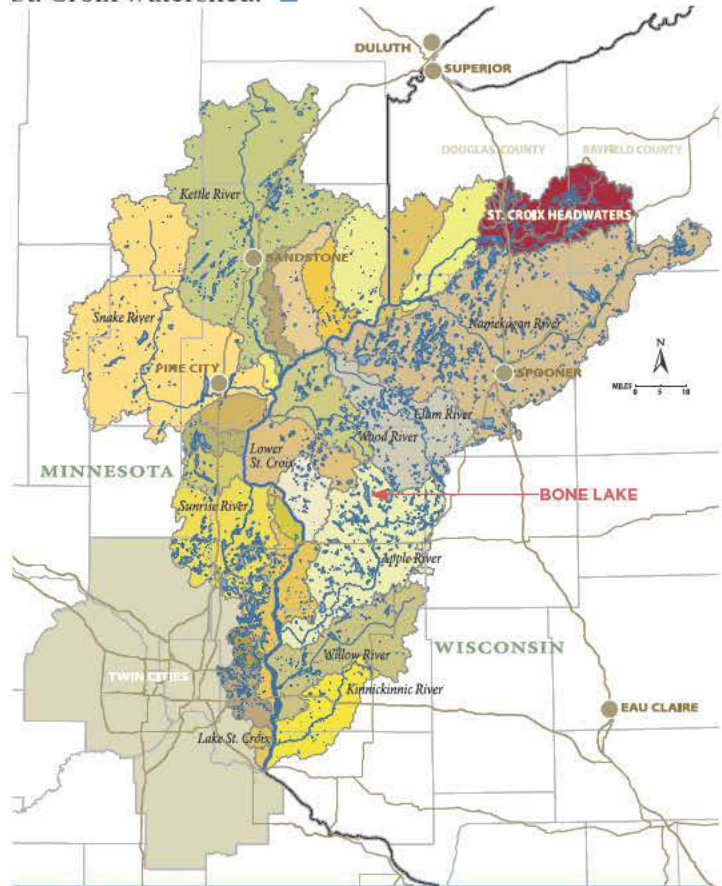
## St. Croix AIS strategic plan

This winter I attended several meetings sponsored by the St. Croix River Association.

By representing the Bone Lake Management District I provided input to assist in developing a strategic plan for aquatic invasive species in the St. Croix River watershed.

Representatives from Minnesota and Wisconsin DNR along with county water specialists attended.

In case you were wondering, Bone Lake is in the St. Croix watershed. ■



The heart-shaped St. Croix River Watershed includes lands in both Minnesota and Wisconsin. Bone Lake is in the Apple River sub-watershed. Fox Creek flows out of Bone Lake and joins the Apple River which meets the St. Croix just northwest of Somerset, WI. All the waters of the St. Croix watershed drain to the Mississippi River.

# Birds around Bone Lake

by Cris Dueholm

**L**ocation, location, location. How many times have you heard that when you were looking for a place to live?

It's not any different in the bird community. You may put up that expensive bird house you just purchased, or the house your children/grandchildren made, right in the spot where you think it would look nice but the birds don't even go near it. Been there, done that! I finally moved it for the umpteenth time and now it's so popular that the swallows use it first and the bluebirds use it for their last batch.

In the winter my nuthatches and woodpeckers think the house is just great on a cold snowy night. It's fun to watch them yawn in the morning as they sit at the hole contemplating the day!

Contrary to popular belief, birds don't smell anything so don't let anyone tell you to buy a certain type of wood. I have cedar and pine houses, unpainted, and they are both popular. I always make sure to clean them out after each use and orient the holes away from the prevailing wind.

Check online or contact me for bird house plans to make sure you have the correct depth and hole size for the bird you want to attract. Also, go to the Cornell website [allaboutbirds.org](http://allaboutbirds.org) to learn more.

There are so many choices of food at the bird store that it can be overwhelming. The birds we get like black oil sunflower seeds the most. Just make sure the seed is fresh. We don't like to eat spoiled food and neither do the birds! Clean your feeders often, especially if you notice birds with eye disease.

Over the past few years I've planted my gardens with natives that the birds like to forage on in fall and over the winter. I plant the most colorful perennials including coneflower, liatris, penstemon, rudbeckia, and cardinal flower just to name a few. Colorful flowers for me, free seeds for the birds!

We feed real beef suet all year as we don't have a bear problem (the suet cakes with seeds tend to attract squirrels). It is fun to watch the adult birds bring the immatures to feed on the nutritious suet. Remember you will have to bring in your feeders and suet at night if you have bears in the area, especially in spring.

We don't always measure but we try to make sure our feeding stations are at least 5-6 feet from the ground and 9-10 feet from a tree or structure. Since we have squirrels, and who doesn't, we put a baffle of some kind on each pole that has a feeder or bird house and then we feed the squirrels and crows in another area.

As for the windows, we've noticed the birds that frequent the feeders know where they are and don't hit them anymore. It's the newbies that might have trouble. A good rule is to place your feeders within three feet or 30 feet away from your house to ensure the birds don't think your windows are a flyway.

You don't need to start big; one feeder, a nesting box or birdbath will start to bring those little treasures in for you to watch. Have fun! ■

Cris Dueholm • 715-857-6733 • [lcdueholm@lakeland.ws](mailto:lcdueholm@lakeland.ws)



A black capped chickadee stops in for a bit of suet. PHOTO: JOHN HAACK



For Clean Water & Lakeshore Habitat

Over eighty percent of U.S. land is in private hands. Around Bone Lake that percentage is even higher. Most of the natural areas our lake needs to be healthy have been taken over by homes and altered landscapes.

We need to share our shore with animals, native plants, and some simple "wildness" to help our lake recover. You may be surprised by how much enjoyment that can bring to you and your family.

Fish and frogs, butterflies, birds, turtles and other wildlife are depending on our lakeshore landscapes for their survival. Let's give them some space.

Financial and planning assistance is available for sharing your shore. See page 4.

## Is it too noisy out there?

There have been many complaints about noise from boats with music on the water and noisy folks on land. Please be considerate of your fellow Bone Lakers and let your visitors know about being "Bone Lake Nice." Remember, noise carries louder and farther on and around the lake and everyone deserves an opportunity for quiet. Before 9 a.m. and around sunset would be good times to observe quiet hours around the lake.

Extra Bone Lake Wildlife and Habitat maps are available. Order at [bonelakewi.com](http://bonelakewi.com). Maps are free with a small shipping charge.

# Upcoming safety classes

by Mike Musial

Classroom boating safety classes are being planned by Polk County Recreation Deputy Jeff Hahn on Saturday and Sunday, July 18-19 from 8 a.m. - noon in Frederic. While the dates are tentative, families can expect confirmation via Bone Lake eNews or by contacting me with questions. Call 612-207-5254 or email [mbmusial@lakeland.ws](mailto:mbmusial@lakeland.ws).

The safety course can also be completed online. For complete Wisconsin boating regulations and registration for the online safety course go to [dnr.wi.gov/topic/boat](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/boat).

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

## Boating Safety on Bone Lake

Please take note of these important Wisconsin boating regulations. They're intended to keep us all safe while out enjoying Bone Lake.

- PWCs may not be operated between sunset and sunrise.
- PWCs may not tow a person on skis, boards or other devices unless the PWC is designed to accommodate at least three people, *and* an observer is on board and facing backward.
- WDNR Water Guards recommend towing only one person.
- PWCs MUST OBSERVE SLOW-NO-WAKE SPEEDS WITHIN 200 FEET OF THE SHORELINE.
- Everyone on a PWC must wear a USCG approved life jacket.
- Anyone born on or after Jan. 1, 1989 is required to complete a boating safety course to legally operate a PWC or motorized boat on Wisconsin waters.
- ALL WATERCRAFT MUST OBSERVE SLOW-NO-WAKE SPEED WITHIN 100 FEET OF SHORE, docks, rafts, piers, or swimmers unless assisting the swimmer.
- A person may not be towed between sunset and sunrise.

Clip and save this notice as a reminder for your family and visitors.

## Bone Lake buoys

Bone Lake's navigation and hazard buoys are placed in the lake each spring before the fishing opener, ice conditions permitting, by commissioner Mike Musial.

Mike uses GPS positioning to get the buoys in the same place every year. Once placed, buoys can move due to wind, boat traffic, high water or other conditions. Sometimes they just disappear!

If you notice a buoy out of place or missing, or have questions, call Mike at 612-207-5254.

## MILLTOWN FARMERS' MARKET BENEFITS MILLTOWN LIBRARY

Milltown Market will be back this year on Saturdays, May 9 through October 24, weather permitting, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the parking lot east of the Holiday Station on Hwy. 35 in Milltown.

Farm-fresh and garden produce, handcrafted wares and art are on sale as well as a variety of products to directly benefit the new Milltown Library project. All vendor fees go to the library.

Direct any inquiries to 715-825-2313 or email [milltown-farmmkt@lakeland.ws](mailto:milltown-farmmkt@lakeland.ws).

Watch for your Lake Management Plan booklet arriving by mail in May.

## Bone Lake Lake Management Plan Committees

Committees are meeting now to plan tactics for the next five years. Be part of the process! Contact the listed committee chair to join the committee(s) you're interested in.

### Waterfront Runoff

Reduce runoff from lakeshore properties  
Alex Chorewycz  
612-868-2947  
[achorewycz@yahoo.com](mailto:achorewycz@yahoo.com)

### Watershed

Reduce phosphorus and nutrient loading from the watershed, the land beyond lakeshore properties  
Ann Miller  
612-867-7872  
[ann.russ.miller3@gmail.com](mailto:ann.russ.miller3@gmail.com)

### Fisheries

Maintain desirable levels of game fish, assess and improve fish habitat  
Bob Boyd and Mike Belich  
715-857-5495  
[boydsnest@lakeland.ws](mailto:boydsnest@lakeland.ws)

### Wildlife and Natural Beauty

Protect and enhance natural beauty, restore wildlife populations and habitat  
Karen Engelbretson  
651-395-0969  
[karen@kje.com](mailto:karen@kje.com)

### Boat and Navigation Safety

Maintain safe navigation  
Mike Musial  
612-207-5254  
[mbmusial@lakeland.ws](mailto:mbmusial@lakeland.ws)

## 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](http://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.

**Reminder:** Burning permits are required for fires other than campfires for warming or cooking. Obtain the annual permit at the above website address or call 1-888-WIS-BURN to have a permit mailed or emailed. Permits are also available at a local Ranger Station, or from a Business Emergency Fire Warden. Find more information here: [dnr.wi.gov/topic/forestfire/emergFireWardens.asp](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/forestfire/emergFireWardens.asp).

## It's Easy to Recycle Around Bone Lake

Cans, bottles (plastic and glass), newspapers, cardboard and magazines can easily be recycled at these locations:

### Georgetown Town Hall

Second and fourth Fridays and Saturdays of each month, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. No dropping off without attendant on duty. Questions? Call 715-483-1088.

### St. Croix Falls

Hwy. 8 across from Menards, any weekday.

### Balsam Lake

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

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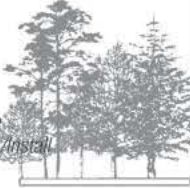
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