

Boone Lake Association
P.O. Box 111
Piney Flats, TN 37686

Membership January 1 – December 31, 2012

THANK YOU TO MEMBERS WHO CONTRIBUTE
GENEROUSLY TO KEEP BOONE LAKE CLEAN

DUES LEVEL:

\$40 Basic Membership

\$100+ Supporter

\$250+ Partner

\$500+ Platinum

\$1000+ Major Sponsor

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PINEY FLATS, TN 37686

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BOONE LAKE ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 111
Piney Flats, TN 37686
www.boonelakeassociation.org

WATCHING THE WATERS
November 2012

BOONE LAKE ASSOCIATION NEWS

BOARD AND COMMITTEE HAPPENINGS

BLA BUDGET

At the end of the third quarter of 2012, BLA's three accounts totaled \$38,372. Of this, the Business Checking account had \$25,826, the Capital Savings account \$9,663, and the Boone Lake Cleanup Day account \$2,883. Accounting for expenses over the next three months, it is likely that at the end of 2012 the three accounts will total approximately \$24,000, compared with approximately \$14,000 at the end of 2011.

We are looking for a 60+HP motor for our newest cleanup boat. The outlay for this will come from the Capital Savings Account.

There should be sufficient funds in the Business Checking account to operate through January and February 2013, until annual membership dues begin to arrive.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Our total membership for 2012 numbered 577 at the end of September. This number includes 40 new members. Unfortunately, about 100 members from 2011 have not yet renewed, making it unlikely that our membership will reach last year's total of 630. (See article on page 7)

We continue to believe that there is power in numbers, that awareness is critical to water quality, and that all Boone Lake Residents/Users should be members of BLA. Overall membership potential is over 2,000. It remains our goal to grow the membership year by year until that level is reached.

WATER QUALITY

Our summer testing for water quality took place from June to September. We tested 18 sites ranging from Bluff City to Austin Springs to Jay's Boat Dock, Davis Boat Dock and Lakeview Marina. All tests for *E.coli* (the recreational standard) came back with good numbers. Please call Ann Harrison (323-3887) if you would like detailed information on the sites and numbers.

Our thanks to the City of Johnson City for their continuing help (testing for *E.coli*) and to C.B. Kinch, Jerry Morie and Ron Siegfried for their work in gathering the samples. Please help the water quality of the lake this fall by NOT PILING YOUR LEAVES ON THE SHORELINE unless you plan to burn them before the water comes up in the spring. Many members gather and burn wood that has gathered on the shoreline when the water is down in the winter. This is a great way to contribute to keeping the lake free of floating debris. Add hot dogs and marshmallows and you have a neighborhood party!

LAKE CLEANUP OPERATIONS

In mid-October, we completed our summer cleanup operations with the two boats. We will continue our ramp cleanup program through the winter, mostly by land. We will keep the work pontoon boat on the water and use it as a "fire truck" equipped with a new 600 gallon per minute pump which has a 100 foot fire hose to put out any fire that gets out of control through our cut, pile and burn program.

We are in the process of receiving quotes for a new motor for the Carolina Skiff bought last year. The 40 horse motor we have on it is not large enough to adequately move the larger boat. Plans are to have it in operation at the spring start up.

Inclement weather time is being used to repair and service the boats. The big job is repairing a hole in the bottom of the Skiff boat, stationed at Jays. A constant beaching to pick up trash takes a toll on fiber glass. We have the talent on staff to do the repair work.

As the water goes down our plans are to clean up our containment areas. The next major cleanup will be Rocky Springs Cove. It has a lot of floating wood which gets into the main stream. The work at the containment areas will keep us busy the rest of the winter.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Board Meeting and Annual Election of Officers and Board Members – Tuesday, Dec. 4 7:00pm
Winged Deer Park Conference Room Members Welcome! (see page 5 for more information)

Boone Lake Cleanup Day – Saturday April 27, 2013

Questions for BLA – boonelakeassociation@gmail.com

2012 Supporter List

THANKS TO ALL OUR MEMBERS

Dues that were received and posted between July 27, 2012 and Oct 30, 2012

PARTNERS \$250+

Tim & Carol Copenhaver/Champion Chevrolet
Dave Kilgore & Laura Bowman/Dave's Discount Tree Service
Kerwin Nelson

SUPPORTERS \$100+

Terry & Julie Elrod
Charles & Linda Gibson
Mike Gordon
David Haaf
Chris & Stephanie Hansen
Alan & Mary Ann Howell

Jim & Alexandria Kalogeros
Thomas McKee
Jeff & Mary Shapiro
Scott & Pamela Smith
Carolyn Ticheor

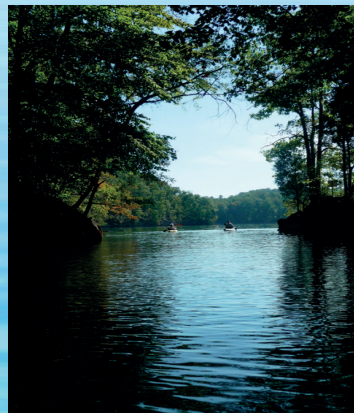
BLA MEMBERSHIP

We are very thankful for all our members, businesses and organizations that support BLA. At the end of September, we had 577 members, down from 630 last year. With approximately 2,000 lakefront property owners and increased numbers of people using the lake, we are always striving to increase membership. Over the past 5 years, here are the things we have done to increase membership:

- Formed a membership committee
- Purchased a laptop and software and developed a database to reach out to potential members and maintain a membership database. This software also gave us the ability to email our membership.
- Visited county governments to develop a list of lake property owners
- Sent prospect letters annually to property owners who are not members
- Developed a power point presentation used for speaking with fishing groups and homeowners organizations
- Developed BooneLakeAssociation.org website
- Encouraged members to talk to neighbors about joining BLA
- Enlisted Neighborhood representatives in several areas.
- Worked with the marinas on soliciting boat slip renters to join BLA

We are always looking for new ways to reach potential members with information on who BLA is and and what we do. It is important that we all work together to ensure the cleanliness and safety of our lake. If you would like to join our committee or have ideas on ways to increase membership, please email us at boonelakeassociation@gmail.com.

2012 Pics



AFTER THE FLOOD

Sunday August 5th brought the heaviest flooding rains to Johnson City in living memory. Houses were swept from their foundations. And much of the trash laying on city streets and creek banks was swept towards Boone Lake.

Knob Creek and Cash Hollow Creek are notorious for bringing trash from the City into the Lake. Even before August 5th there were unprecedented trash slicks in those areas, caused by heavier than normal rainfall. After the flooding of August 5th those slicks tripled in size.

The Knob Creek slick was larger than anyone had seen before. The Cash Hollow slick was smaller, and yet huge by normal comparison.

The Boone Lake Association Cleanup Crew worked on these two slicks for most of the rest of August, assisted by volunteers from time to time. On Wednesday August 8th a team of 19 volunteers assembled on David Kilgore's property (see caption below) with the intent of removing the slick from Knob Creek. They encountered a tangled mess of trees, tires, and man-made debris, all held together by the typical Boone Lake gumbo, a mix of small sticks, grass clippings, leaves, and pond scum. The slick was two feet thick over an area the size of a football field. On that day, hundreds of bags of trash and over 20 large trees were hauled out, but 90% of the slick remained in the water. The Team was worn out. More help was needed.

Additional help arrived on the following Thursday, August 16th. Neighbor Gary Lewis donated his backhoe, and the City of Johnson City brought 15 of their female inmates to the site. The BLA crew pushed the slick towards the bank with their boats, and the backhoe scooped bucket-loads on to dry land. The inmates bagged and hauled the trash (about 750 bags) to Dave Kilgore's trailer and to the dump. The City of Johnson City picked up and disposed of all the wood. By the end of this day, only 10% of the slick remained in the water.

By the end of the following day, again with the help of backhoe and inmates, the job was completed. Dave Kilgore could finally stand on his dock and see water once more. And Boone Lake was spared any further assault.

The Cash Hollow slick was removed the following week with the help of Gary Lewis on his backhoe, and 6 volunteers from BLA. Hundreds of trash bags, tons of wood, and several tires were removed from the water.

Looking back on this experience we recognized that a backhoe working on the shoreline drastically decreases the time needed to clean up massive slicks like these. And all were left wondering when trash slicks on the water would become a thing of the past. "When will we all learn to dispose of all our debris in a responsible way instead of the casual dumping that occurs far too frequently?"

Many thanks are due to the all who participated in these efforts:

- The City of Johnson City - provided wood disposal and 15 female inmates
- Dave's Discount Tree Service-Dave Kilgore, Laura Bowman, Robert Tolley, and Bob Cooley
- Gary & Jenny Lewis
- BLA volunteers: Mary Ann Kinch, Bobby Booher, Bruce Vukodinovich, Dan Nowack, Dennis Scheer, Ron Siegfried, Frank Young, Jay Wise, Dave Fabel, Ken Bronner, Russ Harrison, Charles Rush, Reggie Lett, Joe Crumley,
- BLA Cleanup crew: Joe Tester and Aaron Warren

Property owners Dave Kilgore and Laura Bowman facilitated the cleanup work adjacent to their property at Knob Creek.

The Hunt Farm has been in the family since before the Civil War. Several generations of the family have lived in the house, which is essentially the same as it was then, according to pictures which have been found in the chicken house, the attic and various other places. Laura represents the current generation of the Hunt family. She and David Kilgore were married in 2003. David moved his tree service business (Dave's Discount Tree Service) from Chattanooga and he and Laura, who works as a surgical technician at JCMC, moved into the old farmhouse.



In the 1950's, Boone Lake was created and it backs up to the Hunt property and joins Knob Creek which runs behind the house. Laura and David soon set about building a dock on their property on the lake. They enjoy fishing from their dock and boating in the summer. They also enjoy the wildlife in the area – ducks, otters, fishing birds, deer, turkeys, and many other animals and plants.



Litter Containment Projects

In the past three years, we have completed three litter containment projects on Beaver Creek and they have been shown to be extremely effective. We have had numerous reports of how clean the lake is of floating trash. We are still exploring more sites on Beaver Creek.

In the interim, we have focused our attention on the Watauga side of Boone Lake. We have had several members with property on the shoreline of Boone Lake report they have had pockets of trash floating by every evening. The Boone Lake Association (BLA) investigated this report. We did find an island up the river from the Austin Springs Bridge that entraps all floating litter. BLA crew member Aaron Warren has been assigned the task of cleaning this island.

A few weeks ago, Frank Young and I explored the length of the Watauga River into Elizabethton and also the Doe River leading out of Elizabethton towards Roan Mountain. While there were no businesses directly located on the Watauga River like there are on



Beaver Creek (e.g. Wal-Mart; Sam's Club; Lowes), we did observe two sites. We found a dump site under the bridge at Valley Forge. Secondly, we observed that the highway (RT 67) leading from Elizabethton to Shady Valley was totally littered. This is the result of drivers throwing their trash out of their cars.

That same day, Gary Barrigar (Boone Watershed Partnership-Past President) took Frank and me to a TVA trail site on the Watauga River. It is only accessible by a ½ mile trail, downhill. The 100-200 yard site on the river was extremely trashed. It appears that the river, when TVA generates, carries all floating trash

onto the banks into low lying areas and also into a shallow cove.

We called the Elizabethton Police Department as directed by Gary Barrigar. In the past, they have been extremely helpful with river/stream cleanups and general trash pickups. Sargent Roby Fritz stated he would take care of the dump site under the Valley Forge Bridge and contact the person at the prison who is in charge of highway trash pickup for Stony Creek. He also put me in contact with John Huber. John is in charge of taking the prisoners to specific sites for trash pickup. The very next day, we met John and the crew at the Watauga River site. Frank Young, John's crew and I picked up over 60 bags of trash, some tires and miscellaneous items and carried them up the trail. It took their truck and my truck to haul all the trash away. The site looks great.

The Boone Lake Association and The Boone Watershed Partnership would sincerely like to thank the Elizabethton Police Department, especially Sargent Roby Fritz and John Huber, for all their efforts.



Ron Siegfried

REVISIONS TO THE BLA BY-LAWS

The By-Laws of the Boone Lake Association have been recently revised. This summer, Ron Siegfried led a committee of four - Ron, Frank Young, Jill Kaufman, Dennis Scheer- through a series of meetings which led to the finished product by the end of August.

The revision was unanimously approved by the BLA Board of Directors at their September 4th meeting.

Some of the revisions were due to out-dated clauses in the old By-Laws, such as the change of our Fiscal Year to match the calendar year. Others were caused by a desire to improve BLA's organizational structure, and to ease the transition of Board Members and Officers into different roles within the management structure.

For example, instead of one Vice President, in future years there will be a First and a Second Vice President. And instead of five Board Members, there will be between six and nine Board Members.

A slate of Officers and Board Members reflecting these changes will be voted on at our Board Meeting on December 4th at Winged Deer Park, starting at 7pm.

Many thanks to Ron, Frank, Jill, and Dennis for all their hard work producing this revised document.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING CHANGES

Due to the declining attendance at our Membership Meetings, the BLA Board has decided to discontinue them at this time. We realize that some members will be disappointed with this decision. This decision could be reconsidered in the future if increased interest is expressed and if we have volunteers willing to organize the meetings.

Our thanks go to Dennis and Wanda Willingham who have given us many entertaining and informative meetings over the years.

This December, there will be an “expanded” Board Meeting on Tuesday, December 4th, at 7:00pm in the meeting room at Winged Deer Park. Normal monthly business activities will be carried out along with a presentation and voting on the 2013 Slate of Officers and Board. As always, all members are invited to attend.

Anyone who attends this meeting is asked to bring “finger food” to share and enjoy during the meeting. Soft drinks and utensils will be provided.



Elizabethton Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements

(EXCERPTED FROM the JOHNSON CITY PRESS, MONDAY, SEPT 17, 2012)

The city of Elizabethton has \$4.374 million in construction projects set to start or already underway. These include \$2.8 million for a 3 phase waste water project that includes replacing dewatering equipment at the waste water treatment plant. A side part of that project is to bring into operation a spare oxidation ditch.

Johann Coetzee, Elizabethton Utility Director, said those projects will replace equipment installed in 1987 “that has outlived its design lifespan by about a decade”. The other portion of the project will replace some 1970’s era technology. It will also speed up the process.

Another part of the project is to replace the Lions Field Pump Station, which has been in operation for 40 years. He said that project has the added benefit that it will bypass another pump station, so the City will not have to pump the same waste water twice.

A separate waste water project is to refurbish and rebuild a section of the sewer system on the East side of town. It is

being funded with a \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant with a \$75,000 match. Coetzee hopes to qualify for two more block grants in the coming years to completely replace the sewer system in East Side. The first phase will concentrate on Walker and Riverview streets. . (Note: The effluent from the Elizabethton WWTP flows into the Watauga River and then into Boone Lake.)

A project on the water side is the bypass line to Hampton Springs. This will replace some of the City’s oldest lines. The water source provides more than half the city’s water supply.

More than half the city’s water supply is being lost to leaks, and a new team has been organized to find and repair as many of those leaks as possible. The team is just another example of how the water and waste water employees of Elizabethton are working for a more efficient and streamlined operation.



Johann Coetzee, Board Member of the Boone Watershed Partnership, and valued friend of Boone Lake and Boone Lake Association

Bass Fishing on Boone Lake



C.B. Kinch

Lake levels and water levels are dropping in mid-October so fishing is picking up.

In the daytime hours bass are biting small crank baits. Specifically the 200 series bandit, preferably with an orange belly. River rock banks seem to be the best spots.

Night fishing is also good for bass, utilizing spinner baits, crank baits, and pig-n-jig.

Spotted bass have been caught around docks and boat houses during night and daytime fishing. Stripers and hybrids have started breaking early morning hours and late in the evening. Two good spots seem to be around Buddy’s Beach (Watauga side) and Candy Creek (Holston side).

As the water levels continue to drop, be careful with underwater islands popping up all around the lake.

