



### *Letter from your 2019 Board President*

My term as President of the Boone Lake Association ended with the tolling of the New Year.

Your Association has continued to strengthen during the past year. Our financial position has improved, and the number of contributors is slowly coming back to pre-drawdown levels; but we have a long way to go.

The Board worked to address water quality, to revamp our lake operations, to solidify and expand our contributor base, to improve our social media presence, and to manage the day to day functions of keeping the organization smoothly moving forward.

Finally, after 18 months of diligent effort your Association has taken the first step to automate the clean-up process by selecting a Trash Skimmer to be used on the Watauga side of the Lake.

We could not have done any of this without the support of our contributors and volunteers. Please don't stop thinking of Boone Lake and how you can help keep this unique resource at the fore of the gateway to the Appalachian Highlands.

With Deepest Appreciation,

Val Kosmider  
(Outgoing) President

### *Letter from your 2020 Board President*

To concerned and supportive members of our Boone Lake community, I will try to play a small part in keeping the Association afloat in 2020 by serving as president. Year 2019 was very busy and a lot got done by a hard-working crew and a hard-working Board of Directors. There is still work left to do to get the Johnson City/Washington County supported trash skimmer purchased and working on the Watauga River side of the lake. Even more work needs to be done to get the Sullivan County municipalities to support us by funding a skimmer for use on the S. Holston side of the lake.

Most recently we have worked diligently to embrace the "Regionalism" concept by working with the Counties and Communities surrounding Boone Lake. In January we will hold a discussion with local politicians and TVA to educate and inform on the value which Boone Lake brings to the area. Needless to say, the impact to the Region is substantial.

There are currently fewer than 10 volunteers doing all of the work of the Association as Board and Committee members. We need help in the form of new faces at our meetings at the Winged Deer Park conference room on the first Tuesday each month at 7pm, and we need more financial support. The new equipment will cost more to maintain and ultimately with the anticipated trash/debris crisis as the lake comes up, we will have to have more employees. I hope to see you soon!

Jon Wireman  
(Incoming) President

**BOONE LAKE ASSOCIATION**  
**P.O. Box 111**  
**Piney Flats, TN 37686**  
**[www.boonelakeassociation.org](http://www.boonelakeassociation.org)**

 **[www.facebook.com/boonelakeassociation](https://www.facebook.com/boonelakeassociation)**

**WATCHING THE WATERS**

**January 2020**



*Pictured above: L-R - Jay Wise, Pat Bunch, Ann Larson, Val Kosmider, Jon Wireman. Jerry Frank, Jim Slaughter. Gary Parker. (Missing, Larry Larson)*

## Your 2020 Boone Lake Association Officers and Board Members

Jon Wireman, President  
Jim Slaughter, 1<sup>st</sup> VP

Pat Bunch, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP  
Larry Larson, Treasurer

Ann Larson, Secretary

Members: Jerry Frank, Jay Wise,  
Gary Parker, Val Kosmider

## 2020 Vegetation Removal

In early January, TVA outlined their plans to BLA for vegetation removal on Boone Lake during the 2020 spring and summer seasons. In summary, TVA will cut some additional acreage in 2020 and will use EPA approved herbicides pending environmental approval in some areas where the lake bed will not support the use of machinery.

A key takeaway from the meeting emphasized cooperation, communication, and coordination with individual landowners. In many cases residents own the area to the center of the old river. It is the responsibility of the homeowner to care for this land just like they would any other area of their property. TVA provides an online brochure for homeowners so that they can then maintain the ground before the Lake returns to full pool in 2022. <https://www.tva.com/Newsroom/Boone-Dam-Project/Boone-Exposed-Lakebed-An-Owners-Guide>



Dan Widener at TVA, 423-360-3813, email [boonevegetation@tva.gov](mailto:boonevegetation@tva.gov) will be TVA's "boots on the ground" contact in terms of property evaluation. It is important for homeowners to initiate the dialogue.

Cooperation, Communication and Coordination were the buzz-words from the meeting.

## 2020 Annual Clean Up

**The Clean Up is Coming!!  
The Clean Up is Coming!!**  
Mark your calendars now for the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Boone Lake Clean Up...**Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>**... You don't want to miss it. Here is an opportunity for you to help ... and receive a Boone Lake Clean Up t-shirt (What color will it be this year?) and then enjoy a picnic dinner and the chance to win cash prizes. Tickets for the drawing are distributed based on the amount of trash you collect and deliver to one of our collection sites. Watch for more information in the coming months and in the next Shoreliner.

## Keeping Boone Lake Safe

Boone Lake Association performs water quality field checks periodically through the spring, summer and fall, weather permitting. to see if there is a negative change in any of the checked parameters or the overall water quality has dropped. If either happens, BLA notifies TVA or TWRA that there is a potential problem so that they can perform tests under controlled conditions and, if necessary, take appropriate action.

A complete description of our testing procedures will be in our next Shoreliner.

## Contributor Report 2019

As of the closing of our books for 2019 the Association had 409 individual contributors for a total of \$53,870. In addition, we received Annual Clean Up contributions, major sponsor support and contract income for a total of \$19,000. This income fell short of our expenses but we remain solvent due to the 2018 contributions from Washington and Sullivan Counties and the Board's judicious financial management.

As of 15 January 2020, we have 9 contributors for a total of \$1250.



# New Equipment for Lake Operations

The Boone Lake Association is on the verge of acquiring its first ever automated Trash Skimmer Boat.

For over three decades the Association has used older pontoon boats which have been refitted to meet the needs of a manual collection process. Each day the Lake Operations Crew works with nets, manure forks and hand operated pickers to remove trash from the Lake. The process is labor intensive, slow and endlessly tiresome. While it is effective, it is not so efficient.

Dating back to August of 2018 the Association began to consider ways in which we could improve the ongoing task of collecting and removing trash from Boone Lake. While exploring options, one of our Board members identified a high quality, "basket skimmer". This boat uses a center line basket to capture trash. We contacted the manufacturer and arranged to have a boat, which was in transit from Florida, stop at Boone Lake for a demonstration. Pleasingly, it worked exactly as expected and accomplished exactly what the Association needs: A mechanical means to remove trash from the Lake.



Turning to financing, we began the lengthy process of pursuing funding for this equipment with Johnson City and Washington County. Emphasizing the regionalism concept, and talking about the safety issues as a plethora of trash and garbage, to include the cuttings from TVA's lakebed brush removal effort, begins to refloat as the Lake returns to full pool in late 2021/2022, we presented to various committees at both the county and city levels. Both groups were very supportive and understanding of the need to keep the Lake as a valuable resource and jewel in the Appalachian Highlands crown and unanimously passed measures to ensure the Association has the funding to acquire a basket skimmer.

At press time, we have a contract in hand and are awaiting final funding. We also are beginning the process of



presentations to Sullivan County, and the cities of Bristol and Kingsport to acquire a second skimmer to be used on the Holsten River side of Boone Lake. If the experience with Johnson City and Washington County is any example, we should soon have a second piece of equipment in the pipeline to improve our collection on the Holsten River side of Boone Lake as well.

## Annual Contribution Drive Coming to Your Mailbox Soon!!

The Boone Lake Association Annual Contribution Drive is about to begin. You will be receiving a mailing from us in the next couple weeks which will include a letter detailing what we do on your behalf to keep Boone Lake an area treasure, a contribution form, and a return envelope. Please, if you have never contributed before make 2020 the year you come on board. If you are a current contributor or have contributed in the past, consider stepping up a support level.

The Board will continue to seek major sponsors but the bulk of our support comes from individual contributors. If you know of a local business that you believe would be interested in supporting us as a major sponsor please let us know. This is our lake

and it is our responsibility to preserve it for the future.

Our high number of supporters was 601 in 2014 just prior to the drawdown. Contributors then fell to a low of 236 in 2017. It was at this point that the Association faced potential dissolution. But, thanks to support received from Sullivan and Washington Counties TVA impact funds, we were able to continue operations. Our contributor base has increased but not nearly enough. Our goal this year is to surpass 2014 and with your help we will do it! It is a challenge to keep Boone Lake clean and safe with the constant flow of garbage and debris accumulating in slicks. We support a dedicated crew and soon will have new equipment to aid in our work. But all of this takes money!! As we enter the Roaring 20's let's make this our best year yet!!!



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

January 1 – December 31, 2020

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

**CONTRIBUTION LEVEL:**

\_\_\_\_\_ \$50+ **Basic Contributor**  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$100+ **Supporter**  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$250+ **Partner**  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$500+ **Platinum**  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$1000+ **Major Sponsor**

Please Donate by  
Check payable to Boone Lake Association  
Or PayPal, "US Friends and Family",  
email BooneLakeAssociation@gmail.com

**Please print clearly**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/partner: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Property Address \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Contact me about volunteering.

[www.boonelakeassociation.org](http://www.boonelakeassociation.org)



**Watching  
the Waters**

We can always use more help.  
We continue to look for lake loving  
folks interested in helping with  
outreach to include Facebook and  
our website, with organizing our  
Annual Clean Up, and our daily  
operations. **The Board meets  
the first Tues of the month at  
7:00PM at the Winged Deer Park  
Conference Room. Come check  
us out!!**

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