

SHORELINER

*"Alone, we can do so little;
together we can do so much."*

- Helen Keller



BOONE LAKE ASSOCIATION

Piney Flats, TN 37686

www.boonelakeassociation.org

boonelakeassociation@gmail.com



www.facebook.com/boonelakeassociation

WATCHING THE WATERS

Fall 2025

BLA Hotline: 423.360.5057



[@boonelakeassociation](https://www.instagram.com/boonelakeassociation)

President's Letter – Thanksgiving 2025



Looking back on 2025 I am humbled and thankful for VOLUNTEERS. I don't just mean our football team, but to those who came from all over to come alongside those of us who live in this beautiful area that had been overwhelmed and scarred by Helene. I have never been more aware of how connected we all are within the Tennessee Valley whether you volunteered to muck out flooded homes, or cleared the flooded streams, river and lake banks. **This Shoreliner "Thanksgiving" issue is dedicated to the crew, homeowners, businesses and agencies contributions that allowed BLA to protect Boone Lake for all of us to safely use this year.**

Thanksgiving is a time to pause and give thanks for our beautiful, restored Boone Lake shown on the cover. I listened to Austin Springs residents tearfully describe the torrent of water that flowed into the lake from the Watauga channel carrying pieces of homes, appliances and an endless number of tree logs. While FEMA and Washington/Carter county employees concentrated on upstream Watauga infrastructure and TVA concentrated their response on the Nolichucky Dam and the 4.5 million yards of debris in Douglas Lake—**BLA's crews protected Boone Lake with 2 lines of defense.** The first line was Austin Springs, where removals pulled out of the waters were stacked on Winged Deer Park ramp. For threats that got by Winged Deer, another crew intercepted them above Jay's Boat Dock and Rockingham and stacked them on the Pickens Bridge ramp. **In total BLA took out over 2 million pounds** that was carried away and disposed of by Johnson City solid waste/brush departments. These floating and partially submerged "widow makers" could have ruined not only props and outdrives, but also precious family members enjoying our lake's spring/summer recreation.



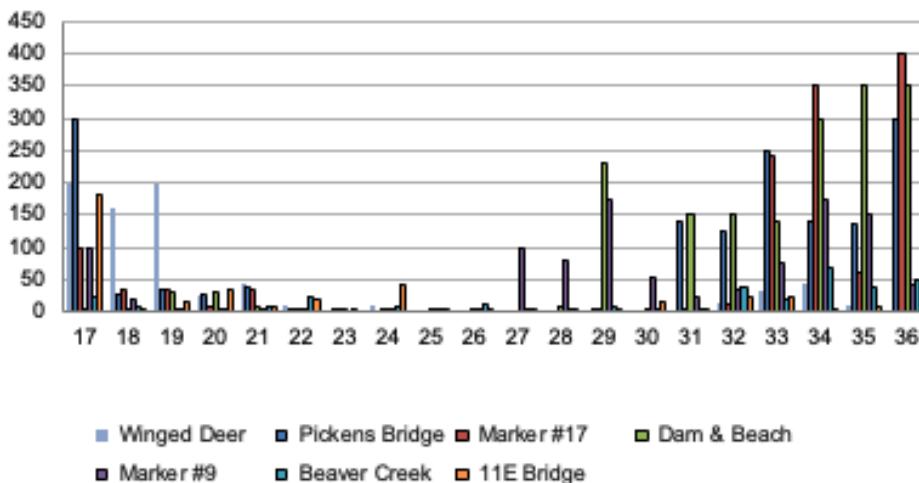
WINGED DEER PARK RAMP



PICKENS BRIDGE RAMP

While BLA's 2 full-time crews operated off 4 boats staged between the Watauga and S Holston channels to protect the safety of property and recreation; a new, weekly BLA Water Testing Program was launched in April to "Watch the Waters" and post the results on BLA's website for everyone to view. **Boone Lake is the only lake or reservoir in the State of Tennessee to have such a Water Testing Program.** TDEC conducts stream and river programs, but not lakes. After Helene there was a serious concern about the water quality for both drinking and recreational use throughout the area. **In 2025 100% of the Boone Lake weekly water tests were compliant** or under the TDEC limit for Individual maximum readings of 410 cfu (*Colony Forming Units*). Given sufficient funding, BLA will continue and improve this seasonal weekly test program in 2026 and add TDEC's 30 Day Average Geometric Mean limit for additional reference. BLA thanks TDEC and Aquagenx for their staff guidance to our 2025 program and Johnson City's Regional Water Lab for a month of comparison testing to help improve the planned 2026 program.

eColi by Location by Week



In closing I thank you for your consideration and contributions, and please . . .

JOIN US—7 active year-round Board Members, 3 openings;

HELP US—35 Sponsors + 405 Individual Contributors so far in 2025 + YOU;

HELP YOU—160 Calls for help to BLA responded to this year.

Frank

BLA's 19th President/CEO

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Boone Lake Marina. A family-owned, full-service marina and waterfront dealership, with everything you need to make waves—literally! From top brands like Malibu, Axis, Sylvan, Starcraft, and Yamaha to an award-winning service department, covered boat slips, and a fully stocked showroom. www.boonelakemarina.com or (423) 391-7283. **Jerry Frank**



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<https://casino.hardrock.com/bristol> or (276) 696-3660. **Allie Evangelista**

HSN: has a local fulfillment center in Piney Flats. HSN supports local non-profits to include BLA cleanup efforts providing not only financial support but a team of volunteers as well. (423) 391-1600 or www.hsn.com
Christina Brassfield



Johnson City Ford is a well regarded local dealership offering a wide selection of new and pre-owned vehicles. Their knowledgeable staff and excellent customer service make for a pleasant purchasing experience.

johnsoncityford.com **Ed Johnson**

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Johnson City Toyota is your go-to destination for the latest Toyota models and quality used cars. They pride themselves on their commitment to customer satisfaction and comprehensive service options. You can find them at 3124 Bristol Hwy, Johnson City, TN 37601 or visit

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GOLFCARTS.COM

LPI, Inc. pursues innovation, affordability, and more job creation in Tennessee is the largest hot tub and swim spa retailer in the US located in Elizabethton. Additionally, Whisper manufactures golf carts at their Johnson City location and recently opened a year round resort and event venue, Hatley Pointe in nearby Mars, NC. www.golfcarts.com or (423) 212-8791 / (423) 349-2900.

David and Deb Hatley



Rockingham Marina offers a full line of service for any boat, engine or trailer line. Featuring an on the water service shop, and offering on the water demos to help you find the perfect boat. Rockingham Marina carries new and used inventory from Avalon, Bennington, Chaparral, Cobalt, Manitou, Nautique, Moomba, Supra and Premier. Contact them at (423) 833-8000, (877) 651-3625 or online at www.rockinghammarine.com. **Doug Sams**



Tennessee Valley Authority TVA is the largest public power provider in the United States, serving more than 10 million people across the seven-state region. TVA also provides environmental stewardship, managing 230,000 acres of public land and 40,000 miles of rivers, streams and tributaries, and helping attract good jobs to communities across the region. www.tva.com or <https://www.tva.com/environment/lake-levels/boone>

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Carefree Boat Club. Boat as often as you like, when and where you want. Over 140 locations, including South Holston Lake, Watauga Lake and Boone Lake locally. On Boone Lake you will find the the club at Rockingham Marina. <https://tennessee.carefreeboats.com/> or (844) 246-2628. **Jessica Luff**



East TN Boating Club. East Tennessee's premier boating club focused on making the most of our beautiful regional lakes for boaters of all ages. ETBC was established in 2022 as an offshoot of the Tri-Cities Boating Club and the Johnson City Power Squadron. <https://www.etnboatclub.org/>. **Gina Pinney**



Food City: A family owned corporation headquarters in Abingdon VA. with stores in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia. Food City is recognized locally for its support of community organizations and sponsoring of BMS races. www.foodcity.com. **Steven Smith**



Jays Boat Dock: a local family owned Marina providing floating cabins, houseboat, and boat slips, a fueling station and a seasonal restaurant. www.facebook.com/JaysDock1/ or (423) 282-3522. **Cindy and Jeff Light**

BLA would like to thank:



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City of Johnson City-Water and Sewer Services treats 5.6 billion gallons of potable water and processes over 5 billion gallons of wastewater and supports BLA with confirmatory water testing in their regional lab. **Parks and Recreation** is home to 24 parks, and the Winged Deer Park is a park on Boone Lake that supports BLA with ramp access removal of logs/debris from BLA's crews and equipment/meeting hosting. **Street Department** and **Solid Waste Services Department** support Boone Lake.



Modern Woodmen of America: A fraternal financial services organization providing services since 1883. MWA identifies and responds to local needs to positively impact the communities they serve. (423) 360-7908 or www.modernwoodmen.org/. Local representative is **Derrick Paduch**



Republic Services provides reliable and responsible waste recycling services and waste disposal services for 14M customers. www.republicservices.com. **Scott McConnelee**



Wheels Contracting. A three generation family-owned full-service contracting and construction company 125 dedicated team members, seven business divisions and 100 pieces of heavy-duty and specialized equipment. (828) 898-5510 or www.wheelscontracting.com/home/. **Erin Buchanan**

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Bristol Motor Speedway is a premier racing venue known for its thrilling NASCAR events and vibrant atmosphere. It attracts motorsport enthusiasts from all over the country, making it a must-visit destination. More information can be found at www.bristolmotorspeedway.com or (866) 415-4158. **Elizabeth Graham**



Bristol Tennessee Essential Services. A municipally-owned electric utility providing reliable, safe and cost-effective electric service to more than 33,000 customers in a 280-square-mile service area in the City of Bristol and Sullivan County, Tennessee. www.btes.net/ or (423) 968-1526.

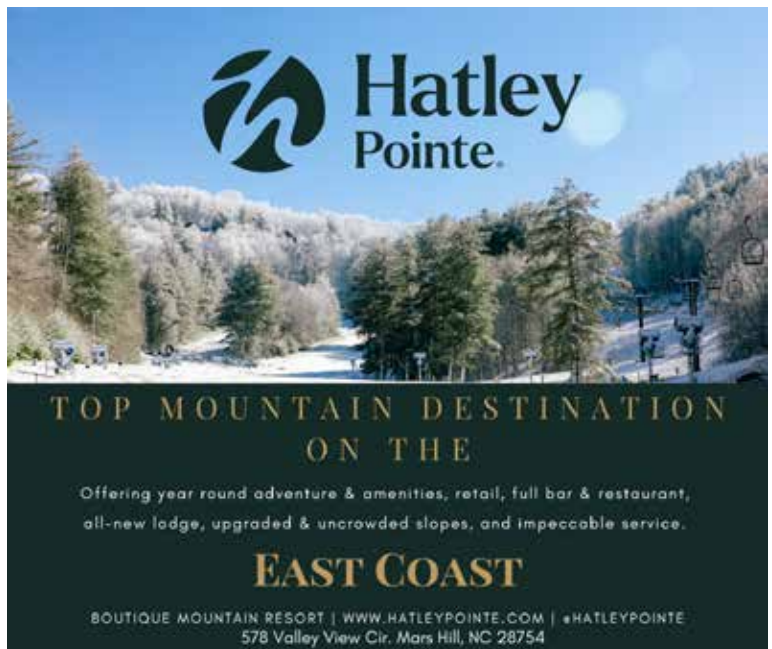


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Davis Marina. A family owned and operated business and home of Boonies Restaurant, open year round. They are an alcohol free and family friendly facility located on Buffalo Rd in Blountville. (423-279-0013) or <https://www.facebook.com/p/Davis-Marina-100063529631865/> .

Johnny Morris





East Tenn Rent-Alls. Offering a wide variety of well-maintained equipment for rent and sell for your small to large projects, excellent service, equipment repair and maintenance services www.etra.biz/ or (423) 282-322. **Josh Baxter**



Hamilton Meats is your neighborhood butcher shop since 1970, located on Old Gray Station Rd., offering quality beef, pork, chicken, seafood and economy boxes prepared daily. www.hamiltonmeatsjc.com/ or (423) 282-4531. **Brian Hamilton**



ICR Staffing Services a nationwide staffing and business service provider, provides temporary to direct hire candidates, placing the right people in the right place In Johnson City. www.icrjobs.com/ or (423) 705-2000. **Robert and Melanie Lovingood**



Inframark LLC. has been responsible for the 15 million gallons per day (MGD) activated sludge wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) for Bristol, Tenn., and Bristol, Va., since 2007. www.inframark.com/ or (423) 989-5570. **Matt Malone**



Lakeview Marina, offers boat slips, boat sales & service along with fuel. Their widely popular Marker 2 Café offers live entertainment on the deck throughout the summer season! www.facebook.com/marker2grille/ or (423) 323-4665. **Chad Mitchell**



MIMI's Ice Cream. (Peerless Hospitality) is Johnson City's premier Ice Cream Dessert Truck, delighting locals with handcrafted desserts, refreshing drinks, and unique shakes. Come experience the goodness that defines Mimi's Cookies N' Creamery! www.mimistruck.com/ or mimiscreamery@gmail.com. **Gary Kalogeros**



One Stop Wine and Spirits offers a large variety of wines, beers, spirits, champagne, hard seltzers, bar accessories, mixers, sodas, chips and candy at their 2 Johnson City locations. (423) 926-8366 or www.onestopwines.net. **Phil Scharfstein**



Orth Homes founded in 1990, the largest new home builder in East Tennessee and dedicated to helping customers to get the perfect home for their family. www.orthhomes.com/ or (423) 202-5208. **Terry Orth**



PEAK Geomatics. provides surveying services to public agencies, engineering firms, contractors, architects and homeowners. www.peakg.com/ or 423-202-7093. **Matt Lindvall**



Sonny's Marina has been in business for over 70 years, offering covered and uncovered boat slips, new and used boat sales that also includes Mastercraft boats, inboard and outboard service, seasonal lakeside dining and bar, boat rentals, non-ethanol gas, pro shop and ship store. Contact at (423) 282-9440 or www.thesonnysmarina.com. **Travis Richards**

Boone Lake Marina
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Tackle Box. A locally owned and operated live bait and tackle shop located in Kingsport TN on Hwy 75 just past the bridge towards the airport.
www.facebook.com/tackleboxboonelake or (423) 574-2248. **Jonathan and Gloria Zavala**



Universal Development and Construction. Is a fully integrated real estate development company specializing in multi-family community development and management in TN, N.C. and S.C. <https://udctn.com/> or (423) 282-0640. **Jamie Abraham**



Washington County TN-Sheriff's Department. The Sheriff's Department continues to perform road side litter cleanup and general litter collection thru the Dirty Street Fighters program and benefits Boone Lake by supporting the Annual Cleanup Day. Together with "Nobody Trashes Tennessee" this sponsor makes a major positive impact on Boone Lake.



Yamaha Marine is an innovator in the world of motor sports providing state of the art outboard engines, rigging and controls, and props. In 2024 they introduced the first hydrogen-powered outboard concept. In 2022 Yamaha Marine equipped BLA's SK-2 Crane Barge with 175HP motor to clear and clean Boone Lake. www.yamahaoutboards.com.



Zaks is a family-owned regional destination furniture store in the Tri-Cities area for over 60 years. Providing sales and design services. 423-282-4951. **Scott Bowman**



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

FALL 2025

The Boone Lake Association is a not-for-profit 501c3. Your contributions may be tax deductible in accordance with IRS regulations. Please check current rules for tax purposes as IRS tax codes may change. We appreciate your support! Every dollar you contribute goes to helping to keep Boone Lake clean and safe for everyone's enjoyment.

**THANK YOU FOR CONTRIBUTING
GENEROUSLY TO KEEP BOONE LAKE CLEAN**



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Water Quality Update

I hope you enjoyed your summer on Boone Lake and used our weekly water quality reports, posted on BooneLakeAssociation.org, to help make your Boone Lake recreational safety decisions. Our first-year trial of expanded water quality sampling and weekly results posting was a great success. TDEC and our E.coli test kit company, AQUAGENX, worked with our great crew to improve



Jim Slaight

sampling and test kit processes. We also ran a separate trial in September and October to compare several E.coli testing protocols and are more confident in our process and results.

This expansion significantly increased our costs and we are extremely grateful to Johnson City Ford, Johnsonson City Toyota, and Kingsport Honda for funding the effort, and to Carefree Boat Club for donating a well-maintained, clean boat every week to collect our samples. There's no way we could have provided this without their

help. Our goals for the 2026 season are to provide you with more additional and more detailed information, target some other sampling points, introduce automation to reduce transcription error, crew burden and help analysis, and obtain climate controlled storage for our test kits.

All this costs money and we're totally dependent on your generosity to provide you with water quality information. If you and your family enjoy Boone Lake, please make it a priority to contribute.

What to do when Boone Lake water levels drop for the Winter

Each fall, Boone Lake in Northeast Tennessee undergoes its annual drawdown, a process where water levels are intentionally lowered by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). While this seasonal change might seem like the end of lake activities for the year, it can actually open doors to different kinds of recreation, maintenance, and exploration. Whether you are a lakeside homeowner, a boater, or a nature lover – there is still plenty to do once the water recedes.



Karen Stigall

Once submerged areas are exposed, Boone Lake's receding waters reveal a fascination underwater landscape. Hiking along the newly accessible lakebed can be a unique experience to spot lost items, view geology of the area, find shells, fossils or even driftwood. Just be cautious when walking on the lakebed – it can be muddy, uneven, and slippery.

3. Enjoy Cooler Weather

While the lake may be less active, the surrounding areas are perfect for off-season outdoor activities. Hiking, biking, and birdwatching can easily be enjoyed in our surrounding lake areas, such as Winged Deer Park and even the Boone Dam area.

4. Photography and Nature Observation

With less boat traffic and bare trees, winter around Boone Lake has a stark beauty that is perfect for photography. Whether you are capturing fog rising off the cold water, dramatic sunsets, or wildlife along the shoreline – the quiet season offers a peaceful, contemplative atmosphere. Early morning is best to take those photos of deer, herons and even the occasional bald eagle.

5. Plan for Next Season

Winter is also the perfect time to

reflect on what worked and what did not during the lake season and begin preparing for the next season. Consider upgrading boating or fishing equipment, scheduling maintenance on boats and jet skis, research upcoming fishing tournaments, lake events and connect with local marinas for early access to slips and rentals.

6. Get Involved in the Community

Several lake-related organizations and environmental groups hold off-season meeting, cleanup events, and plan sessions in the winter. Consider volunteering for shoreline cleanups, attend TVA local council meetings and support lake-focused conservation efforts. We welcome you to attend a Boone Lake Association Meeting. Feel free to contact any of the board members for upcoming meetings and how you might get involved!

While Boone Lake may look quiter in the winter, that does not mean there's nothing to do. Lowered water levels present valuable opportunities! By taking advantage of this season, you will not only keep your property in top shape but also deepen your connection to the natural rhythms of the lake.

When the water rises again in the spring, you and Boone Lake will be more than ready!

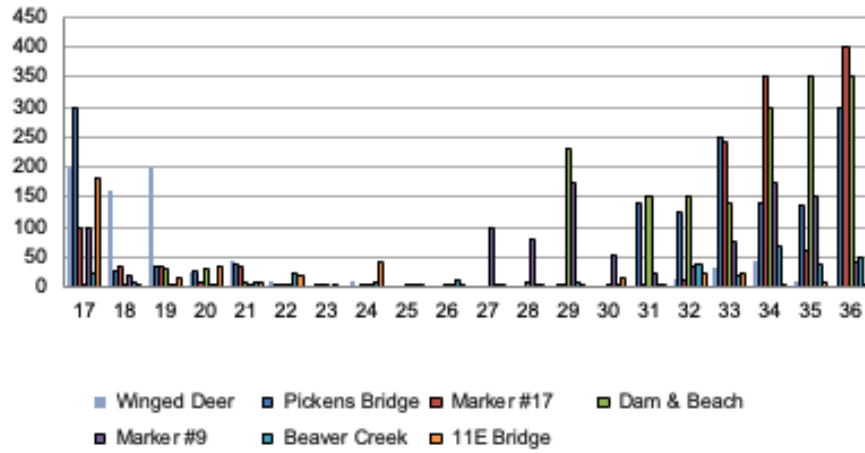
1. Take advantage of Dock and Shoreline Maintenance Time

The winter drawdown is the ideal time for property owners to perform dock repairs, shoreline stabilization, and erosion control. With lower water levels, docks and retaining walls are much more accessible for maintenance or upgrades. It's also a great time to apply protective coatings or sealants to wood and metal structures, inspect and repair underwater supports and anchoring systems. Be sure to check TVA's permitting requirements before starting any major shoreline work and you may also want to contact BurnSafeTN.com to follow permitting between October and May prior burning debris.

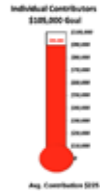
2. Explore the Lakebed

In 2025 100% of the Boone Lake weekly water tests were compliant (SEE INSIDE)

eColi by Location by Week



**Join Us!
Help Us!
Help You!**



**THANK YOU FOR CONTRIBUTING
GENEROUSLY TO KEEP BOONE LAKE CLEAN**

The Boone Lake Association is a not-for-profit 501c3. Your contributions may be tax deductible in accordance with IRS regulations. Please check current rules for tax purposes as IRS tax codes may change. We appreciate your support! Every dollar you contribute goes to helping to keep Boone Lake clean and safe for everyone's enjoyment.



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