

SHORELINER



BOONE LAKE ASSOCIATION

Piney Flats, TN 37686

www.boonelakeassociation.org

boonelakeassociation@gmail.com



Boone Lake Association-"Watching the Waters".

WATCHING THE WATERS

Summer 2026

BLA Hotline: 423.360.5057



@boonelakeassociation

President's Letter – 1,382' in 2026 or BUST!

Our lake did not make it by June 1st; but let's celebrate a July 4th FULL POOL!

Since our last Letter update I asked for your input and guidance and we would try to host a couple of Lake Hall meetings on the lake where anyone could attend. Well, then the drought precluded the lake from reaching full pool by Labor Day. So instead of a single Hall meeting, BLA has attended Boone Lake Safety Coalition briefings at Brightridge, ETBC Marina Hops (Sonny's, Jay's, Rockingham and Lakeview Marinas), JC Kid's Summer Camps and Johnson City Rotary meetings. Below you will find questions put forth by a number of participants, and I look forward to more questions if you will stop by our booth at Meet The Mountains at Winged Deer Park, August 14-15. Lastly, all recent Association members/contributors will be given an email invitation to offer your guidance in an electronic survey at the end of the season that will direct our budget and plans for 2027. Thank you for taking the time to care and share.



1. Q) Is BLA financially OK? I did not receive an Appeal Letter in March, like years past?

A) Yes, we have reserve \$ in the bank that could finish 2026 and take us through 2027. In September 2024 we encouraged all our supporters to help those in need from Hurricane Helene first, and BLA if and when they could—I'm please to report we on Boone survived Helene's impact, but how?

- BLA froze expenses, put off a 2nd crane boat and sold off under-utilized equipment;
- Our member contributors increased their average annual giving up to \$250, or \$101,000;
- Area businesses almost doubled their financial support, to \$180,000;
- If necessary we will send out an Appeal Letter at the end of the season to sustain us, and as always BLA membership and support is totally voluntary, not an HOA assessment.

2. Q) How can I get BLA Help?

A) Sometimes I try to wave the boat down and it does not stop.

We pick up requests every night and balance requests on both sides of the lake. For assistance for a log/debris threatening navigation, your dock or your boat:

- Call BLA Hotline (423-360-5057) and leave your need, name, address, phone # or GPS info;
- Email (BLAhotlinerequest@gmail.com) with your need, name, address, phone # and photos if appropriate;
- All requests are logged into the BLA Call Log system each night where crew, management and Board can set work schedules and track the Open, Closed and Pending lists on a hand-held, GPS-enabled phone app. In 2025 we responded and closed over 150 requests.

3. Q) Who cleans up Boone Lake?

A) My tax dollars?...TVA?...TWRA?...TDEC?...No, No, No, No! Only Boone Lake Association, a 44 year old Nonprofit that started as a homeowners association appealing to the U.S. EPA for help to put Municipal Water Treatment facilities upstream from Boone Lake in the 1980s. BLA "Watches the Waters", tests the waters, clears the waters with funds provided by lake residents, users and caring businesses. It has been over 4 years since any area government tax dollars have been received by BLA.

4. Q) What is Boone Lake's economic impact to our Area?

A) \$131M, \$351M, \$1B or Priceless. In 2014 TVA commissioned a University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture (UTIA) report that was published in 2017 that most people quote what UTIA calculated as Boone Lake's \$130M annual economic impact, based upon ~\$1 million per shoreline mile. To raise the total to \$351M annually BLA adjusted for inflation to 2026 and added in other economic impacts in addition to the recreational impacts of the UTIA report. BLA plans to follow up and join with area institutions to pursue a report suitable for presentation to local governments, chambers of commerce, marina operators, and tourism agencies, with estimated total economic impacts likely in the **\$600 million to \$1 billion range for Boone Lake alone** when property premiums and annual economic activity are combined.

Frank

BLA's 19th President/CEO

On the cover: Photo of lake fireworks over Friday's Holler courtesy of Karen Stigall

Junior Water Watchers Learn to Protect Boone Lake



Alyssa Rae Cooper

This summer, a new generation of environmental stewards took their first steps toward protecting one of our region's most valuable natural resources through the Boone Lake Association's Junior Water Watcher program.

For many years, the Boone Lake Association Board discussed the importance of creating an educational program that would help connect young people with Boone Lake and inspire future environmental stewardship. This summer, that vision became a reality through a partnership with the City of Johnson City's Nature Center and a group of enthusiastic campers eager to learn about the natural world around them.

The Junior Water Watchers program introduced children to freshwater ecosystems, wildlife, conservation, and lake stewardship through hands-on activities, games, scavenger hunts, and interactive discussions. Campers learned that protecting Boone Lake begins with understanding the plants, animals, and waterways that make our watershed unique.

Throughout the program, participants explored how rainwater travels through the

watershed, discovered the importance of pollinators, identified native and non-native species, and learned about many of the animals that call Boone Lake home. They also learned how their everyday choices can impact water quality and wildlife habitat.

The program also highlighted the work of the Boone Lake Association and its mission of "Watching the Waters." Campers learned how volunteers monitor lake conditions, report hazards, support conservation efforts, and work to preserve Boone Lake for future generations.

Perhaps the greatest success of the program was watching young people become excited about conservation. Whether they were identifying wildlife, discussing ways to reduce pollution, completing activities, or earning their Junior Water Watcher certificates, each child left with a better understanding of how they can help care for the natural resources around them.

Special thanks go to Connie Deegan and the staff of the City of Johnson City Nature Center for their support, expertise, and commitment to environmental education. Their partnership helped create

an engaging learning experience that encouraged children to ask questions, explore nature, and develop a deeper appreciation for the environment.

As BLA continues to expand its educational outreach through the new Kids' Corner resources and future Junior Water Watcher programs, the organization remains committed to its mission of protecting Boone Lake through stewardship, awareness, and community involvement.

After all, the future of Boone Lake belongs to the next generation of Water Watchers.



2026 Sponsors



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Embracing the Future: Boone Lake Association Goes Digital

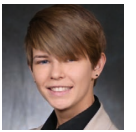
The Boone Lake Association is taking an exciting leap forward as the we transition the Shoreliner from paper to electronic format for 2027 to continuously reach to a broader and more connected community—unconstrained by a rigid printing schedule. No longer limited by print runs or mailing restrictions, readers will now access the latest news, updates, and stories from anywhere with an internet connection. Whether you're enjoying a day on the lake, relaxing on the shoreline, or following developments from across the country, **Lake Life is just a click away.**

As the Tri-Cities region continues to experience significant growth and Boone Lake welcomes an increasing number of residents, visitors, boaters, anglers, and outdoor enthusiasts

each year—**many who will not know our history and the reasons we exist to serve.** As our region grows, so does the responsibility to protect one of East Tennessee's most treasured natural resources. With more people enjoying the lake than ever before, the work of the Boone Lake Association to protect safe boating, share water quality awareness and promote environmental sustainability becomes increasingly critical.

To make the most of the new digital platform readers are encouraged to explore featured articles, upcoming events, community announcements, photo galleries, and historical archives. This transition allows us to better educate, inform, and engage everyone who enjoys Boone Lake while reinforcing our commitment to

keeping its waters safe, clean, and healthy for generations to come. This shift reflects more than just a change in how we share information, it represents a renewed commitment to accessibility, community engagement, and environmental stewardship.



Kate Tilley

As Boone Lake celebrates a Diamond Anniversary next year, 75 years old, we invite everyone to join us in the important work of protecting Boone Lake's waters, preserving its natural beauty, and ensuring a safe and enjoyable experience for all who share it. The future of the Association is bright and so is the future of Boone Lake as we work together to keep our waters safe, clean, and thriving. The mission has never been more important.

East Tennessee Boating Club makes Boating FUN

—while raising over four thousand dollars to help fund Boone Lake Association's missions – Thank You.

With over 125 members, ETBC is the premier area boating club focused on mak-

ing 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. We thank Ellen and Alan Johnston, Fran Perry, Steve

Scheu and all the ETBC volunteers that organized the Marina Hop and made SUMMER FUN happen on our lake. (<https://www.etnboatclub.org/>)

ISLAND Marina HOP SATURDAY 6/13/26

TO BENEFIT BOONE LAKE ASSOCIATION

1ST STOP: **SONNY'S** @ 2:00 ENTER THE RUBBER DUCKY RACE FOR \$5

2ND STOP: **Jay's** @ 3:15

3RD STOP: **ROCKINGHAM**

LAST STOP: **LAKEVIEW** @ 5:00

THE BOARD HAS BEEN THROWN IN THE BRIG FOR HAVING TOO MUCH FUN ON A PONTON! BAIL THEM OUT OR PAY TO KEEP THEM THERE!

\$20 PER PERSON

AUCTION / RAFFLE

Good Friends. Great Views. Great Cause!



BLA would like to thank:



2026 Diamond Sponsor

2026 Annual Boone Lake Clean Up Report



Janise Sizemore

Despite rainy weather, the 27th Annual Boone Lake Cleanup was another successful event, held at Winged Deer Park on April 25. This year’s CA\$H for TRASH – Picnic – Music, brought together more than 300 volunteers, and numerous community partners, working together to protect and preserve the natural treasure that is Boone Lake.

Beginning at 9:00 a.m., participants visited six designated registration sites where they received wristbands for this year’s commemorative T-shirt and picked up trash bags. Their efforts resulted in the collection of 191 tires, 440 bags of trash, 50 Styrofoam items, 192 wood items, and 121 miscellaneous items. Participants earned prize tickets based on the items they returned, with cash prizes awarded following the picnic.

This year’s celebration featured live music from the band, “Boone Lake Trash” pro-

Boone Lake Clean-Up							
Each year BLA organizes an annual cleanup event that occurs on the last Saturday in April. Here are some results from the 2026 Clean-up!							
2026	Lakeview Marina	Winged Deer Park	Pickens Bridge	Boone Lake Marina	Davis Marina	Rockingham Marina	Totals
Weight (tons)	1.89	2.35	3.04	1.16	1.04	0.68	10.2
Tires	19	42	107	7	15	1	191
Trash Bags	58	138	70	42	104	28	440
Styrofoam	2	12	17	2	16	1	50
Wood	26	19	60	29	26	38	192
Other Items	23	32	29	16	32	9	121
All Items	128	217	283	96	193	77	994

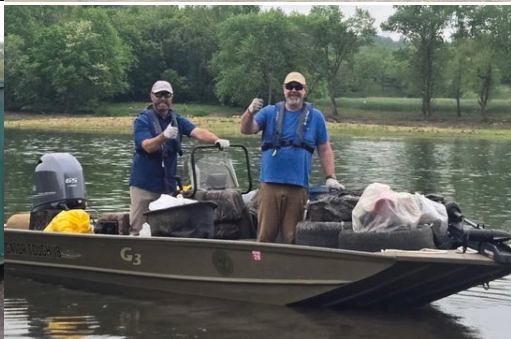
viding entertainment while participants enjoyed food, refreshments, and fellowship. The event was a true community success, demonstrating the dedication of local residents and partners to keeping Boone Lake cleaner, healthier, and more beautiful for everyone to enjoy.

Several educational exhibits were also featured during the event to help raise awareness about environmental stewardship and water quality. The Johnson City

Public Works Department provided valuable information, including details about its “Can the Grease” program, an effort to prevent blockages that can lead to wastewater overflows from manholes onto streets, yards, and nearby waterways, creating environmental and public health concerns.

The Boone Lake Association (BLA) shared information about its ongoing water quality monitoring efforts. This program provides valuable data to help monitor and protect the health of Boone Lake.

We would like to thank all of our volunteers and sponsors for a great 2026 Clean up event. You can find sponsor information and view clean-up photos on the BLA website: www.boonelakeassociation.org



Boone Lake Levels, Drought Conditions, and Water Quality –

Boone Lake water level has come up recently, but earlier drought conditions throughout the area could affect the lake through much of the recreation season. Under normal conditions, water from South Holston and Wilbur dams, along with tributary flow, helps flush pollutants through the lake and support good water quality. With less flushing than usual, it's especially important to pay attention before you, your children, or your grandchildren head out to swim, boat, or fish.

Bob and Holly's (our BLA crew's) sampling continues to show generally moderate water quality, with average E. coli levels remaining in a good range. Still, the data show that bacteria can rise quickly after rain as runoff carries material from fields, roads, shorelines, wildlife areas, and septic or other human-related sources into the lake. Low water can reduce dilution, making coves, shallow areas, and inflows more vulnerable to short-term changes.

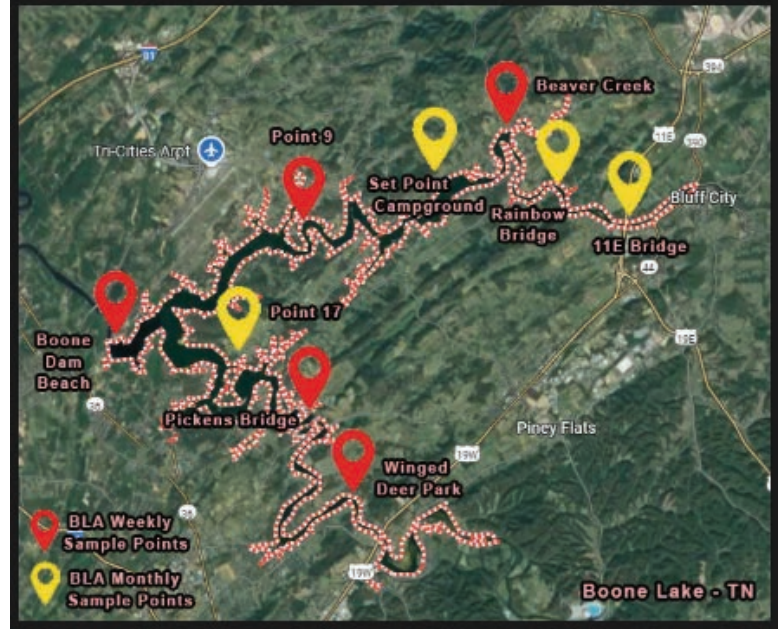
Hot, dry weather can also warm shallow water, concentrate boat traffic, expose shoreline mud, and allow waves or prop wash to stir sediment. These effects don't make

the whole lake unsafe, but conditions can vary from one cove, bridge, or access point to another. After heavy rain, near runoff, muddy water, odors, or debris, use extra caution, avoid swallowing lake water, and watch young children closely. Our sampling team will keep monitoring conditions and sharing updates so families can make informed choices on Boone Lake. We hope you have a great summer on Boone Lake, and we'll keep sharing information to help you choose when and where conditions look best for your family.



Jim Slaight

Boone Lake Association monitors water quality through regular sampling and analysis of these designated locations.



WHISPER OUTDOOR

Golf Carts Made in Johnson City.
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Boone Lake Fishing Report

Well, we have had a very dry spring, but the rains are finally starting to come this summer. S. Holson and Watauga are still below full pool so look for minimum flows from both of those lakes till they either fill up or start drawing down for winter pool. Right now, for larger stripers the Watauga

side may be best because that side does have some recreational flow. With some very hot days it would be my recommendation if you want to focus on the larger stripers to try to be real careful in the release with some type of system to send them to deeper and colder water quickly, or focus on the mouths of the rivers where colder water should be at a much shallower depth. Boone Lake can only keep its reputation for big stripers if everyone does their part to take care of that

resource! As for the rest of the fishing look for those early mornings that have seen a rain the previous evening or night. This influx of fresh water on the lake tends to stir the pot and will get you a much better bite on all species.

Good luck and remember try to take a kid fishing when you can.



Derrick Paduch

In memory of Jerry Sorrell

The BLA Board of Directors were saddened to learn of the passing of Jerry Sorrell. Jerry passed away unexpectedly April 27, 2026. He was a founding member and life long supporter of BLA. He served as President in the early years of the Association. Jerry had many interests, always had a story to tell, and shared his love of Boone Lake with his family and friends. Jerry joined us at Winged Deer Park in April 2023 for the 40th Anniversary of BLA recognition of Past Presidents.

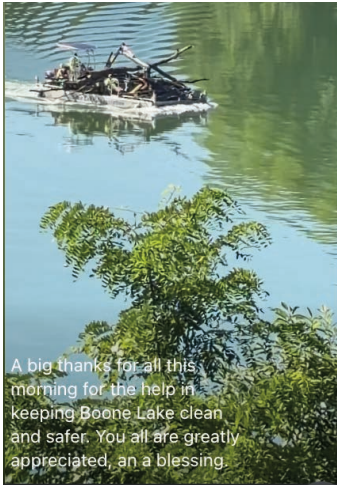


MEET THE MOUNTAINS

Come see us this August 14-15 at Winged Deer Park for the annual Meet the Mountains event celebrating air, water and land adventures in and around the Tri-Cities. We will be onsite to answer your questions, share information and get to know you better....and of course we will be handing out lake related trinkets!! We look forward to meeting you. You can find us sharing a booth with the Boone Watershed Partnership and Johnson City Public Works. Together we are looking out for clean and safe water.



A Day on the Lake with BLA Lake Ops



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

INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTORS
GOAL: \$102,000



**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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See Inside

Cleaning Boone Lake since 1983

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