

SHORELINER



Working together for a cleaner Boone Lake!



BOONE LAKE ASSOCIATION
Piney Flats, TN 37686 | 423.360.5057
www.boonelakeassociation.org
boonelakeassociation@gmail.com

 www.facebook.com/boonelakeassociation

WATCHING THE WATERS

March 2023

Incoming President's Note, March 2023



Welcome and I invite you to help celebrate BLA's 40th year of service to Boone Lake. I thank you for your interest in this amazing resource—one of the Tri-Lakes in the Tri-Cities. You may be like me, not living on the lake; but having family or friends who do or just know that thousands in our area do. I'm thankful to volunteer to lead BLA this year and it's humbling to carry on the legacy of such a long line of 19 BLA presidents.

Since its founding in 1983 to help make Boone Lake usable, safe and sparkling we experience annually challenges of Spring rains, winds and unpredictable rises/falls in lake levels filling the lake with debris and logs from the Watauga and Holston rivers; but with the help of you, hundreds of volunteers and full-time crew members, Boone Lake will be ready to host you by May Day. Mark your calendars for April 29th this year for the 24th Annual Boone Lake Cleanup Event and plan to join in to help and picnic together.

JOIN US. If you would like to make an even bigger difference, I invite you to email us your potential area of interest at boonelakeassociation@gmail.com or visit us at www.boonelakeassociation.org to learn about being a part of one of our Committees. One of the Committee Chairs will contact you and talk with you about how your skills could fit into our ongoing efforts. To learn more about us beforehand you can peruse the last 10 years of Shoreliners on our website and you may see a topic or area that inspires you to reach out.

HELP US. We recently updated our data base to include over 2000 additional homeowners living on or near Boone Lake. If you are receiving the Shoreliner for the first time

it's because we found you! Our Dec. edition went out to new addresses in Washington County and this edition is reaching out to Sullivan County residents. We hope you enjoy reading about what we do for you and if you are not already supporting BLA we hope you will consider doing so. We are all Boone Lake Proud.

HELP YOU. In closing, I would like to share with you our goals for BLA for 2023:

- Clear the waterways – to protect your boats and more importantly your kids tubing, knee-boarding or surfing the lake.
- Test the waters – the last thing you wish is for an elevated level of E.coli to go unreported.
- Hot Line – (423) 360-5057 allows anyone to call-in 24/7 and our Lake Ops Committee will pick up threats and issues at least once a day. For emergencies call a BLA Officer.
- Communicate – educate and advocate for Boone Lake's interests in the community and with our supporting government agencies.
- Sustain BLA – whatever it takes to serve you for another 40 years: funding, crew, boats, volunteers, etc.

Thank you for your help, both time and financial, to restore BLA—just as TVA repaired and restored our Boone Lake dam.

So, from all our volunteers and employees,

Happy 40th Birthday BLA

Frank Hahne, CEO

Skimmer #2 Holston added to increase BLA's crew's muscle...

Two years after commissioning Skimmer #1-Watauga, BLA will put Skimmer #2-Holston into service this April. It has been a long journey, but thanks to help from our area governments, businesses and even an individual, BLA's crew will now have a new asset and tool to help keep the lake clean and clear.



On the cover: Working together to keep Boone Lake clean and safe: BLA crew, lake property owners, lake users and concerned citizens.

Co-Directors: Laurie Spring & Jordan Bedford

BOONELAKEASSOCIATION.ORG



24TH ANNUAL BOONE LAKE CLEANUP DAY



**SATURDAY
APRIL 29, 2023**

Register and receive your trash bags starting at 9AM at 1 of 5 trash collection sites. Return your full bags no later than 3PM - Food at 4PM - Cash Prizes starting at 5PM

Trash Collection Sites:

- #1: Boone Lake Marina #2: Davis Boat Dock #3: Pickens Bridge Ramp
- #4: Winged Deer Park 11E ramp #5: Lakeview Marina

CA\$H for TRASH: Pick up trash/Debris in the bags provided. Bring the bags and larger items (large wood, appliances, Styrofoam, tires and other items) to a trash collection site by 3pm and receive a prize drawing ticket for each item and a wristband for access to the music, picnic, and drawings at Winged Deer Park.

PICNIC & MUSIC: The Winged Deer Park picnic includes food served at 4pm to the cleanup participants. Each participant will receive an event t-shirt. Please bring your lawn chairs to enjoy the food and music. The prize drawings will begin at 5:00 pm. You must be present to receive a prize.

We thank you for helping to keep Boone Lake clean. For more info email: boonelakeassociation@gmail.com



SUPPORT OUR MARINAS

Boone Lake Marina (Patron Sponsor)
452 Sportsman Dock Rd.
Piney Flats, Tn. 37686
423-391-7283
www.boonelakemarina.com

Davis Marina
641 Buffalo Rd.
Blountville, Tn. 37617
423-279-0013 - no website
"Boonies" is a full-service lakeside restaurant at Davis Marina.
www.booniesmenu.com

Jay's Boat Dock (Patron Sponsor)
945 Pickens Bridge Rd.
Gray, Tn. 37615
423-282-3522
www.jaysboatdock.com
Cell Phone: 423-773-9236
Nick's Anchored on Boone Lakefront Restaurant at Jays Dock is open during the summer season.

Lakeview Marina (Major Sponsor)
no website but they are on Facebook.
474 Lakeside Dock Dr.
Kingsport, Tn. 37663
423-323-1054 Marker 2
Grille and live band music on weekends.

Rockingham Marina (Patron Sponsor)
639 Rockingham Rd.
Johnson City, Tn. 37615
423-207-6016
info@rockinghammarina.com
Rockingham is a host of the Carefree Boat Club.

Sonny's Marina
109 One St.
Johnson City, Tn. 37615
423-282-9440
www.thesonnysmarina.com
The Krazy Chicken is a seasonal summer restaurant and live bands on the weekends

Boone Lake Fishing Report

– Capt. Jonathan Black

I can only assume that everyone, including me, is ready to shake off this winter weather in favor of warmer times. The fish are no different. After months of cold water and sparse bait, they are ready to feed up and make their annual move to shallower and warmer water. Water temps are hovering in the low 50's and should be on the rise with longer days of sunshine. Bass are moving to main lake points to stage to move into the coves when the water nears the 60-degree mark. Try throwing crankbaits, jerk baits, A-rigs, and of course for the guys fishing deep use suspended fish the Damiki rig. Work these lures slower than



you normally do in the summer, as the colder water slows the fish down. Pay attention to the subtle bites that happen more when the water is cold. Crappie fishing is on fire right now. Look for them suspended above deep treetops, and around most marinas. Throw small jigs on light jig heads for them. Make sure you keep a tight line while you are jigging. Keeper size Crappie have been showing up more in the last few weeks. This early season has been especially productive for Stripers, Hybrids, and Big Brown trout. Most People troll for the Stripers and Hybrids with planer boards. You can either fish this method with live or artificial baits. Pull your baits

around 2-5 mph for the most consistent action. Look for the birds pushing bait up and you will most likely find these fish. Brown trout are also caught using this method. The Browns have been actively chasing balls of baitfish in or around coves of the main river channels. I find that free lining live shiners is the best method of catching oversize Browns. Jerk baits will also fool them into biting while they are actively feeding. As the trees start to bloom, as the weather warms so will the bite on the water. As always, the main strategy is to show up and enjoy the water, and put your time in. Keep those lines tight. And as always, we appreciate your continued support.

Water Quality Monitoring

- Jim Slaight

TVA has started to raise the lake and the weather should be getting warmer. Pretty soon we'll be seeing folks out enjoying all that Boone Lake has to offer and the BLA will start to monitor our water quality. If we detect an issue, we'll alert TVA, TDEC, and TWRA so they can take action to keep the lake safe for your use. BLA is the only organization that monitors the quality

of our lake water on a regular basis, and we're out there spring, summer and fall. Our focus is on checking the quality of the water for recreational use; swimming, fishing and boating.



Our BLA Water Quality Monitoring Program is the least costly of BLA's efforts to improve our lake cleanliness and safety for your enjoyment. Your donations make a big impact in keeping us going.

Boone Lake Marina

423-391-7283
boonelakemarina.com



452 Sportsman Dock Rd
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Shoreliner Contributor update.

Gary Parker



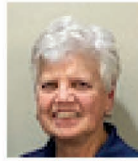
In an attempt to expand our contributor base, BLA recently undertook a process that nearly doubled our address contact list. Using data search tools available online and with help from the Sullivan and Washington County Assessors' offices our address list was expanded from approximately 2500 to a current total of 5700 addresses. We added 264 direct lakefront owners, 479 chamber of commerce members, and 2,487 residences in both counties that live in close proximity of Boone Lake. Most of these new contacts received BLA's December 2022 Shoreliner publication for the first time. Approximately 1000 additional Sullivan County residences are

receiving this edition of the Shoreliner. The address expansion is resulting in a few new members as we attempt to restore and exceed our contributor count of the all-time high of 600 back in 2014 and surpass the total of 481 in 2022. Year-to-date our regular contributor income is slightly ahead of last year. The cleanup sponsorship income is expected to rise as well. This is increasingly important as the cost-of-business increases everywhere. BLA's mission is very important to all that use Boone Lake and probably more so to the 1700 plus that own direct lakefront property. The cleanliness of Boone Lake is an important factor in the

enjoyment of the lake and your property values as those who have lived here for many years can attest from the horrible lake conditions before the formation of BLA in 1983. If each lakefront property owner contributed it would go a long way toward keeping our crews and equipment solvent in these trying times. Add to that the property owners with lake access and others who enjoy the lake for recreation purposes and BLA would be in a position to increase our presence on the lake.. Thanks to all that have and are supporting BLA and we ask that you encourage others to help keep Boone Lake a NE TN gem.

TWRA Regulation Reminders

Ann Larson



As we prepare for another summer of lake activities we wanted to remind boaters of Operator certification requirements and basic water safety regulations. If you are a Tennessee resident born after January 1, 1989, and operating a boat with more than 8.5 horsepower, then you need certification. Even if you do not need the certification, by getting one, you may save on your boat insurance. Exams are offered at different locations listed by county on the TWRA website. You should allow approximately one hour to take the exam. For further information about classes and testing please visit the TWRA website at tn.gov.

All children 12 years of age and younger are required to wear a Coast Guard approved PFD while on the open deck of a recreational boat except when anchored, moored, or aground. Here are some basic things you should keep in mind about your personal flotation devices.

- They must bear the Coast Guard approved label
- They must be in good and serviceable condition
- They must be an appropriate size for the person who intends to wear it
- Wearable PFDs must be readily accessible
- Throwable devices must be immediately available for use.

We highly recommend you check out all the Boating Safety information on the tn.gov website which includes information on owners' responsibilities, boating under the influence, no wake areas, regulations for young operators, safety hazards, the Clean Boating act and more.

40th Anniversary Celebration

Do you have a story you'd like to share about the early years of BLA, your summer memories of living on or visiting Boone Lake, or what Boone Lake means to you. We'd like to hear it and maybe print it in the next edition of the Shoreliner, celebrating our 40 years of taking care of the lake. Please send your story to boonelakeassociation@gmail.com by June 15, 2023 for our 40th anniversary celebration Shoreliner. Thank you.

Wreaths Across America

Val Kosmider



Boone Lake Association (BLA) is a group of Volunteers striving to keep Boone Lake clean and safe for recreational enjoyment. What is not known is that this group of volunteers is also stepping forward in many other activities, be it the communities in which they live, military organizations in which they served, or various church, social, environmental and fund-raising groups across the area.

On Saturday, December 17th a group of BLA volunteers participated in the laying of 13,000 wreaths at veterans Mountain Home Cemetery in Johnson City. The Wreaths Across America program brings truckloads of wreaths and after a ceremony remembering the folks from all walks of life who gave the ultimate sacrifice for America, the group of several hundred volunteers spread out to place a red ribbon adorned green wreath at each and every grave in the cemetery.



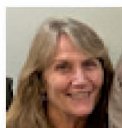
Local business, Campus Chalet Embroidery, prepared event hats for the BLA volunteers, creatively placing the BLA name and a red ribbon festooned green wreath on each hat, recognizing the efforts of our group. When it was all done, the cemetery looked even more proud with its solemn decoration for the season:

On Saturday, January 21st, the same group of BLA volunteers came to Mountain Home to remove the wreaths. BLA will be back next year—volunteering once again because that is what we do.



Meet the 2023 Crew Jeanette Bailey

Winter on Boone is a very unpredictable season. Some weeks, it is difficult to work on the water and other weeks are very productive. Boone was immaculate until the February rains arrived and brought the logs, trash and debris into the lake. Our dedicated crew has been working diligently to remove the hazardous wood. Captain Jon continues to lead our crew and I am confident, some cold mornings he prefers his previous warm Florida lifestyle. Nic has officially become a Tennessean (he relocated from New Jersey), he has been with BLA for 1 year+ and recently purchased a house. Gene returned to the BLA team in February and we are looking forward to using his operator skills on our new SK#2 crane. John is the youngest of the crew and loves being outdoors. BLA Operations is fortunate to have a dedicated experienced team and the necessary equipment to work with. Can you imagine what Boone would look like without BLA? Thank you for your contributions, we could not do the work without your continued support. Please report hazards to 423-360-5057.



John, Gene, Nic



Capt. Jon

What's With All the Brown Dirty Water in Boone Lake? Jim Slaight



This March has seen a double whammy from the weather and TVA raising the lake for flood control and toward full summer pool. Boone Lake is fed by some 600 tributaries including several big ones such as the South Holston and Watauga Rivers, Beaver Creek and Muddy Creek. When the lake level is drawn down in the fall, tributary bottom and banks along with Boone Lake bottom and banks are exposed and dry out. Winter and spring storms blow leaves, branches and even down trees into the exposed bottom and all that gets washed into the lake during storms and lake water level fluctuations. Even worse, all of the trash and litter that carelessly gets thrown out onto the road flows into the tributaries and into Boone Lake. The heavy rain washes exposed banks and bottom into the lake causing the brown mud. This year, we've noticed a brown slick un-

der the surface that's caused by decomposing leaves.

Our crews do the best they can to pick up the worst of the slicks and logs however it's a never-ending effort and we can't possibly get it all. You can help our crews by collecting fallen wood and litter on your property and disposing of them appropriately. There are also several occasions during spring that organizations gather to clean both of our major rivers, much like the Boone Lake Cleanup Day. Come out and enjoy the day with them and us. Finally, if you have collected debris waiting to be disposed of, make sure that it's up far enough from the water that it can't wash into the lake during raising water or storms.

We all want our beautiful lake all the time - it takes all our effort!

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What if there was no BLA?

Ann Larson

Let's turn the clock back to the late 1970's /early 1980's. You own a beautiful little home on Boone Lake. Looking out from your backdoor, you enjoy a scenic view of the lake... NO, wait just a minute.. your scenic view is a lake overloaded with floating trash and just up stream raw sewage is flowing into the lake. Warning signs appear advising that the lake is not safe for fishing or swimming. Not what you expected of your lakefront property. On to the scene come several concerned men and women who are determined to make a difference...and the Boone Lake Property Owners and Friends (BLPOAF) is born...one of the oldest environmental organizations in Tennessee. This dedicated group sound the alarm, write letters, and visit local and federal representatives, alerting them to the environmental

catastrophe growing in their own backyard!! They need money to support their efforts so apply for and are granted 501c3 status.. And their efforts pay off.. just look out your back door today!!

In 1990, the BLPOAF is renamed the Boone Lake Association to attract then support of not only lake front homeowners but local businesses, concerned citizens and recreational users as well.

The BLA continued to grow.. from a one man crew on a donated pontoon to it's current 3-4 man crew, 5 vessels to include a skimmer acquired in 2020 and it's newest vessel a 30ft barge with crane. None of this would be possible without the generous support of individual contributors, local governments and businesses and the dedicated men and women who serve on the BLA Board of Directors.

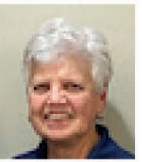
So what if there was no BLA.... That "mash of trash"

that blocks the channel after a storm would be there for many days as it slowly flows downstream toward Boone Dam and Patrick Henry Lake instead of being cleaned up by the BLA crew in a matter of a few days. That 20ft log that the crew towed to a containment area might lay just beneath the surface waiting to put a hole in your bass boat or knock your child off their water skis. The water quality monitoring done on a regular basis might result in unsafe water for fishing and recreation. Keeping Boone Lake clean is a year round job as "stuff" is always flowing into the lake from the over 600 tributaries that feed into Boone Lake, and from the parking lots and roadways that surround it.

As one of the oldest environmental organizations in Tennessee, BLA is dedicated to keeping the local waterways clean and safe, and this benefits everyone. Water flows "downhill". Debris from the S. Holston and Watauga Riv-

ers, Beaver Creek and the many other tributaries flow into Boone Lake... and if not contained and removed will eventually make its way downstream to other rivers and reservoirs.

Our crews are out working year round, in often terrible conditions, to clean Boone Lake for your enjoyment. If you see them working a trash slick, getting a log, foam block, or dock part out of the way of boats, or burning off all of the logs and debris they've collected, give them a friendly wave to let them know they're appreciated. Also, it's your donations that keep them working and their equipment running. Take a minute to write a check and join the effort to keep Boone Lake beautiful, clean, and safe. Your contributions to BLA have a far greater impact than just in your own "backyard".





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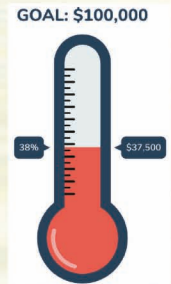
The Boone Lake Association is a not-for-profit 501c3. Your contributions may be tax deductible in accordance with IRS regulations. Please check current rules for tax purposes as IRS tax codes may change. We appreciate your support! Every dollar you contribute goes to helping to keep Boone Lake clean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

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

CONTRIBUTION LEVEL:

- _____ \$2500+ Patron
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- _____ \$500+ Sponsor
- _____ \$250+ Partner
- _____ \$100+ Supporter
- _____ \$50+ Contributor

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Contact me about volunteering.

www.boonelakeassociation.org



**Watching
 the Waters**

Cleaning Boone Lake since 1983

PINEY FLATS, TN 37686

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ASSOCIATION

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