

BOONE LAKE ASSOCIATION

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WATCHING THE WATERS

Summer 2023

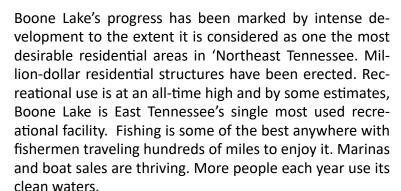


President's Letter, Frank Hahne

40 Years and counting! In addition to highlighting BLA's Annual Cleanup progress in this June issue, I wish to acknowledge those eighteen Presidents who have served and on whose shoulders, we continue to build upon. Thanks to their, and our current volunteers' efforts BLA is in a good place. Of course, none of that would be possible without your generosity and support. The *JOIN US—HELP US—HELP YOU* 2023 campaign has been a success in building equipment, staff, contributions and volunteers. September's issue will include more details, but now....enjoy our lake during this hot summer season.

Why was BLA formed 40 years ago? Boone Lake was created in 1952 by damming the south fork of the Holston River; but the city of Bristol had NO sewer treatment plant and Beaver Creek was the stream taking everything downstream. Quickly a "Blue Ridge" water treatment plant was constructed but capacity constraints led to the terrible 60's for lake quality and home values. A newer "Stickley Farm" water treatment plant in 1973 was bantered to solve the problem, but the underwater discharge from the plant near Davis Dock masked and did not solve the continuing pollution problem. Fast forward to 1983 when acres of floating sludge surface near Davis Dock and put the community in shock. State inspectors, together with TVA, verified that Bristol's treatment plant as the source and citizens groups formed to press for quick and cost-effective solutions. The lesson that has been learned is that downstream neighbors can be protected by upstream municipalities when the commitment for efficient operation is made and there is involvement' of all concerned parties.

Why does BLA continue 40 years later?



Much work remains for Boone Lake and safeguard measures must always be kept in place. Watching the water of Boone Lake will always be a full time job. Indeed, watching all the waters of our planet has become a full time job for everyone. 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 your help Boone Lake will be preserved and your children's children will thank you.

So, from all our volunteers, Board Members and employees,

Happy 40th Birthday BLA

Frank Hahne, BLA's 19th President/CEO

Contributor Report

Gary Parker



Beginning in early 2023 BLA researched and expanded our outreach from approximately 2,500 to 5,700 contacts in the greater Boone Lake area to increase the number of potential contributors that could support your organization. **This has resulted in over 80 new contributors to BLA thus far.** We ended 2022 with 481 contributors, a far stretch from our goal of 600 matching 2014 prior to the dam repair. **We CAN get back to that 600-level!** If our loyal 2022 contributors who have not yet returned respond, coupled with the new contributors—we will be approaching our goal of 600.

BLA's contributor base consists of direct lakefront owners and other users in close proximity to the lake. This 5,700 encompasses the entire lake area, of which 1,700 are direct lakefront owners. Our goal of 600 contributors equates to a 35% participation rate among the lakefront owners or 10% of the greater area. Boone Lake is a valuable asset to the area and even more meaningful to the lakefront owners. Even a small contribution goes a long way toward maintaining the cleanliness and safety of Boone Lake. We ask that you please step up and **Join Us–Help Us–Help You.** BLA is on a mission to maintain Boone Lake as our enjoyable place to recreate.

On the cover: 2023 Fireworks light up the night on Boone Lake. Background photo courtesy of Jim Slaight.

A few Words from Past Presidents . . .

Celebrating our 40th anniversary we wanted to look back over the past 10 years and let a few of our past presidents share their highlights and challenges:

Ron Siegried

In September 2014, President Russ Harrison announced at the monthly meeting of the BLA that he was retiring and moving to Florida. He turned over the Presidency to me on October 1, 2014. As many of you will sadly remember, in early October TVA announced that Boone Lake dam had a leak, and they would be immediately draining the lake to a safe level. WOW! Just a few days as President and the lake was gone! This shocked the whole Tri-Cities area! The most injured by this decision was the lake property owners whose boats were left hanging in their docks. They would soon learn this was for a period of 7 years. This decision greatly affected all the marinas as well.

As the new President of BLA, I was inundated with phone calls from BLA members and the many medias asking questions on the future of Boone Lake and more specifically the fate of the Boone Lake Association. The media presented the lake as nothing but a river. In May 2015, I invited and took several of the TV reporters for a tour of Boone Lake to show them the lake was mostly usable. The damage had already been done. Our membership suffered that year and subsequent years.

We stilled maintained our great Lake Operations crew. After all, litter does not take a holiday. The lake was still there along with logs and trash. This was the start of a difficult 7-year period for the Boone Lake Association

Dennis Scheer

The first ten years that I served on the

Boone Lake Association board was a period of small steady growth of the association. Then the lake drawdown to repair the dam happened. Interest in the lake waned. Membership began to drop substantially. It was during early part of this challenging time that I had a stint as president of BLA.

Many efforts were undertaken to continue the work on a smaller lake. It was a time for more contacts to increase the support from surrounding cities, counties as well as businesses. TVA responded to the need for improved low level ramps. Through the dedication of board members and the community, the BLA continued the work needed to support Boone Lake through the lake repair.

Val Kosmider

After a couple years on the Board serving as Water Quality Chair and Board VP, I "ascended" to President, just in time to deal with Lake levels being drawn down to record levels. Precipitously. so was BLA's financial support base. People were angry, and BLA was the unintended target.

Keeping the Lake Operations Crew going. Raising money. Answering questions about the "why's" surrounding trash, trees, and "stuff" accumulating here and there in the Lake. Then we began the whole new effort to raise funds to literally keep BLA alive.

The "coup de grace" was our invitation to help cut the ribbon on the finished Boone Dam. Seven years. \$450 Million or so. A HUGE, global effort to restore and refill Boone Lake.

She's back. A generational improvement in terms of safety and water cleanliness. The exact things which BLA stands for.I "retired". Mission accomplished.

(Editor's Note. You can read more about Val's term(s) in the Dec-2022 issue)

Jon Wireman

Being BLA president in 2020 was challenging due to all of the problems brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic as well as aggressive changes undertaken in the organization to update our employee and safety practices, our financial record management and fundraising in dry times for the big skimmer project.

Among the rewards, the Annual Cleanup that was nearly cancelled, was successfully undertaken at a later date and all of the dedicated workers, board members, and other volunteers kept with the process of keeping Boone Lake clean, safe, and beautiful!

(Editor's Note. Other Presidents during these times were Zenda Nichols and Tom McKee.

They will share their memories in the Fall edition of the Shoreliner)

40 years of BLA Presidents

BOB BROBECK JERRY SORRELL **BOB BROBECK ELLEN BRONNER ROBERT COX FRED FOY** JOE WELDON **DAVE CUMBOW DENNIS WILLINGHAM KEN BRONNER RUSS HARRISON RON SIEGFRIED DENNIS SCHEER ZENDA NICHOLS** TOM MCKEE **VAL KOSMIDER** JON WIREMAN **VAL KOSMIDER** FRANK HAHNE

JUL 1984-JUN 1985 JUL 1985-JUN 1986 JUL 1986-JUN 1988 JUL 1988-JUN 1990 JUL 1990-JUN 1992 JUL 1992-JUN 1995 JUL 1995-JUN 1998 JUL 1998-JUN 2003 JUL 2003-DEC 2007 JAN 2008-DEC 2008 JAN 2009-SEPT 2014 OCT 2014-DEC 2015 JAN 2016-SEPT2016 OCT 2016-DEC 2017 JAN 2018-MAY 2018 JUN 2018-DEC 2019 JAN 2020-DEC 2020 JAN 2021-DEC 2022 JAN 2023-

1983
The Boone Lake Homeowners and Friends
(BLHOAF) established
1st Shoreliner published

1984 501c3 designation approved

1989 SUCCESS Unsafe for human contact signs removed from Boone Lake **1990**BLHOAF
Becomes Boone Lake Association (BLA)

2000 1st Annual "Cash for Trash" CleanUp 10 tons of trash collected

CLEAN UP 2023 - THANK YOU

Laurie Spring

The Boone Lake Association would like to thank all the volunteers that worked on the event, the participants in the cleanup, the band "Boone Lake Trash" and all our sponsors, especially Home Shopping Network that donated the grand prize of a Blackstone grill.

The event facilitated over 300 volunteers removing trash, tires, refuse and debris from the waters and shoreline of Boone Lake. Boone Lake Association (BLA) organized five trash collection sites all around the Lake staffed with site volunteers to distribute supplies (gloves/bags) and to receive and dispose of the materials collected by

the cleanup volunteers.

The final haul included over 9 tons of collected materials, consisting of 566 bags of trash, 67 tires, 67 large blocks of Styrofoam, and 265 wood/other items. 952 trash total tickets were claimed by the more than 300 volunteers for trash, tires, wood, Styrofoam and other items picked up and transported to the 5 collection sites staffed by Captains and volunteer crews.

Following the clean-up, volunteers enjoyed a picnic at Winged Deer Park where the music group "Boone Lake Trash" provided entertainment. 40

cash prizes of \$30 each, totaling \$1,200 and a

grand prize, a Blackstone griddle, cart, and cover were awarded. Over 400 classic Tee-Shirts were presented to the participating volunteers of the event. A highlight of the picnic was the recognition of several BLA Past Presidents and BLA's 40 years of service to the Bonne Lake community.

Thank you for your participation and financial support of our 40-year-old 501c3 nonprofit organization. Together we have, and will continue to, make a difference in the quality and safety on Boone Lake.



























2007 Contributor high mark..600

2008BLA website goes live

2013Call in number established to report floating debris

2014Where has all the water gone?
BLA reaches 600 contributors

LAKE OPERATIONS UPDATE - Jeanette Bailey

We had unusually cool June weather on Boone Lake, but July is turning out to be smoking hot! Our crew is spending their days clearing the logs and debris from the major waterways whenever our contributors' call list is up to date. Year-to-Date the crew has closed 75 Call Log Requests!

BLA has heard, and understands, Bluff City-South Holston needs our support. We are working with Sullivan County, Lakeview RV Park and Bluff City to develop a plan to clear the derelict docks, trees and logs. BLA has always struggled to dispose of Bluff City debris since it is very costly to transport all the way to Point #9. Our goal is to have this completed by mid-August.

BLA appreciates the continued support of Johnson City with the dumpster and ramp debris pickup at Wing Deer Park. If you love the lake and want to join the BLA crew, we are looking for another

join are ther

full-time employee. Send Resume to boonelakeassociation@gmail. com. Please continue to report any safety hazards or any lake issues to our Hot Line 423-360-5057. We need your continued financial support, labor and fuel are our main expenses which is what it takes to keep Boone clean and safe.







Fortunately, a boater avoided hitting this floating metal piece, captured it and then contacted BLA to remove this concrete-steel-styrofoam hazard.



What a tree we captured! Before someone's hull found it.



Pickens Bridge Ramp, logs are better on land...than water.



Blake and the crew can always find, and clear, this kind of mess.

fall to 217

Why We Do, What We Do. 40 Years of Service

Over 40 years ago a group of few concerned men and women formed an army of sorts and attacked the problem of a dirty and polluted Boone Lake. Thev wrote letters and made many phone calls to local newspapers, congressmen, TVA, and whoever else would listen. They held meetings, organized clean up efforts and eventually applied for and received a Soil Conservation Grant al-

lowing for the Job Corps to come onboard and pick up tons of Boone Lake trash... metal barrels, appliances, railroad ties, tires and more...but it would take a lot more than one grant and one cleanup to bring Boone Lake to where it is today. So, in 1983 those few concerned men and women formed the Boone Lake Property Owners and Friends (BLPOAF), later renamed Boone Lake Asso-

ciation (BLA).

You will find the names of several of those founders on the list of Past Presidents (Page 3)...but there were and are many more*. Over the years the way we go about the business of cleaning the lake has changed some...from volunteers to a paid employee, to a crew of employees...from boats owned by volunteers, to donated pontoons, to Skim-

mer 1 and 2, from small volunteer clean ups to our Annual Cash for Trash event... but one thing has never changed.. those who love Boone Lake and carry on the efforts of the few who started it all.

*Some names you won't see on the list of Past Presidents but who played an important part in the early days are Don Cross (former Shoreliner editor and Board Secretary), Dexter Christenberry, Bob McNab, and Gary Rader.

Boone Lake Fishing Report

- Derrick Paduch

Captain Jon is unavailable to write our Summer fishing report, so Derrick Paduch has stepped in. Derrick is a Financial Representative for Modern Woodmen of America, an avid fisherman and water skier, President of Outdoorsmen, Inc. and a Boone Lake fishing guide. Modern woodmen of America is a major sponsor of BLA.

Currently the lake has seen its first glimpse of 80-degree water temps. There is still good striper fishing on occa-

sion in the mouths of both rivers. Bass fishing is starting to transition to nighttime. Speaking of Bass, Boone Lake received its third round of 50,000 F1 Bass on June 15th. This brings the total stocking over the last 3 years to 150,000 F1 Bass. We have been seeing numerous 1/2 to 1lb Bass being

caught all over the Lake as a result of these stockings. Hopefully in the years to come our Lake will become a significant bass fishery for the largemouth. It was a great spring for all kinds fishing because of cooler than normal water temperatures lingering till almost the end of June this year. Hopefully, we will see better than average rainfall increasing the water current in the lake which always makes for good fishing even in the dead of summer.



The Canoe

Val Kosmider

Your Boone Lake Association

Operations Crew regularly removes all manner of items from our lake. The retrievals can range from the regular (trees, Styrofoam, logs, and trash) to the unique: Boats—houseboats, fishing boats, old row boats, and "the Canoe".

It turns out the "canoe" was a "drowned" Old Town manufactured sometime in the 1970's. The hull material, some sort of fiberglass hybrid, was mostly intact. The wood trim was rotted while some of the seats had been replaced with a bright blue fabric—removing any sense of nostalgia for this old beauty.

Multiple attempts to locate an owner or someone to claim the old girl proved futile, and Val Kosmider volunteered to "restore" the canoe and see if we could use it as a fund raising tool.

Restoring our old beauty turned out to be more than a simple project—mostly because we had never restored a canoe before.

The first step was to "gut" the old hull. All old wood, including thwarts, decks, gunwales, yoke, seats and end bronze was carefully removed, labelled, and preserved for use as patterns. Hundreds of old bronze screws were carefully removed and preserved for future use.

With the hull cleaned of all "accoutrements", we scrubbed the hull and removed years of dirt, scum and grime. It turns out we had an Old Town 17-foot Penobscot on our hands. The hull material is Royalex (called "Oltonar" by Old Town for many

years), an ABS composite plastic.

Next came out the sandpaper and a number of hours sanding down the bottom to remove years of dirt and paint. Once we had the hull down to something resembling its "base", we filled the numerous dents and scrapes (battle scars!) and prepped the hull for painting.

The first coat was a marine primer which went on well.

Is this really that difficult?

The next coat was a marine ablative paint, as was the third coat, which was applied too soon and developed star cracks in the paint.

Out came the sandpaper once again and numerous hours of elbow grease to get the ablative paint off, and the hull prepared for yet another painting. Sensibly, this time we went with a marine enamel epoxy which went on well, but in the end, is probably not the finest paint job a restored canoe has even seen.

Next, we bought a single plank of Tennessee Ash and laid out all the patterns from the original parts which we had saved. With careful detail each part was cut from our plank, routed as necessary, glued for gunwale length, and sanded in preparation for multiple coats of spar varnish.

Coat after coat of varnish was applied, sanded, and applied again. When we were happy with the finish, we found a supplier of the new bronze screws and, with drill and driver in hand, we went to work fitting, cutting and installing the gunwales. After that, our hand cut thwarts and yoke were fitted, cut and drilled for installation. Then the end handles, and two cane-weaved seats which were pur-

chased from an Old Town supplier were fitted and installed.

Turns out our woodworking skills aren't bad! Once installed, everything was sanded, and another two coats of spar varnish were applied.

With the old canoe beginning to look sharp, we found appropriate lettering from Old Town and applied the final touches.

Along the way it became a royal...well...in-convenience...to have a 17 foot canoe in our small workshop with no easy way to move it around. Hence, we built a mobile apparatus to cradle the canoe and removed a substantial annoyance when it came time to move the canoe around in our shop. Today that cradle has been finished and completed as a presentation mount for the canoe.

The canoe is on display at Boone Lake Marina through the gracious cooperation of owner Jerry Frank. The 17-foot Old Town is completely restored and displays with grace. Included are two fresh paddles. She is ready to take an idyllic ride, run some rapids, or hang from the rafters in your outdoor gazebo or indoor room. Regardless, we believe she will be a source of pride and enjoyment for the final owner.

We are asking for a \$2,500 donation to the Boone Lake Association, and while, as is typical, the cost to restore is WAY more than the final value, we believe the final value is roughly \$500, so your donation might be \$2,000 tax deductible.

With any questions, as best we know the answers, please reach out to Val Kosmider at 423 207 0009.





Thank You Hard Rock Cafe Bristol Culture Club

Frank Hahne

Culture Club partnering with the Boone Lake Association to 'Take Time to be Kind' and 'Save the Planet'—their mottos.

The group is known as the Culture Club is an internal volunteer organization present at all Hard Rock facilities. What a story, what a kind group of people.... When HRHC heard about the opportunity to support BLA's Annual Cleanup Event all their corporate funds for charities and nonprofits were already committed for 2023. But that did not stop their employees from rolling up their sleeves, designing and selling a T-Shirt for Earth Day to raise money to donate to Tri-Cities oldest environmental nonprofit, Boone Lake Association—\$3,500 to be exact.

Marina Alvidrez, Vice President of Human Resources offered, "My daughter, Mia and I had a wonderful time serving the volunteers lunch, as well. You have a fabulous team of caring individuals and we're delighted to participate." Well, BLA thanks you and all your volunteers that turned out that

day—you not only hauled in 24 bags and "other" strange things but also stayed for the duration to serve others.









Guardians, Assemble

Jada Creasman, a 3rd year medical student at the ETSU Quillen College of Medicine.

Water Guardians help to stop easily preventable drowning deaths.

Drowning is one of the leading causes of death in children with 11 drowning deaths occurring every day. With such a beautiful (and clean!) lake nearby and summer fun well underway, drowning is something for which we all should be on the lookout. Though it may seem impossible to help, drowning can be easily prevented with just a few small changes! Placing barriers around pools and other bodies of water, ensuring your children and grandchildren are taking swim lessons, and becoming a Water Guardian are all ways that we can take a

stand against drowning.

To spread awareness and prevent accidental drownings from happening to others, Water Guardians were created by the family of Levi Hughes, a 3-year-old boy who passed away in a home drowning accident. Becoming a Water Guardian is like putting on the superhero cape. Simply designate an adult to remain within arm's length of children around water and keep a close eye for any emergencies. This can be even easier by wearing a Water Guardian tag to serve as a visual reminder that you are the superhero of the water!

If you have any questions or would like to receive a Water Guard-

ian tag, email creasmanj@etsu.edu for more information. In order to help us learn how it can be easier to access water safety resources, please ask your local friends and family to fill out a survey using the QR code!





Wakeboarding and Wakesurfing Regulations Ann Larson & Frank Hahne

On March 28, 2022, **Governor Lee signed a new Tennessee law** which provides as follows:

- Wakeboarding and wakesurfing is prohibited before sunrise or after sunset. This provision was already in place for jet-skiers, skiers, etc. The new law simply includes wakeboarders and wakesurfers in the prohibition.
- Wakeboarding and wakesurfing is not permitted on any body of water less than fifty acres in size.
- Wakeboarding and wakesurfing are no longer permitted in coves or any "portion of a body of water" with a width of less than 400 feet.
- Wakeboarding and wakesurfing are not permitted within 200 feet of a "shoreline or a dock, pier, boathouse, or other structure located completely or partly on the water".
- Wakeboarders and wakesurfers must wear a personal flotation device approved by the U.S. Coast Guard.
- Pursuant to T.C.A. 69-9-219, violation of the new law is a Class C misdemeanor punishable by up to 30 days in jail and up to a \$50 fine and court costs.
- The new law was effective July 1, 2022.

According to the Tennessee Injury Law Center this "new law is designed to help protect the shorelines of Tennessee lakes and homeowners' property from the high wakes created by wakeboats. Wakeboats concern experts for other reasons as well. High wakes, especially in smaller channels of water, can churn

up sediment which can, in turn, stir up dormant nutrients which then promotes algae bloom and the growth of weeds. High wakes can disturb wildlife close to shore. High wakes in smaller channels can be dangerous for swimmers, especially inexperienced ones, and children."

Boone Lake observers have seen TWRA working to enforce the new 2022 regulations in a gradually escalating manner—first, concentrating on coves that are less than 400' wide with warning tickets to violators; and now, they have progressed to tickets with fines. Next, TWRA will utilize equipment that can measure distance from docks and property on main channels to boats violating the 200' distance requirement. Please honor both the spirit and the letter of this new regulation as you enjoy the beautiful Boone Lake.

TWRA Law Enforcement

Every officer of the Agency has the authority to stop and board any vessel subject to the State Boating Act. They may issue citations or, when necessary, they may arrest, on sight, without warrant, any person they see violating any provisions of the Act.

Most Agency vessels may be recognized by the orange and green stripes near the bow and the words WILD-LIFE RESOURCES on the sides; however, unmarked vessels are also used. Boaters who are signaled to stop must do so immediately and maneuver in such a way that the officer may come along

side or come aboard.

TWRA officers monitor marine radio channel 17 and can also be contacted through the regional TWRA dispatcher at the toll-free number. Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency: • Call us at 615-781-6682. • Visit our website at www.tn.gov/twra/section/boating

Reckless Operation

Reckless operation of a vessel, water skies or similar device is one of the most serious offenses in Tennessee boating law. Violations are punishable by a fine of \$2500 and six months in jail. Additionally, the Coast Guard may impose a civil penalty of up to \$5,000 and imprisonment of one year. Reckless operation is defined as any act which endangers life, limb or property.

No Wake (Idle Speed) Areas Unless otherwise marked, all

vessels operating within 300 feet of a commercial boat dock must do so at a slow wake speed regardless of whether or not the area is marked by buoys. "No wake" is defined as a vessel traveling at or below idle speed, or at such speed that the boat or its wake (waves) is not sufficient to cause possible injury or damage to other persons, boats, or property.

Propeller Safety

Protect those toes, feet, legs, and lives. Be aware of your boat's "danger zone." Swim platforms, ladders, and slides are all located in the rear of the boat where the propeller is lurking right under the water. Use caution when swimming, loading, or jumping off

the rear of boats. Turn the engine

off when people are swimming near the boat. On larger boats, have someone to visually check the stern area for persons in the water before placing engines in reverse.

Avoid Death Zones

- Swimming near or under the back deck or swim platform. Carbon monoxide from exhaust pipes of inboard engines, outboard engines, and generators build up inside and outside the boat in areas near exhaust vents. Stay away from these exhaust vent areas and do not swim in these areas when the motor or generator is operating.
- On calm days, wait at least 15 minutes after the motor or generator has been shut off before entering these areas.
- Never enter an enclosed area under a swim platform where the exhaust is vented, not even for a second. It only takes one or two breaths of the air in this "death chamber" for it to be fatal.
- Teak surfing, dragging and water skiing within 20 feet of a moving watercraft can be fatal.

Link to Boating Handbook:

https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/twra/documents/boating/TN-Boating-Handbook.pdf We encourage you to review the Boaters Safety Handbook available online. For further information please visit the TWRA website.

Be informed, be safe and be respectful of others.

Water Quality Monitoring - Jim Slaight

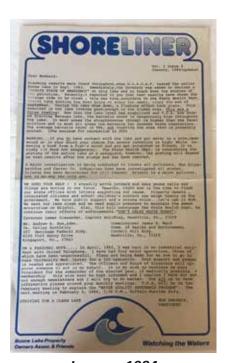
Your Boone Lake Association Water Quality Monitoring Team started up again on June 1. Boone Lake water quality continues to be good with E.coli levels below 10 at each of our three sampling sites on the South Holston side. The EPA standard for skin contact water is under 200. We're in desperate need

of a volunteer or volunteers for the Watauga arm of Boone Lake. With Boone Lake up to full summer pool it's impossible for our volunteers who live on the South Holston side to boat over to the Watauga arm within the time limits for getting the samples to the lab. Also, our water quality monitoring team is voluntary and uses their personal boat and gas. We need

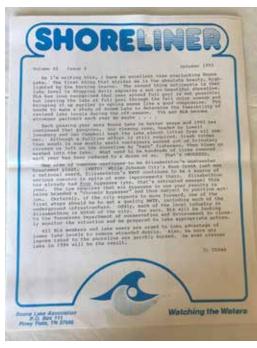
sonal need blunteer who has dicate one morning peak months.

a Watauga side volunteer who has a boat and can dedicate one morning per month during peak months. If you can help or want additional information, please contact us at boonelakeassociation@gmail.com.

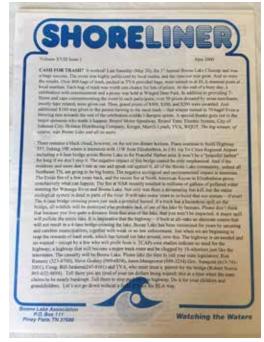
Celebrating 40 years of Shoreliners... reaching out to all our supporters and keeping you informed!



January 1984



October 1993



June 2000







May 2008 July 2013 March 2022





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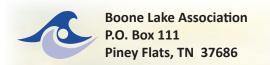


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Check payable to Boone Lake Association or on our website or by PayPal		www.boonelakeassociation.org		



Cleaning Boone Lake since 1983

PINEY FLATS, TN 37686

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