



Boulder Lake Advancement Association Newsletter

May 2020



Welcome to the 2020 Edition of the Boulder Lake Advancement Association (BLAA) Newsletter.

This year's edition has a new look and 2021 might have another new look. I would like to tell you it is all by design, but it is part of the BLAA's transition process.

COVID-19 is the big news so far in 2020, and it has impacted BLAA as it has just about everything in the world. What will not change is BLAA's focus on protecting and improving the quality of the Boulder Lake we love and cherish.

This newsletter will inform you, but if you cannot be on Boulder Lake, it should virtually bring you here through stories and photos.

Your BLAA leadership is dedicated to continuing to move the organization and health of Boulder Lake forward for not only us, but for future generations. We graciously appreciate your support and look forward to you renewing your membership in 2020.

Bill Niemuth
BLAA President



What's in this Edition?

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Changes

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ICE-UP and ICE-OUT

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COVID-19 Accelerating BLAA Changes

COVID-19 has impacted each of us in ways we may not have imagined. For the BLAA it has quickened the pace of changes the Board has been discussing the past two years.

Annual Meeting goes Virtual
Saturday, May 23 from 9AM to 10:30AM

[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

[+1 715-598-3906](#) United States, Eau Claire (Toll)

Conference ID: 296 401 603#

[Local numbers](#) | [Reset PIN](#) | [Learn more about Teams](#)

| [Meeting options](#)

Secure electronic membership renewal/sign-up and dues/donations payments from the BLAA Website.

*You still have the option of mailing a check to:

BLAA

PO BOX 521

Boulder Junction, WI 54512

Electronic Newsletter

Moving to electronic will save at least \$50 in mailing costs per year – Members without an email address will still get a hard copy.



 Annual Membership - \$25 per person. 

Electronic Membership Renewal, Sign Up, and Payment



WITH BLAA LIKELY MOVING TO ELECTRONIC MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL/SIGN UP AND PAYMENT THE PROCESS WILL CHANGE SIGNIFICANTLY.



DURING OUR ANNUAL MEETING ON MAY 23 WE WILL SHARE WITH YOU WHAT THE PROCESS WILL LOOK LIKE AND WILL SEND YOU INSTRUCTIONS SO YOU CAN EASILY RENEW AND SIGN-UP ON OR AROUND JUNE 1, 2020.



MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR COURTNEY CALDER HAS DESIGNED A PROCESS THAT WILL BE MORE EFFICIENT AND SAVE BLAA MONEY.



SIGN UP WILL BE FROM THE [BLAA WEBSITE](#) AND ALLOW YOU TO SECURELY ENTER YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND PAYMENT INFORMATION.

Coming June 1!



A Long Winter? – Only
169 Days

Ice-Up – November 8, 2019

Ice-Out – April 26, 2020

BLAA's Evolving Leadership Team

After many years as Director and Treasurer, Renee Coleman retired earlier in 2020. While we will miss Renee, we are extremely grateful of her dedication to BLAA and her diligence as Treasurer. The records were impeccable and helped us reorganize quickly. Thanks Renee!



We were fortunate to recruit Cherie Sanderson as Renee's replacement as Director and new Secretary. You will know Cherie as Boulder Junction's Library Director and the many organizations she has led over the years. Cherie will help spearhead the next generation of BLAA leadership.



In a reorganization of sorts, Paul Armstrong graciously agreed to move from BLAA Secretary to Treasurer to round out the leadership team. Paul is BLAA's historian and tremendous contributor to BLAA's policies and structure.



In further BLAA leadership succession planning Courtney Calder was appointed Membership Coordinator. In this crucial role, Courtney's talents and experience with website development and communications are helping take BLAA to the next level.

2019/2020 BLAA Priorities



As fate would have it, a couple of BLAA's 2020 priorities are holdovers from 2019.

In 2019, BLAA made significant progress.

- We presented the Healthy Lake study of Boulder Lake and members have begun to take steps to modify their properties to improve the health of Boulder Lake.
- We launched BLAA's first [Website](#) and improved it throughout the year.
- And hot off the press – We installed a new aquatic invasive species sign at Boulder Lake's Boat Landing (although this was just done so I am overstating what we accomplished in 2019)!

What we did not complete was applying for 501 (c)(3) status. This is on our list for 2020.

Our other 2020 priority is a big one. As reported earlier, BLAA is moving to electronic newsletter distribution, membership sign-up, and payment and online donations. Your Board believes this is the right time to make this important change and well position us for the future.

What Else Do You Want BLAA To Do? We Need Your Feedback!

Proposed By-Laws Updates Coming

by Paul Armstrong

Bylaws, what are they and why they need to be updated?

Bylaws for an organization like the Boulder Lake Advancement Association are essentially its constitution. They contain information that includes why the organization exists, who are its members, and how it operates. The operations are described in sections on the board of directors, officers, meetings for both members and board, voting rules, and other rules, for instance, on how changes can be made.

Over the last year or so the board has run into some issues with the current set of bylaws that was adopted back in May of 2004. A few items being considered include rules for handling meetings virtually, deadlines for calling meetings, and clarifying some articles that are ambiguous.

New ideas have come forward that would require a change. There have been discussions regarding honorariums such as a membership class for life members.

The rough changes in the bylaws are being drafted by Paul Armstrong, Treasurer, who in 2004 as Secretary had the same duties. These draft changes will then be discussed by the board and finally the updated bylaws will be presented to the membership for approval.





The Role of a Lake Monitor

by Dick Schauss

- Lake Monitors are volunteers who work with the Wisconsin DNR to gather and report data to help build a record of water conditions over time. This data contributes to an overall picture of the health of the lake and how it changes. Ideally, we want to track this data every year.
- Boulder Lake data was measured in the past, but there had not been a monitor for a number of years until tracking resumed in 2018. As the Boulder Lake monitor, I gather and track specific data in a consistent manner. I take readings four times a year, starting about 2 weeks after ice out on approximately the same date in May, June, July, and August. These readings are taken between 10AM and 4PM at the the 23 foot deep hole. With GPS on my trolling motor it is quite easy to find the correct location!
- There are multiple steps each month.
 - I lower a black and white Secchi disk on a marked rope until it is no longer visible from the surface. This measures the depth water clarity. In Boulder Lake it is usually about 6 feet.
 - Next I lower a thermometer into the water with readings taken every 3 feet all the way to the bottom. There is usually a of 10-15 degree difference in temperature from the surface to the lake bottom.
 - The last thing I do is to lower a 6-foot pipe into the water and drain a sample into a gallon jug. The sample is mixed with sulfuric acid to stabilize it. The DNR uses it to determine the Phosphorus level in the water. The remainder of the water is drained through a filter for the Chlorophyll sample. These samples are put on ice in a cooler and mailed to Madison.

2020 Clean Boats Clean Waters Program

The 2020 CBCW program has been delayed until at least June 1 because of COVID-19. Classes are being offered; however, you must register with Cathy Higley as noted in the schedule to the right. If you are interested in an online class, please contact Bill Niemuth for the specific link.



Clean Boats Clean Waters 2020 Training Schedule



CBCW Workers should be re-trained every 2 years

| Date & Time | Place | Agendas |
|--|---|------------------------|
| Thurs June 4, 2020 10:00-Noon | Online - Click here to register | Agenda |
| Friday June 5, 2020 10:00-Noon | LDF - Natural Resources Dept. - Outside 2549 Hwy 47 Lac du Flambeau, WI 54538 | Agenda |
| Tues June 9, 2020 6:00-8:00 pm | Online - Click here to register This training will be co-hosted by Vilas and Oneida County | Agenda |
| Friday June 19, 2020 9:00-11:00 am | Online - Click here to register | Agenda |
| Thurs June 18, 2020 9:00-10:30 REFRESHER | T-Docks, Eagle River Lions Park 653 North Dyer Park Eagle River, WI 54521 | Agenda |
| Fri June 26, 2020 1:00-2:30 pm REFRESHER | Plum Lake Statehouse Landing (off of Razorback Rd) 3230 State House Point Rd Sayner, WI 54560 | Agenda |
| Monday July 13, 2020 10:00-Noon | Big Arbor Vitae North Boat Launch Buckhorn Rd Arbor Vitae, WI 54568 | Agenda |

RSVP to Cathy Higley at cahigl@vilascountrywi.gov or 715-479-3738.

Outdoor trainings will be limited to 8 attendees. If you attend an in-person outdoor training, please bring a face mask and keep a 6 ft distance from others. If you are either vacationing or moving to the Vilas County area, complete a 14 day quarantine before attending an in-person training. Please dress for the weather.

Boulder Lake Health – What are you doing?

By Bill Niemuth

In 2018, Boulder Lake was fortunate to have the DNR conduct a healthy lake study.

In 2019, the BLAA and DNR presented the results to our members and public. Results included ways for you to help protect the health of Boulder Lake with a challenge for each property owner to implement one improvement in 2020.

So what are you doing?

Many Boulder Lake property owners had Vilas County visit their properties last fall and conduct an assessment. The assessment was refreshing because the two I was part of did not include elaborate solutions or designs, but simple, do-it-yourself, common sense recommendations.

For example, Sue and I are doing the following:

- Letting our shoreline return to its natural state.
- Helping nature recover potential erosion areas on a steep slope near the lakeshore.
- Planning a rain garden as we complete landscaping.

I am also eyeing a couple of lakeshore trees and hoping they fall into the water sooner than later. Several BLAA members are concerned about what appears to be a declining fishery and getting more wood in the lake is critical to a healthy, naturally reproductive fishery.

So, the challenge continues.....What are you doing? Please chat it up with a neighbor and implement one improvement solution in 2020.

