



Boulder Lake Advancement Association Newsletter

May 2021



Welcome to the 2021 edition of the Boulder Lake Advancement Association (BLAA) Newsletter.

Thank you for your membership and donations in 2020! With COVID and moving to electronic membership renewal and sign-up we did not know how it would play-out, but in the end our membership slipped only slightly, and our receipts were about the same as 2019. In 2021, we look to grow once again.

Boulder Junction and Boulder Lake have sure changed in a couple of years. We have added several more full-time residents as well as seasonal residents who spend much more time on Boulder Lake. As COVID wanes and High Speed Broadband service comes on-line we will likely see continued growth. It is essential we continue to protect Boulder Lake for our and future generations.

Like the title page photo? It was taken by a drone Joe Fieweger was operating the morning of April 5, or ice-out day! Thanks to Joe for allowing us to use it.

We hope you enjoy this year's addition and enjoy all that Boulder Lake and Boulder Junction provide.



Bill Niemuth - BLAA President

What's in this Edition?

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Recommended By-Laws Changes

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Like BLAA on Facebook!



2021 BLAA Annual Meeting



Digital Annual Meeting Thursday, May 27 from 6:30PM to 8PM

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 715-598-3906,,752881548#](#) United States, Eau Claire

Phone Conference ID: 752 881 548#

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)

[Learn More](#) | [Meeting options](#)



If you cannot attend the Annual Meeting, but still want to vote, please complete the proxy form on the next page and send it to BLAA by May 20, 2021, so we can process it.

BLAA Membership will gather digitally once again for its 2021 Annual Meeting. We had near record attendance at the 2020 Annual Meeting and considering the uncertainty of a meeting space because of COVID on Memorial Day weekend, we will once again meet digitally. Please join us.



PROXY VOTING AUTHORIZATION

By way of this authorization, please allow _____,
(Name)

a voting member of the Boulder Lake Advancement Association to vote on my behalf at the

_____ meeting of the Membership, Board.
(Date)

This Authorization will constitute as my presence at the meeting in counting towards quorums and will expire one month after the date of the above meeting.

Print name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Mail or scan and email this authorization once signed to the Boulder Lake Advancement Association. Please allow enough time to be delivered at least two days before the meeting.

Mail to: PO Box 521, Boulder Junction, WI 54512

Email to: boulderlakeadvancement@gmail.com

PO BOX 521, Boulder Junction, WI 54512 <https://boulderlakeassociation.org>



Its Time to Renew Your BLAA Membership (\$25 per person)

- You have 2 ways to renew and both are done through the BLAA Website
 - <https://boulderlakeassociation.org/about-blaa/membership/>
- You can renew online (and provide a donation) using your credit card; or,
- Download a simple PDF file and complete and send with your payment.
- Thank you in advance for your membership and donations!



Membership Application

Name: _____

Cottage Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____
(If Different) _____

Phone Number _____

The Boulder Lake Advancement Association permits a membership for each family member. Each membership has annual dues of \$25.

Member: _____ Email: _____

Member: _____ Email: _____

Member: _____ Email: _____

Member: _____ Email: _____

Please make your check payable to:

Boulder Lake Advancement Association or BLAA

Please mail your application and check to:

**Boulder Lake Advancement Association
P.O. Box 521
Boulder Junction, WI 54512**



Taking Care of Business – By-Laws Update

- Thanks to a team led by Paul Armstrong, the BLAA Board of Directors is recommending several By-Laws changes. The By-Laws have not been updated in over 15 years, so it was time to ensure our instructional documents match the actions of the organization.
- A week prior to the annual meeting you will receive a membership packet with the proposed By-Laws and a summary of changes. Please review these prior to the Annual Meeting.
- The process at the Annual Meeting will be calling for a motion to approve and a second and then a discussion period.
- After the discussion, we will ask for a member vote.
- This was a BIG undertaking. Thanks to Paul, Cherie Sanderson, Tom Calder, and Jim Naylor (and the Board) for their hard work on this project!

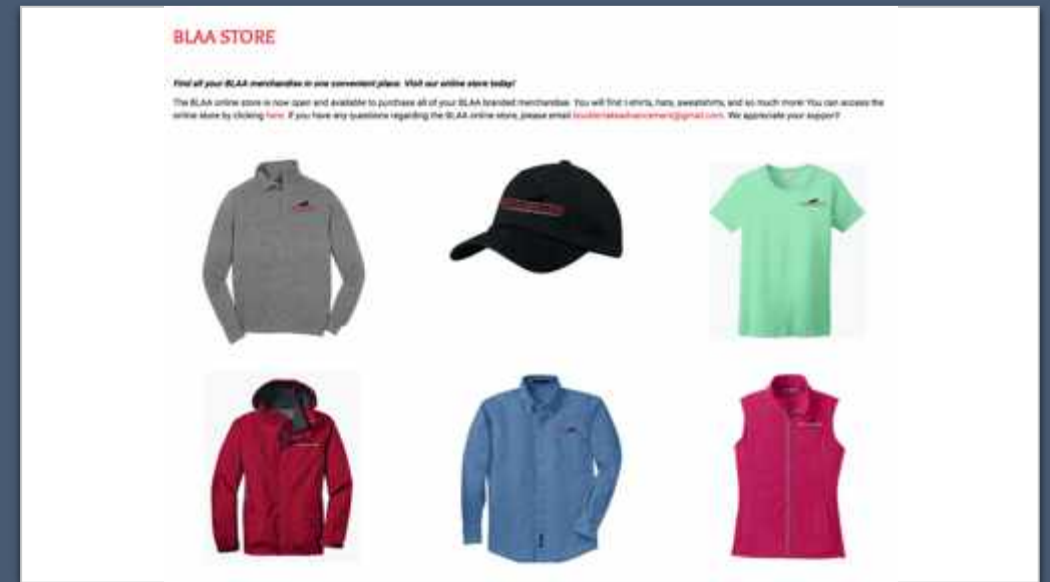
New Safety Buoys

- Based upon member feedback, the BLAA has purchased 4 blaze orange buoys, which are located on the perimeter of the large bar on the southern side of the lake.
- These buoys are more visible than the small markers used in the past, especially during windy conditions.
- The existing markers have been repositioned to improve visibility.
- If these buoys work well, the BLAA may purchase more for the 2022 season.
- Thanks to Vice President Tom Calder for leading this effort to make Boulder Lake safer for boaters.



Get Your BLAA Apparel!

- Thanks to Dan King and Courtney Calder, the BLAA has great apparel for you and your family to buy.
- For Summer 2021, the BLAA has added another 34 items.
- Visit this link to select items and place your order
 - <https://www.valleyadvertise.com/company-pride/boulder-lake-advancement-association>
- Don't see an item you want? – Tell us and we will do our best to get it.
- Thanks to our partner – Valley Apparel and Promotions.

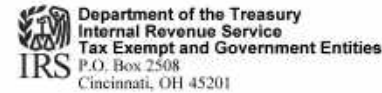


Fishery Improvement Workgroup Update

- After BLAA's 2020 Annual Meeting we formed an informal workgroup which has discussed and researched how to improve Boulder Lake's fishery. Here is what the workgroup has done.
 - Researched the DNR Fish Sticks program and the use of cribs
 - Held discussions with various DNR resources and private consultants
- After reviewing the research and assessing the data about Boulder Lake's fishery, the Board believes the best path forward for the next couple of years is to continue to work on the recommendations from the 2018 Healthy Lake Program. Here are a few reasons.
 - The most recent DNR fish studies show Boulder Lake's fishery is excellent with good reproduction.
 - The next step in moving forward with collecting additional information is to hire a consultant for ~\$10,000 to conduct a thorough lake study.
 - Cribs collect fish and fishers so they are not effective in improving the fishery.
 - Fish Sticks helps improve and sustain the fishery by providing additional habitat and cover for young fish, but in order for a program to be impactful it would likely take 15 to 25 Fish Sticks (clumps of trees secured with cables and anchors to the shoreline) to be installed in the lake. The cost of this project would likely exceed BLAA's current Treasury leaving no funds for emergencies.
- There are many things we can do if we follow the recommendations from the Healthy Lake Report.
- We will review those recommendations during the Annual Meeting.

BLAA GOES 501(C)(3)!

- It took a while (applied on November 15, 2020), but the IRS has determined BLAA is a 501(c)(3) organization.
- This means all donations and contributions to BLAA are deductible to the full extent of the law.
- Is it important? You bet it is. It is essential for getting private grants, large donations, and bequests.
- The Board will begin discussing next steps.
- Thanks for your patience.



BOULDER LAKE ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 521
BOULDER JUNCTION, WI 54512

Date: 04/10/2021
Employer ID number: 39-1800400
Person to contact: Name: Customer Service
ID number: 31954
Telephone: (877) 829-5500
Accounting period ending: December 31
Public charity status: 509(a)(2)
Form 990 / 990-EZ / 990-N required: Yes
Effective date of exemption: November 15, 2020
Contribution deductibility: Yes
Addendum applies: No
DLN: 26053723001380

Dear Applicant:

We're pleased to tell you we determined you're exempt from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(3). Donors can deduct contributions they make to you under IRC Section 170. You're also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under Section 2055, 2106, or 2522. This letter could help resolve questions on your exempt status. Please keep it for your records.

Organizations exempt under IRC Section 501(c)(3) are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined you're a public charity under the IRC Section listed at the top of this letter.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that you're required to file Form 990/990-EZ/990-N, our records show you're required to file an annual information return (Form 990 or Form 990-EZ) or electronic notice (Form 990-N, the e-Postcard). If you don't file a required return or notice for three consecutive years, your exempt status will be automatically revoked.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that an addendum applies, the enclosed addendum is an integral part of this letter.

For important information about your responsibilities as a tax-exempt organization, go to www.irs.gov/charities. Enter "4221-PC" in the search bar to view Publication 4221-PC, Compliance Guide for 501(c)(3) Public Charities, which describes your recordkeeping, reporting, and disclosure requirements.

Sincerely,

Stephen A. Martin
Director, Exempt Organizations
Rulings and Agreements

Letter 947 (Rev. 2-2020)
Catalog Number 35152F

Bait and Tackle

- Leadership Succession Planning
 - Organizations perform best when there is a blend of new and seasoned leaders.
 - The BLAA Board is working hard on recruiting new leaders to ensure it stays strong and vibrant well into the future.
 - There will likely be significant movement over the next two or three years.
 - If you are interested in a BLAA leadership role, please contact Bill Niemuth.
- Fundraising Committee
 - The BLAA Board has spoken about creating a Fundraising Committee.
 - It is exploratory at this point but is especially important now with 501(c)(3) status.
 - One question that will arise is, “What will BLAA do with the funds?” A legitimate question.
 - One thing all organizations need is a rainy-day fund for when the unexpected occurs.
 - Additional funds provide the BLAA the ability to take on projects that were never possible in the past.
 - Stay tuned for more news in this area.
- Potential Boulder Lake Park Picnic Table Upgrade
 - The picnic tables at Boulder Lake Park (area above the boat landing on Airport Road) have deteriorated and are not safe.
 - Director Dennis Reuss has researched the land use and it is possible for BLAA to upgrade these tables for our and others’ use.
 - The BLAA Board is researching options and costs and may have a recommendation in the near future.
 - It may also be possible to share costs with others and/or fund through memorials.
 - This is one of the most picturesque places in Boulder Junction and is under-used. Improving these grounds seems to be in BLAA’s best interest.
 - More news at 10.



2021/2022 BLAA Priorities

Do not use	Do not use fertilizers or chemicals on your property.
Check and maintain	Regularly check and maintain your septic system.
Maintain/add	Maintain/add a 35-foot natural vegetation area along your shoreline (do not mow within 35-feet of the shoreline).
Leave	Leave natural woody items in the lake (trees, branches, logs, leaves).
Ensure	Ensure you and your visitors only launch clean boats into Boulder Lake to guard against aquatic invasive species.
Do not pull or rake	Do not pull or rake natural vegetation out of the water along the lakeshore.
Create	Create rain gardens or diversions for water so it does not flow off impervious surfaces and into the lake.
Limit	Limit the number of piers, boat lifts and boathouses.
Do not rake	Do not rake or blow yard debris into the lake.
Become	Become trained in the Clean Boats Clean Waters program and volunteer a few hours a year at Boulder Lake's landing.

Over the past two years, the BLAA has made significant progress in modernizing the organization to ensure its future. Major accomplishments include:

- Completing a Healthy Lake Report based upon a 2018 DNR study.
- Moving to online membership sign-up, payment and donations, including newsletter distribution.
- Attained IRS 501(c)(3) status.
- Installed a new aquatic invasive species sign at Boulder Lake's Boat Landing.
- Updated BLAA's By-Laws.
- Developed a Fishery Improvement Workgroup to research options.

Here are BLAA's 2021/2022 Priorities

- Increase membership
- Continue to implement Healthy Lake Actions
- Increase Clean Boats Clean Waters volunteers
- Research and possible investment in new picnic tables at Boulder Lake Park (above the boat landing)
- Consider and engage in fundraising activities creating a rainy-day fund

2021 Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) Program

Online and in-person CBCW training sessions are available in 2021.

We need more volunteers so please consider becoming trained and spending time at the Boulder Lake boat landing.



2021 Vilas County Clean Boats Clean Waters Training Opportunities

Online Training

Online training is unfortunately scheduled for **Thursday, May 27 from 5PM to 7PM**. However, you might be able to attend the online training and then at 6:30PM join the BLAA Annual Meeting.

In-Person Training

Date	Time	Location
May 27	9AM to 11AM	Black Oak Lake Boat Launch
June 3	10AM to 12PM	Rest Lake Boat Launch
June 5	TBD	North Twin Lake Boat Launch
June 14	1PM to 3PM	Lac du Flambeau Tribal Natural Resource Center
June 24 (Refresher)	9AM to 10AM	Big Arbor Vitae Lake North Boat Launch

In-Person training sessions have limited availability. Please call Cathy Higley at 715-479-3738 or email cahigl@vilascountywi.gov to register.

Like BLAA on Facebook

Thanks to Membership Coordinator Courtney Calder and Secretary Cherie Sanderson you can now follow the BLAA on Facebook!



The image shows a screenshot of the Boulder Lake Advancement Association (BLAA) Facebook page. At the top, the Facebook logo is visible on the left, and login fields for "Email or Phone" and "Password" are on the right, along with a "Log In" button and a "Forgot account?" link. The page header features a circular profile picture of a loon and the text "Boulder Lake Advancement Association" with the handle "@BoulderLakeAdvancement". Below this is a navigation menu with options: Home, Posts, Videos, Photos, About, and Community, plus a "Create a Page" button. The main content area displays a post from the BLAA, dated April 5 at 12:33 PM, with a loon icon and a blue checkmark. The post text reads: "Drum Roll Please.....Ice Out on Monday, April 5,2021!! Thank you Joe Fieweger for the awesome drone photo of our beautiful lake. Anyone know if this is the earliest ice out?". Below the text is a large, high-quality drone photograph of a vast, blue lake surrounded by green trees and hills under a clear sky. To the right of the post is a search bar labeled "Search for posts on this Page" and a list of pages including "Community Organization" and "Boulder Lake Advancement Association". At the bottom right, there are language options (English [US], Español, Português [Brasil], Français [France], Deutsch) and links for "Privacy", "Terms", "Advertising", "Ad Choices", "Cookies", and "More", along with the copyright notice "Facebook © 2021".

Enjoy the 2021/2022 Seasons on Boulder Lake!

