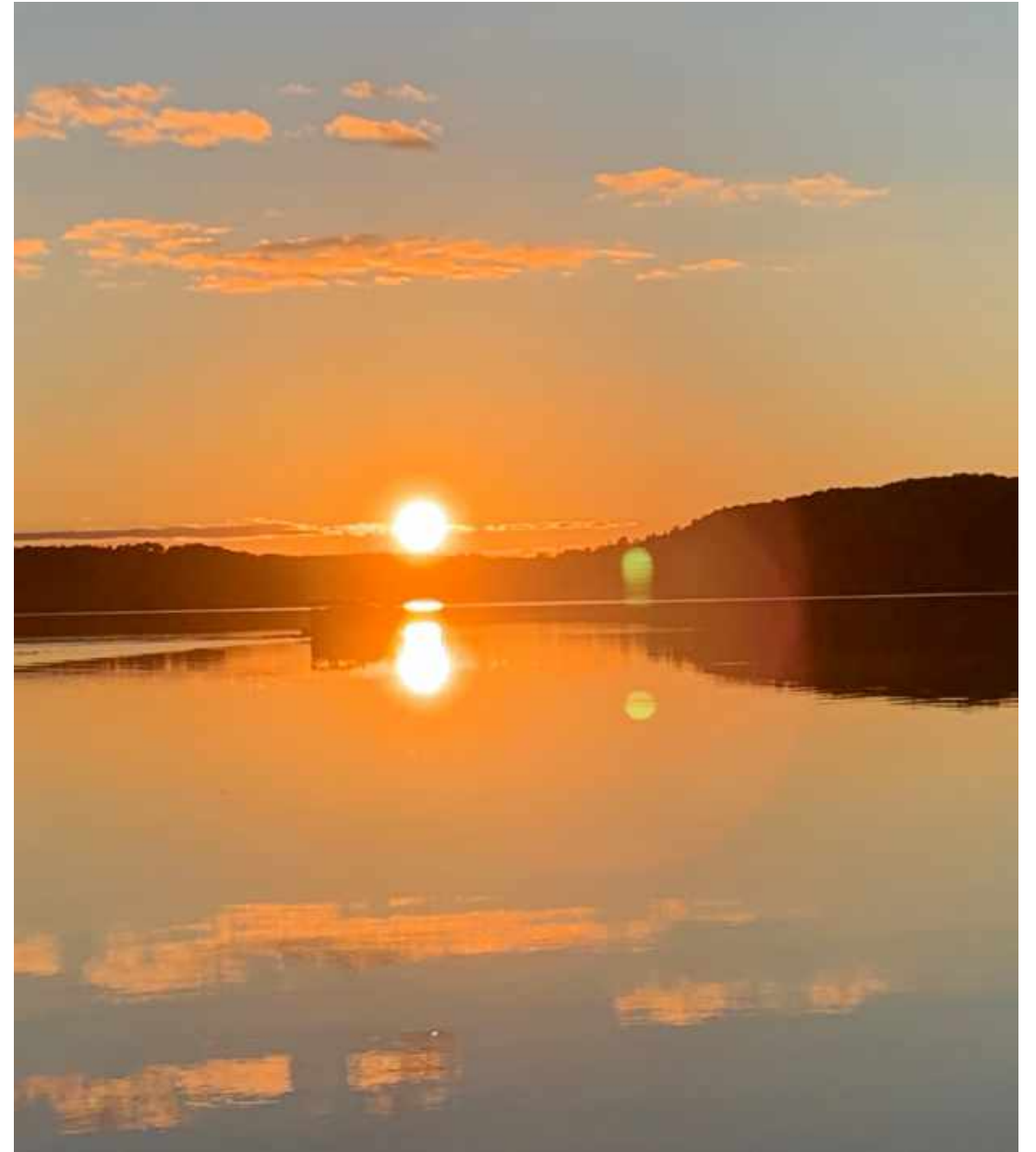


May 2022

Boulder Lake Advancement Association Newsletter





Welcome BLAA Members!

Thank you for your membership and donations!

As 2022 moves quickly, the BLAA is continuing to work to make Boulder Lake and its surrounds a better resource for all. We are excited to update you through this newsletter.

This year's title page photo is of an idyllic warm October evening. This and other newsletter photos are provided by you, our great members! After another late ice-out on May 3, loons and other waterfowl have returned and summer is nearly upon us.

Wind! As I reflect on 2021, wind is what stands out. First, it was a storm in June most of Boulder Lake escaped. Then came the devastating microburst in July changing Boulder Lake's shoreline. Many historic trees were lost, but in that loss, new life is created, and those next historic trees get to see the light. Finally, an extremely odd weather event occurred in mid-December when temperatures spiked in the mid-50s with extremely humid conditions. The result? Dramatic winds of 70+ miles per hour in the wee hours of the morning accompanied by sustained winds of near 50 mph for many hours. It was a good thing the trees were bare, but some were lost.

Let's look forward to a calm and pleasant summer with just enough sun, rain, wind, and bugs!

Please enjoy this year's edition of the BLAA Newsletter.

Bill Niemuth - BLAA President

What's in this Edition?

2022 BLAA Annual Meeting

Time to Renew Your BLAA Membership

Fish Sticks Project Proposal

Additional Safety Buoys

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2022/2023 Priorities



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2022 BLAA Annual Membership Meeting



Annual Meeting

Thursday, June 2 from 6PM to 8PM

Boulder Junction Community Center - Boulder Lake Room and/or Digital

You can attend digitally on Microsoft Teams

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,,144675222#](#) United States, Eau Claire

Phone Conference ID: 144 675 222#

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

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

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 Word Document 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 an 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:

Paul Armstrong
Treasurer, BLAA
P.O. Box 521
Boulder Junction, WI 54512

An aerial photograph of a large, calm lake surrounded by dense forest. The lake is a deep blue color, reflecting the sky. Several small islands and peninsulas are visible, some with small buildings or structures. The forest is a mix of green and brown trees, suggesting a transition between seasons. The text "Fish Sticks Proposal" is overlaid in the center of the image in a white, sans-serif font.

Fish Sticks Proposal

Over the past 2+ years the BLAA Fishery Improvement Workgroup (FIW) has evaluated how to best improve Boulder Lake's fishery. The result of that research has clearly shown more woody material in the lake is the best action, better known as a Fish Sticks program. You can read more about it here. https://p.widencdn.net/jcv7ac/Outreach_FishSticksBestPractices

At the 2022 Annual Meeting, the BLAA Leadership Team will present a proposal for member consideration and approval. A Fish Sticks project on the 523-acre Boulder Lake is not simple and quick. It includes many steps and will require a financial investment.

Members will receive an electronic packet of information, including the formal proposal. Here are the main points.

- Install up to 18 Fish Sticks locations around Boulder Lake.
- Partnerships required include Vilas County, Camp Manitowish YMCA, Dairymens, Inc., the Wisconsin DNR, and any other property owner where Fish Sticks might be placed.
- In partnership with Vilas County and the Wisconsin DNR, the BLAA or Vilas County would apply for a grant with up to 75% of the costs covered.
- Because of the required approvals and grant funding period the earliest any Fish Sticks would be placed on Boulder Lake would be the winter of 2024. A summer project may be required because of the amount of slush on Boulder Lake each winter.



Fish Sticks Project Deliverables

- Investment in up to 18 Fish Sticks locations containing a variety of trees will provide improved habitat for up to 50 years.
- The Fish Sticks locations, combined with natural blowdowns, will provide many more locations for fry and smaller fish to seek shelter to grow into healthy reproducing game fish.
- The Fish Sticks will also provide a destination for fishers who desire fish, but also sport because of the snags created by the trees whereas fish cribs are magnets for fish and fishers. The bottom line is trees are more challenging areas to catch fish than cribs and better habitat for those fish.

Note – the accompanying photos are of a Fish Sticks project done by Rainbo Lodge this past January. Dan King and Bill Niemuth observed the work.



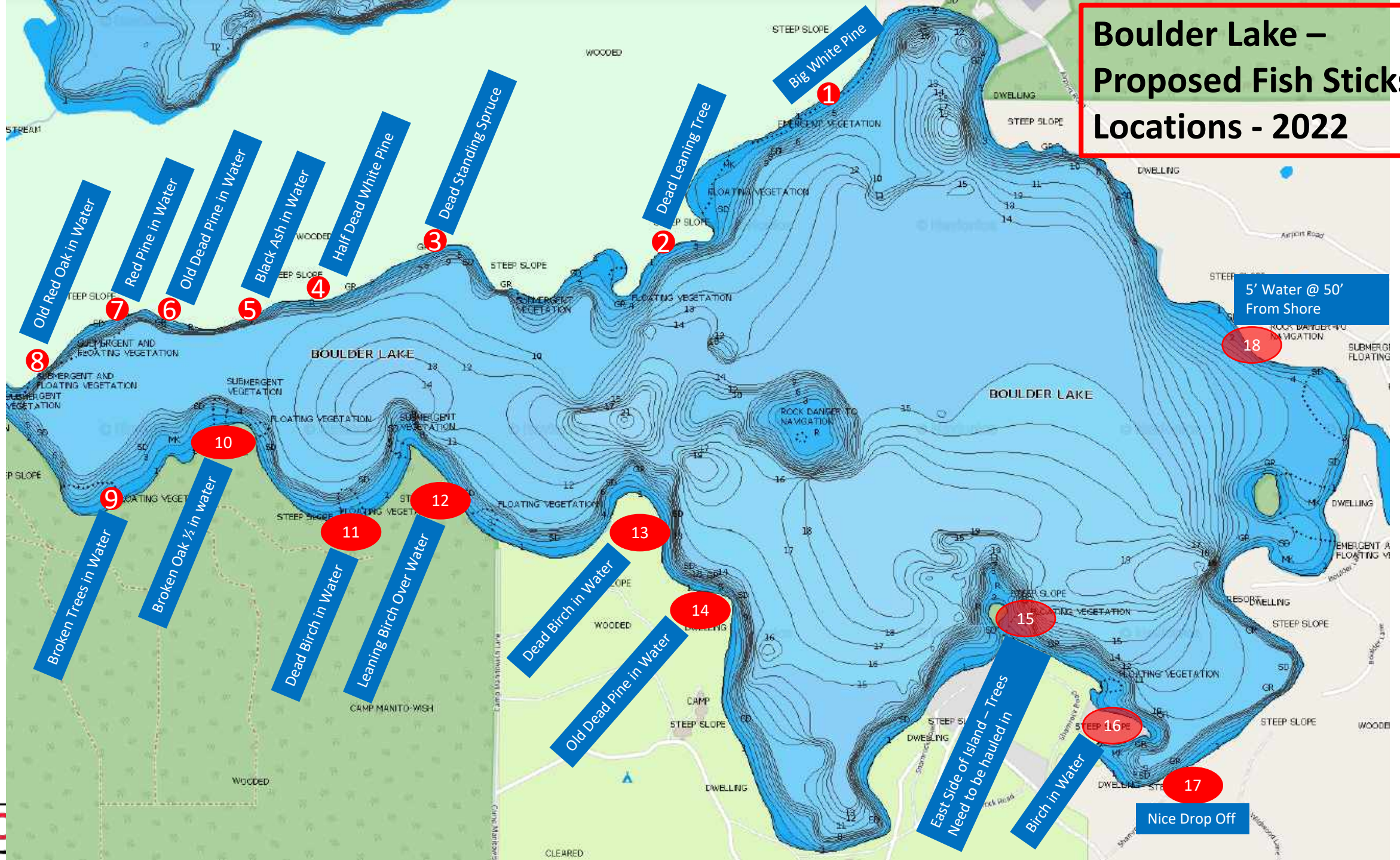


Estimated Cost

The cost of the project is estimated to be \$32,500 of which \$24,375 will be reimbursed through a Wisconsin DNR Healthy Lakes grant meaning the BLAA's total project cost will be \$8,125. **Project costs are only estimates. The number of Fish Sticks sites can be reduced to decrease the project cost.**

NOTE – Project has not yet been bid, so costs are only estimates based upon research.

Boulder Lake – Proposed Fish Sticks Locations - 2022





What Will Be Required of You?

Learn about the project, read the material, and VOTE.

- A project presentation will be made at the 2022 Annual BLAA Meeting.
- This will be the first approval of what is expected to be two or three approvals.
- The first approval will mean, “I agree with the project, and approve for it to go to the next step.”
- This approval round will NOT include approval of the project or any financial outlay or commitment.

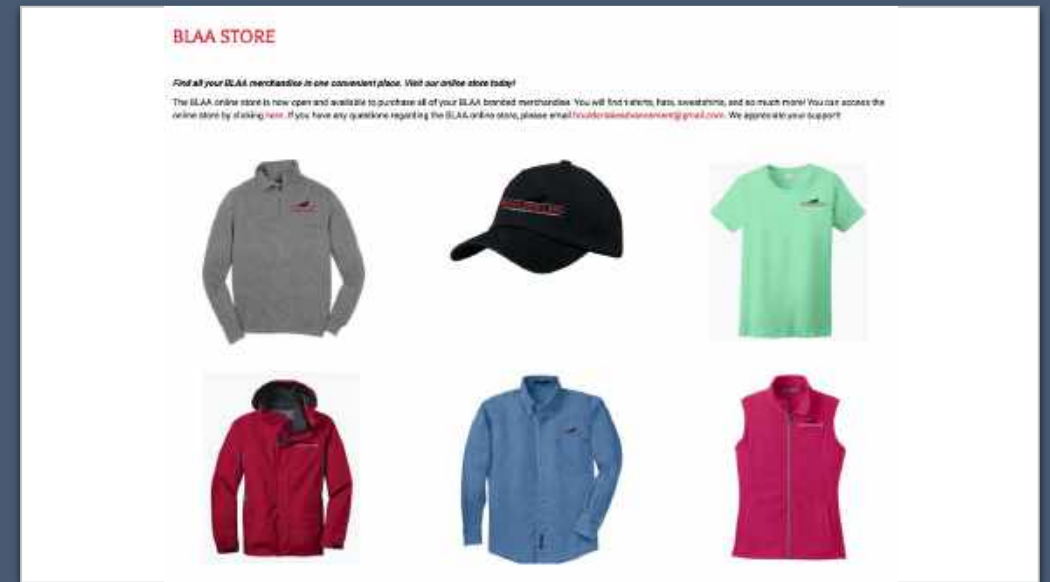
Additional Safety Buoys – Slow Down in These Areas

- Building on the additional lake buoys purchased and installed in 2021 the BLAA purchased another three.
- The new buoys will replace the small markers used in the past and be much more visible.
- The present buoys will be either repositioned or discarded, if they are no longer fit for use.
- Thanks to Vice President Tom Calder for continuing to lead this effort to make Boulder Lake safer for boaters!



Buy Your BLAA Apparel Before Summer

- BLAA has great apparel for you and your family to buy.
- 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.



July 2021 Storm Creates New Lakeshore



A microburst the evening of July 26 changed Boulder Lake's shoreline for generations. While many historic trees fell, their demise creates the opportunity for the next generation of historic trees. Here are a few photos if you did not see the damage.

Bait and Tackle

- Leadership Changes
 - Vice Chair Tom Calder, Secretary Cherie Sanderson, and Past President and Director Dan King are developing a succession plan for BLAA Leadership.
 - A leadership change will be announced at the Annual Meeting and the Board will begin building for the future.
- Potential Membership in the Wisconsin Lakes Association
 - Dan King has been researching membership in the Wisconsin Lakes organization.
 - His overview appears on the next page.
 - More information will be coming in late May in the form of a membership packet in preparation for the Annual Meeting.
- Boulder Lake Park Picnic Table Upgrade
 - BLAA may purchase two new picnic tables in partnership with another Boulder Junction organization.
 - Please watch your email for the membership packet in late May for more information.



Wisconsin Lakes Membership

Your Board of Directors is giving consideration to joining the Wisconsin Lakes.

Wisconsin Lakes is an organization headquartered in Madison, Wisconsin which was formed more than 20 years ago when the Wisconsin Federation of Lakes and the Wisconsin Association of Lake Districts merged. The **Mission** of Wisconsin Lakes is “to conserve, enhance and restore Wisconsin’s lakes to ensure their sustainability for the benefit and collective use and enjoyment for this and future generations.”

Currently more than 300 lake associations and lake districts in Wisconsin are members. In addition to helping to provide the resources necessary to support educational and technical assistance programs that aid member organizations, Wisconsin Lakes members may designate ten of their own members to receive The Lake Connection, an electronic periodical focusing on stories and information helpful to organizations.

One of the more significant offerings available to members is the ability to participate in a group umbrella insurance policy for Directors and Officers. As a very small association Boulder Lake Advancement Association cannot get D&O insurance at a price we can afford. However, as members of Wisconsin Lakes the rate, though a stretch, is doable. It is unfortunate that the litigious world we live in means that it is and will continue to be difficult to find members willing to serve on our Board of Directors without financial protection.

Membership in Wisconsin Lakes will be on the agenda for the June 2 Annual Membership meeting. To learn more about Wisconsin Lakes go to wisconsinlakes.org



2022/2023 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.

The BLAA continues to make strides in protecting and improving Boulder Lake's water resource. Major accomplishments include:

- Development of a Fish Sticks proposal.
- Developing a plan to replace the picnic tables at Boulder Lake park.
- Adding additional safety buoys to provide a safer boating experience.
- Consideration of joining Wisconsin Lakes.

Here are BLAA's 2022/2023 Priorities

- Further the Fish Sticks proposal and project.
- Continue to implement Healthy Lake Actions.
- Invest in new picnic tables at Boulder Lake Park (above the boat landing).
- Develop new BLAA leadership.



Like BLAA on Facebook

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



Enjoy
Boulder
Lake!

