



Boulder Lake Advancement Association Newsletter

May 2023



Welcome BLAA Members!

Thank you for your membership and tremendous donations!

We had a successful 2022 and are off and running in 2023.

We have a new newsletter editor! Courtney Calder assumes the reins as she continues to take on a greater BLAA leadership role. If you don't know Courtney, you will. She is extremely talented and wise beyond her years!

Our big accomplishment in 2022 was the purchase of picnic table(s) at Boulder Lake Park in collaboration with the Payzer Memorial Field. These tables will provide a place to rest for those who enjoy Boulder Lake. If you have not been to the park for a while, stop in, and sit a spell. It is one of the best views in Boulder Junction – and a secret – hardly anyone uses it!

We are still making progress toward placing Fish Sticks on Boulder Lake to improve the fishery. More information about the project appears later in this newsletter.

BLAA will undergo significant leadership change in 2023. We will say goodbye to two longtime leaders and contributors and hello to three new leaders who will bring innovative and different perspectives to the organization to ensure BLAA continues to evolve and be the organization you expect and deserve.

Please enjoy the 2023 edition of the BLAA Newsletter.

Bill Niemuth
BLAA President



2023 BLAA Annual Membership Meeting

Annual Meeting

Saturday, May 27 at 10 AM

Boulder Junction Community Center -
Boulder Lake Room

It's Time to Renew Your BLAA Membership

(\$25 per person)


Two ways to renew:

1. Renew Online

- Visit our [Membership Page](#)
- Complete Membership Renewal Form
- Submit dues (and provide donation) using your credit card

2. Renew by Mail

- Visit the [BLAA website](#)
- Download the BLAA Membership Application form
- Complete and send with your payment to:
Boulder Lake Advancement Association
P.O. Box 521 Boulder Junction, WI 54512


BOULDER LAKE
ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATION
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

An aerial photograph of a large, calm lake surrounded by dense forest. The water is a deep blue, 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, 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

For over three 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, BLAA members approved the first step of a proposal to move forward with a Fish Sticks project. This led to a late September survey of Boulder Lake with FIW members, Vilas County, and the Wisconsin DNR. The survey resulted in the elimination of several of the initial Fish Sticks sites, addition of one, and dividing the project into multiple phases.

The 2023 BLAA Annual Membership meeting will include an update on the project, but here is a summary:

- Total Fish Sticks locations around Boulder Lake reduced from 18 to 13.
- Phase 1 recommended by the Wisconsin DNR to include 6 Fish Sticks locations on Boulder Lake's north shore.
- Phase 2 and potentially Phase 3 constructed after evaluating Phase 1 learnings.
- 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 2025. Summer construction is looking most likely because of the winter slush on Boulder Lake.
- Request for proposal cost estimates are expected to be in hand by late June 2023.



Fish Sticks Project Deliverables

- Investment in up to 13 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 Rainbow Lodge in January 2022. Dan King and Bill Niemuth observed the work.





Estimated Cost

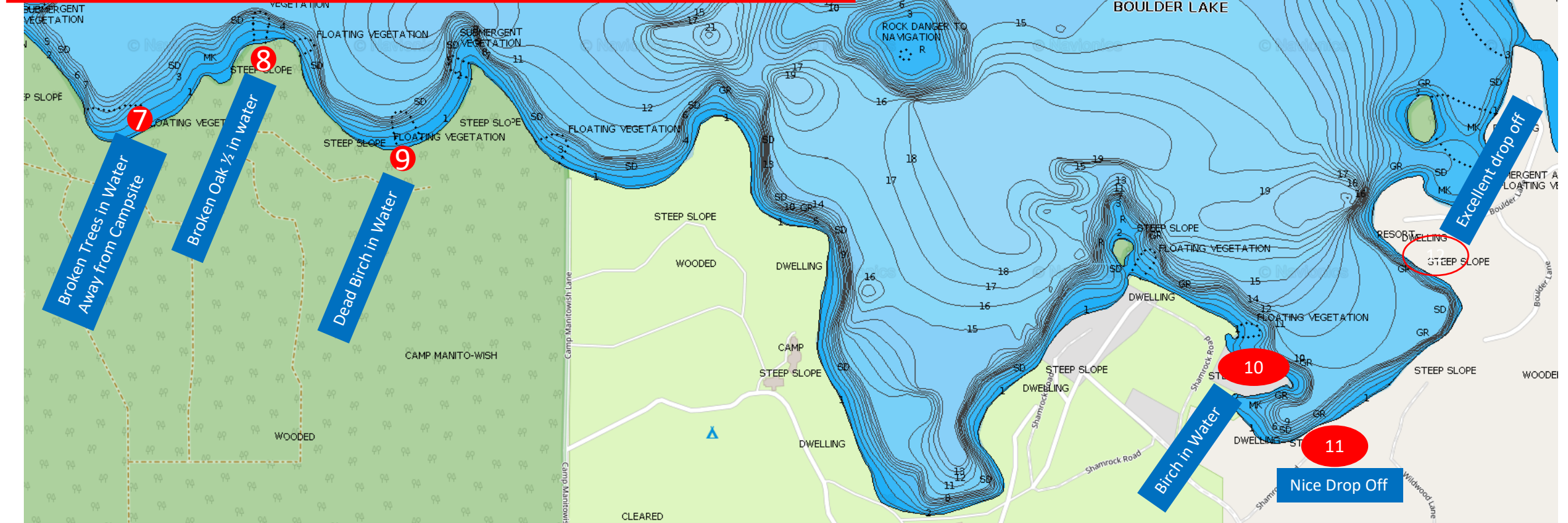
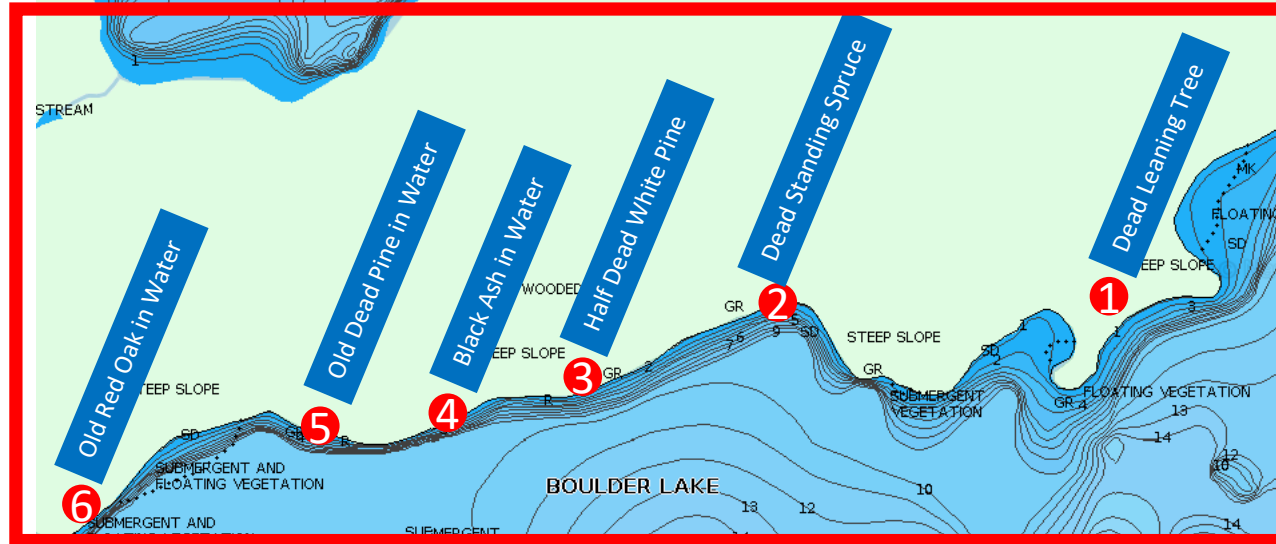
The cost of Phase 1 is estimated at \$12,000 of which \$9,000 will be reimbursed through a Wisconsin DNR Healthy Lakes grant meaning the BLAA's total project cost will be \$3,000. **Project costs are only estimates.**

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

NOTE – Subsequent Phases are yet to be determined and will be based upon Phase 1 success and learnings.

Phase 1

Boulder Lake – Fish Sticks Locations – Revised 10/14/2022 Post DNR/VC Survey



What is Required of You?



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

- A project presentation will be made at the 2023 Annual BLAA Meeting.
- Depending upon the timing of the cost proposals a VOTE may be required AFTER the Annual Membership Meeting.
- VOTING will be done via Digital Meeting or Email consistent with BLAA's updated By-Laws.
- Ask questions.

Boat Safety – Buoy Update

- Placement of buoys happens in early May and buoys are removed in late September/early October each year.
- The red marker buoys circle the outer edge of the center rock bar.
- Two other buoys mark larger rocks that sit close to the surface that can cause damage.
 - These two rocks are on the northside of Boulder Lake.
 - Aton's Rock is located east of the airport.
 - The other rock is west of the airport off the Camp Manitowish campsite point.
- Other rocks and bars are part of Boulder Lake, hence the name, so keep an eye out for buoys and keep your distance from shallow bars while boating.
- Thank you to Vice President Tom Calder, Brad Calder, and many others for continuing to lead this effort to make Boulder Lake safer for boaters!



Buy Your BLAA Apparel Before Summer!

- Visit the BLAA online store and place your order
 - Link to online store:
<https://www.valleyadvertise.com/company-pride/boulder-lake-advancement-association>
- You'll find t-shirts, hats, sweatshirts, and so much more!
- Don't see an item you want? Tell us and we will do our best to get it
- Thank you to our partner – Valley Apparel and Promotions



BLAA Leadership Changes

The BLAA needs to have a conveyor of new leaders to continue to move forward and be relevant. We are fortunate to have assembled a new group who will lead the organization into the future. Pending your approval/other nominees, here is what we project.

Directors Retiring in 2023

- Dan King
- Bill Niemuth
- Dick Schauss

New Directors

- Courtney Calder
- Tom Brehmer
- Jeff Mihalik

Projected 2023/2024 BLAA Officers

- Cherie Sanderson – President
- Courtney Calder – Vice President
- Paul Armstrong – Treasurer
- Jeff Mihalik - Secretary

Returning Directors

- Paul Armstrong
- Tom Calder
- Dennis Reuss
- Cherie Sanderson

The 2023 leadership team will have an excellent combination of experience and new talent setting the organization up for continued success.



BLAA Picnic Tables

Our new picnic tables arrived late last summer and are permanently stationed near the Boulder Junction Boat Landing & Airport. We had the opportunity to use them for the first time at our Dog In the Woods event last September, and we look forward to continued use for years to come!

Thank you to all who helped with this project!

2023/2024 BLAA Priorities

Protecting and improving Boulder Lake's water resource continues to be BLAA's priority.

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.

Here are BLAA's 2023/2024 Priorities

- Further the Fish Sticks proposal and project.
- Continue to implement Healthy Lake Actions.
- Begin working with the Wisconsin DNR on a re-evaluation of the Directed Lakes study of Boulder Lake.



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Enjoy
Boulder
Lake!