

# Buffalo, Rice & Rock Lakes Association News

**FALL/WINTER 2015**

## BRRLA President Comments

Greetings,

My name is Kevin Wolf and I would like to introduce myself to those of you that may not know me or know that I was elected President of the Buffalo Rock Rice Lake Association this past summer. My wife Brenda and our three sons have enjoyed being property owners on the Buffalo Run area of Buffalo Lake now since 2009. Having spent time on a few different lakes in western Minnesota through the years, we feel very blessed to be on such a beautiful lake as Buffalo Lake.

I am very excited to be able to help out through the association and to help work with others towards creating an atmosphere on our lakes that is positive and exciting. I truly believe that an association should serve three main purposes;

First, it should provide education and facilitate cooperation between all of our residents in trying to keep Buffalo, Rock, and Rice Lakes clean, safe, and healthy for the future. While our purpose is not to be a policing organization, providing education and information about how each of us can do our part is very important.

Second, I feel that the lake association can provide the framework for communication that will help create a network of our residents that are looking out for each other, resulting in a much more secure environment. With the fact that some of the residents are year-round while others are seasonal, it is very important that we get to know each other and to help look out for the security and well-being of one another's lake property.

And finally, one of the best purposes of having a lake association is to have fun. This last July we experienced something in our boat parade that I don't think anyone expected. It was an unbelievable turnout and everyone had a great time! There are other things like this that we can do periodically that will make our experience of residing on Buffalo, Rock, or Rice Lake an enjoyable experience.

One of the bigger changes with the structure of the association was the formation of beach captains. Each beach captain is assigned a particular area of our lakes and this next spring, our beach captains will be in action, going door to door introducing themselves and providing information about our lakes and the Buffalo, Rock, Rice Lake Association. Please welcome your beach captain and get to know them. They will provide a good channel of communication to and from the lake association.

I also strongly encourage you to join the association. The dues are very nominal and we would like to see as many people become a member as possible.

Working together we can maintain and improve on this very special place we, depending on the time of the year, have all come to call 'home'.

Sincerely,

Kevin Wolf  
BRRLA President

## Annual & Board Meeting Minutes

Please visit our website at <http://minnesotawaters.org/buffaloricerocklakes/> to read the most recent BRRLA meeting minutes.



Thank you to the Richwood Winery for allowing us to hold our annual meeting and board meetings at the Winery.

Also, thank you to the Richwood Store, the Richwood Liquor Store, and the Winery for providing door prizes at our annual meeting.

## Meet Our Beach Captains

The following members were added to the Board to serve as Beach Captains.

Tom Bresnahan - Buffalo Lake (Access Road)  
Bryan Olschlager - Buffalo Lake (Buffalo Run Rd)  
Roger Levos - Buffalo Lake (Chippewa Shores)  
Chris Krogsgaard - Buffalo Lake (S. Buffalo Lake Rd)  
Tom Holweger - Buffalo Lake (Campground)  
Veronika Wilson - Buffalo Lake (N. Buffalo Lake)  
Joel Moore - Rock Lake (Southwest)  
Jeff Boehm - Rock Lake (Northeast)  
Rick Morris - Rice Lake



### Did you know?

According to the 20 Year MN Loon Monitoring Program, the number of adult loons on Buffalo Lake ranged between 2 and 8 adult loons and averaged 4.5 loons.

During the same time period, juvenile loons ranged from 0 and 6 and averaged 2.61.

Eighteen surveys were conducted on Buffalo Lake between 1994 and 2013.

### Becker County Board of Adjustments Looking For New Members

John Okeson, Commissioner in District 3, is looking for an individual, who lives year round on the lake, to serve on the Board of Adjustments. The Board consists of five members with two alternates, each serving a three year term.

The purpose of the Board is to consider applications for variances as outlined by the Becker County Zoning Ordinance. The committee acts upon all questions as they may arise in the administration of the Zoning Ordinance, including the interpretation of the zoning Map, and to hear and decide appeals from the review of any order, requirements, decision or determinations made by an administrative official charged with enforcement of the Ordinance.

Regular meetings are held at least once a month on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 a.m. The tour date is held the Thursday before the regular meeting at 7:00 a.m. On the tour date, the files are reviewed and then the Board will visit each property.

Members receive a per diem as allowed by the County Board of commissioners for each meeting, tour or special meeting attended. The current per diem rate is \$60.00 per meeting. Mileage is also reimbursed for mileage to and from the meeting place and for those members that drive their vehicle on the tour date.

Interested individuals should email their interest to [buffaloricerocklakes@gmail.com](mailto:buffaloricerocklakes@gmail.com) by **November 15**. Questions should be referred to Deb Krogsgaard at [218-846-0982](tel:218-846-0982).



## We had a great summer!

- We had an awesome turn out at our annual meeting and potluck. It was great to see so many people involved in the association!
- We also had a wonderful participation in the 4th of July boat parade on Buffalo Lake. Check out the pictures on our website!
  - We started a Facebook page!
- We continue to send emails to provide applicable news, newsletters, etc. If you aren't receiving our emails please provide your email address by emailing us at [buffaloricerocklakes@gmail.com](mailto:buffaloricerocklakes@gmail.com). We are considering charging a small fee to non-members that would like to continue getting a mailed version of our newsletters so we can cover our printing and mailing costs. If you would like to become a member check out our website for details or complete the attached membership form!
- We updated our website so you can now upload pictures to share the beauty of our lakes with everyone! Check out our website at <http://minnesotawaters.org/buffaloricerocklakes/>. Our website also provides helpful resources, meeting meetings, contact info, pictures, history about our lakes and community, and more!

### Don't forget to like us on Facebook!

You can find our page at [Buffalo, Rice & Rock Lakes Association](#).

Feel free to share your scenery, fishing, hunting, boating, floating, kayaking, campfire, or just enjoying the lake pictures on our Facebook page! Also, post any information you would like to share with our Facebook group!



**LIFE** *is better*  
*at the* **LAKE**



## News from COLA

Thanks to Andy Wieland for attending the COLA meetings and keeping us informed! There are seven COLA meetings in 2015, the last of which was held in mid-October. The meetings were well attended this year by many lake association representatives, and there has been good discussion on topics such as how to increase lake association membership, and methods to reduce the risk of aquatic invasive species (AIS).

Becker County continues to raise awareness of AIS and address related concerns. Over 15,000 boat inspections were performed this year at many lake accesses throughout the county. Violation rates for inspections are running at a little more than 3%. Also, three boat decontamination units were utilized throughout the summer in some of the higher traffic areas. Twenty-eight hours of boat launch inspection time was done at Buffalo Lake. Inspections were not done at our other launch locations.

We have received very positive feedback and good ideas this year from other COLA lake association members on the use of a “beach captain” structure to keep lake residents involved and informed on the news and issues that affect our lakes. Similar feedback in previous years was a key driver that led to our transition to this type of organization.

Over the past few years, Becker County has been implementing a MN state driven septic system inspection program. Buffalo and Rock lakes are on the priority list for this program. Property owners with septic systems that have no documented status or those that are more than 10 years old may be required to have those systems inspected. It is anticipated that Buffalo and Rock Lakes will go through this process within the next three to four years.

Find additional information and stay up to date on COLA activities through Facebook by searching Becker County COLA, or on the website at [www.beckercola.org](http://www.beckercola.org).



### TID BITS

#### **Becker County Permits Available Online**

The Becker County Planning and Zoning Office has created an online access for information on variance and conditional use applications, ordinance amendments, land subdivision proposals and site permits. Access to this information can be found on their website: [www.co.becker.mn.us](http://www.co.becker.mn.us).

#### **Arsenic Levels in Well Water**

Many people don't realize that they may have arsenic in their well water. According to the Minnesota Department of Health, arsenic occurs naturally in soil and rock and can dissolve into groundwater, which is the primary source of drinking water for much of Minnesota. Groundwater in west central Minnesota is more likely to contain higher levels of natural arsenic; however, arsenic levels can vary from one well to the next, even within a very small area. If you are interested in learning more about arsenic in well water, including certified labs to test your water and methods for reducing arsenic, please visit the Minnesota Department of Health's website: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/wells/waterquality/arsenic.html>.

**It's not too late to join or renew your membership!**

**Annual membership dues are used for the following expenses:**

- Membership in Becker County COLA and Minnesota Waters
  - Website, newsletters, and other mailings
  - Refreshments for annual meeting

### **2015 BRRLA Membership Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Lake Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Check applicable lake:    Buffalo    Rice    Rock

**Dues are \$20 for property owners and \$10 for renters.**

Make your check payable to Buffalo, Rice & Rock Lakes Association (BRRLA).

**Mail to: Buffalo, Rice, and Rock Lakes Association, c/o Jennifer Turnwall  
P.O. Box 48, Richwood, MN 56577**