

# Buffalo, Rice & Rock Lakes Association News

**SPRING/SUMMER 2015**

## BRRLA President Comments

Hopefully most of you are receiving this newsletter for the second time this year. Many thanks to Jessica Franke and Deb Krogsgaard for their efforts in pulling together the mailing addresses, developing the website, gathering articles, and mailing the newsletters. It is a good start. We know we need to improve on our mailing lists so the word gets out to all property owners and renters in the three lake chain. This is no easy task for a few people and you can help. If you talk to your neighbors and they did not receive this newsletter please get their email (preferred) or snail mail address so we can get the newsletter too them. More on this in another article.

In the last newsletter we talked about the need to change to beach captains. We will have this on the agenda for the annual meeting. The proposed by-law change would have us electing or appointing 6 beach captains for Buffalo Lake (northeast, northwest, east, campground, southeast and southwest), 2 beach captains for Rock Lake (north & east, south & west), and 1 beach captain for Rice Lake. As with most new things, we will start with this and revise the numbers and location as necessary. Please strongly consider being a beach captain for your shoreline.

The terms for the offices of the President, Vice President and Treasurer are also up for election this year. Both Robin (Vice President) and Jennifer Turnwall (Treasurer) have indicated they would continue in their positions if nominated. I will not be seeking another term as president. In accordance with the by-laws I would remain on the board of directors to aid in the transition. We really need new blood in the office of the president. We need someone with ambition to try new things in the future. If we can speed communications through electronic communication over the next year and our officers and beach captains promote membership in the association it would put us in a much better position to act upon new ideas for the association. Opportunities exist for revised access signage, buoys on lake points or sand bars, but it takes energy and focus to follow through on ideas once created.

Please consider accepting a nomination or volunteering for one of the important officer or beach captain positions.

Thank you,

Roger Levos  
President BRRLA

**Annual  
Meeting  
&  
Potluck**

**Our Annual Meeting  
will be held on**

**Sat. June 27th  
11am - 1pm**

**at the Richwood  
Winery**

**\*\*Everyone is asked to  
bring a dish to share\*\***

**Sloppy Joes, water,  
lemonade, plates, napkins,  
and silverware will be  
provided**



**Topics will include:**

- Election of Officers
- Beach Captains
- COLA report
- July 4th Boat Parade
- Newsletter/Website

# TID BITS

## Buffalo Lake Access

At the last annual meeting a request was made to try to get some trees removed at the public access. This would make it easier to back down the boat access ramp. We are pleased to announce that the DNR removed five small trees which greatly aided in backing down the ramp. At the same time they repaired the ice heave on the ramp.

## Buffalo Lake Level

When the ice went off on Buffalo Lake this year we saw lake levels similar to those seen in August of a dry year. The lack of runoff from snow cover was really noticed. There are however, two small restrictive dams in ditch 19 between Rice and Buffalo Lake. Speaking with Tom Holweger, owner of the campground on Buffalo Lake and Township Commissioner, he indicated that as soon as the load restrictions are off there would be a long-reach backhoe coming in to remove these dams and remove a large tree over the ditch. This will have some impact on the lake levels, but probably not a lot. Roger Levos does the Buffalo Lake level monitoring and reporting and noticed the level has gone up by 3.6" already because of the past weeks rain. Hopefully the moisture will continue in a moderate supply.



## We want your email!

Please provide your email address by emailing us at [buffaloricerocklakes@gmail.com](mailto:buffaloricerocklakes@gmail.com)

We will be emailing newsletters, meeting notifications, and other information!

Electronic communication saves us money and is more convenient for you!

Don't forget to check out our website!

<http://minnesotawaters.org/buffaloricerocklakes/>

## DNR postpones AIS training and trailer decal program

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has postponed the new aquatic invasive species training and trailer decal program that was due to launch in 2015.

- **No changes** to boat licensing or non-resident fishing licensing will take effect until the special legislative session is concluded.
- There will be no new requirements or enforcement actions until any new law takes effect.
- If you trailer a boat or water-related equipment like docks and lifts in Minnesota, check out <http://www.trailers.mndnr.gov/> to get updated information on the program.

*Advice from a*

## **LAKE**

Be clear  
*Make positive ripples*  
Look beneath the surface  
*Stay calm*  
Shore up friendships  
*Take time to reflect*  
Be full of life!

- Ilan Shamir

# Do your part to protect Minnesota's waters by following the state aquatic invasive species laws

## You must...

- **Clean** visible aquatic plants, zebra mussels, and other prohibited species from watercraft, trailers, and equipment before transporting from any water access.
- **Drain** water from bilge, livewell, motor, ballast tanks, and portable bait containers before leaving water access or shoreline property.
- **Keep drain plugs out** and water-draining devices open while transporting watercraft.



## You may not...

- **Transport** aquatic plants, water, or prohibited invasive species such as zebra mussels or Eurasian watermilfoil.
- **Dump** live bait into state waters, on shore, or on the ground.
- **Launch**, or attempt to place, watercraft, trailers or equipments with aquatic plants, zebra mussels, or invasive species into any state waters.

**We Want To Hear From You!**

**What would you like to see in our newsletters or on the website?**

Please pass along any ideas or suggestions by emailing us at [buffaloricerocklakes@gmail.com](mailto:buffaloricerocklakes@gmail.com).

## Additional recommended precautions, not required by law...

**Spray** with high-pressure water, **rinsing** with very hot water, and/or **drying** boats and water-related equipment for at least five days is advised to remove or kill hard-to-see aquatic invasive species before moving to other water bodies. **Dispose** of unwanted bait in trash.



**STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™**

**A fishing trip may last a day, but zebra mussels can live in a lake forever.**

Visit [www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/) for additional information.



**It's time to join or renew your membership!**  
**See the membership form for details!**

## News from COLA

The BRRLA is a member of the Becker County Coalition of Lakes Associations (COLA). As a COLA member we have input into the matters and issues they address. These include items that impact water quality testing, public education on Aquatic Invasive Species like flowering rush and zebra mussels, planning and zoning issues, and public policy. Thanks to our COLA Representative Andy Wieland for attending the COLA meetings and keeping us informed! The following are topics discussed at recent meetings:

COLA now has a presence on Facebook (search Becker County COLA) and has a new web site up and running at [www.beckercola.org](http://www.beckercola.org). The website is still a work in progress and will be completed soon.

The first COLA meeting of 2015 was held in April. Meetings generally run monthly from April through October, and offer an opportunity for lake association members to provide updates on their respective lake association activities and to discuss common issues and concerns.

The 2015 COLA budget has been established based on planned revenue of \$10,800. Top expenditures for 2015 will include a new website, education and workshop programs, and an AIS pilot project.

In attendance at the May meeting was the new Becker County AIS and Water Quality Coordinator, Karl Koenig. Karl provided an update on the County's efforts to prevent the spread of AIS. Key programs include lake access inspections and the use of decontamination units.

Becker County currently has 11 active lake access boat inspectors on staff and hopes to have 30 by the peak summer season. Training for the inspector positions is offered by the County. Inspection locations are prioritized based on lake location and amount of boat traffic.

Four AIS decontamination units have been purchased by Becker County. Two are currently in use - one at Lake Melissa and one at Detroit Lake. Decontamination of boats, docks and lifts is a free service and is done on a first come first serve basis.

Through COLA, the BRRLA is a member of the Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates. Their mission is to protect Minnesota's lake and river heritage for current and future generations by forging powerful links between lakes, lake advocates and policy makers. More information as well as opportunities to support this group can be found at <http://www.mnlakesandrivers.org/>.

### **Are you interested in checking out the lake levels?**

Lake water level, water quality, stocking, and various other reports are available on the DNR's website. The link is <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/> Buffalo Lake is lake number 03-0350. Or you can search by lake name and county.

## Proposed Restructure of Board Composition

The restructuring of our lake association to utilize Beach Captains has been discussed at annual meetings and in the newsletter. The following proposed Beach Captain duties and responsibilities will provide a starting point for discussions at the annual meeting:

- Maintain accurate owner database for assigned area and forward contact information to the Association Secretary. Information to include name, lake property address, mailing address, email address, and phone number.
- Promote membership in lake association.
- Identify items to enhance shoreline life. Ideas or examples are: adopt a road and have a cleanup day, shoreline potluck picnic, dust control application on road, open format at picnic or meeting to share lake shore concerns.
- Greeting packet for new property owners to provide them with information regarding the association, website, and newsletter.
- Contribute article for newsletter which encompasses the above information. Also include property sales and new owners. Loss of people (death) on respective lakeshore.



**THANK  
YOU!**

A big "thank you" to our officers who have completed their two year term:

**Roger Levos  
Robin Turnwall  
Jennifer Turnwall**

### **Fish Recipes - submitted by Roger Levos**

In case you have been lucky enough to get out and fish between cold fronts and have had some success, I thought I would share a couple of ways to cook your catch! First off, I personally don't care for a heavy batter on a fish, unless it has a "fisher" taste to it. These recipes are preferred on walleye, crappie, and panfish like sunfish or bluegills. The recipes assume the fish are filleted.

#### **The first recipe is simple and is pan frying:**

Heat your pan to about 350 degrees, you can either use a butter flavored Crisco or butter. Use "Fryin Magic" as a seasoning or coating. I put the Fryin Magic in a plastic bag, placing a few fillets in the bag and shake it to coat the fillet.

Place the coated fillets in the pan. The cook time will vary on fillet thickness, but should only take about 12-15 minutes. Once one side begins to show a browning on the edges flip the fillet and cook until you can get the fillets to "flake". Remove and enjoy!

#### **The other recipe is for the grill:**

Preheat your grill to 350 degrees, direct heat works fine.

Peel off some aluminum foil large enough to either handle the serving size or if you have a big batch, large enough to fill the grate size. Fold the aluminum foil up on the edges to hold in the juices.

Spray the foil with "PAM" or another non-stick spray. Place the fillets onto the foil. You can either use the Fryin Magic or we experiment with pepper, garlic salt, and a seasoning we have that works great is "Mango-Lime". Cut some thin butter slices and place amongst the fillets so the butter melts onto the foil. Put the lid down and cook or in this case bake for about 12-15 minutes, depending on fillet thickness. No need to turn the fillets. Just test the fillets for flaking before removing. Enjoy!

**It's time to join or renew your membership!**

**The 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**