

# Buffalo, Rice & Rock Lakes Association News

Spring/Summer 2020

## BRRLA President Comments

Dear Residents of Buffalo, Rice, and Rock Lakes,

As we all know, we are going through some strange and challenging times right now. As everyone has been forced to do, we too as your Buffalo-Rice-Rock Lakes Association board members have also had to adjust. We held a board meeting via Zoom on May 12th and made some decisions that I wanted to get out to our members so you are aware of the plan for the upcoming summer season. They are as follows:

1. In following the State of Minnesota guidelines and recommendations, the board voted that we will **not** be holding our annual board meeting this year. This has been our social meeting held the past few years at the Richwood Winery.
2. The board voted that we will be waiving BRRLA dues for the 2020 year. We will automatically renew everyone that was a paid member last year and we will continue to sign new members up at no annual dues for 2020. If any of your contact information needs updating, simply fill out the membership form and we will update your info.
3. Because we won't have the ability to hold elections this year, the board voted, per our by-law provision, that all board members terms will be extended one year and the current officers and positions will remain the same in 2020.
4. I am very glad to announce that the one event that we will still be able to hold is our annual 4th of July boat parade. This will be held on July 4th starting at 10:00 a.m.

These were the key items that I wanted to communicate to everyone.

Thank you to everyone for being a part of our lake association and for being great ambassadors of the beautiful lakes that we inhabit.

Have a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,

Kevin Wolf  
President  
BRRLA



**With all of the busyness, stress, and uncertainty that sometimes comes with life, we hope that everyone gets to enjoy some lake time relaxing and enjoying nature this summer!**

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**"Time wasted at the lake is time well spent."**

*unknown*

**"Stay close to the serenity of a lake to meet your own peace of mind."**

*Munia Khan*

**"We do not remember days, we remember moments."**

*Cesare Pavese*

**"Slow down and enjoy the simple pleasures in life."**

*unknown*



## 4th of July Boat Parade

**Join us for the annual boat parade on Buffalo Lake on Sat. July 4 starting at 10 am! Bryan Olschlager will start the parade prior to the houses on Buffalo Access Road.**

**Boats should follow Bryan to ensure the parade is brought close enough to the campground and others watching from shore. Also, please continue the parade through the entire route so everyone can enjoy it.**

**Looking forward to another festive and fun parade!**

### **Buffalo Lake Monitoring by Roger Levos**

Some form of lake monitoring began when the lake association was founded. The primary goal at that time was to look for Eurasian Water Milfoil. I was selected as the lake monitor due to the amount of time I spent on the lake fishing. Well, my fishing time has decreased significantly, but I still make the observation trips looking out for invasive aquatic plant life. The invasive plant list has expanded as COLA keeps noting more and more invasive plants that are making their way into our Minnesota water system. As of this report Buffalo Lake appears to be free of any of the listed invasive plants.

One of the other jobs of the lake monitor is the measurement of the lake water levels. Each year the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources sends someone out to set a gauge in the water to a predetermined height. The gauge is located in front of our lake home and I document weekly lake level readings along with weekly rainfall amounts. This information is submitted to the DNR on a form via email. This data can be found on the DNR website under LakeFinder. The website is [www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind) and the Buffalo Lake reference number is 03035000.

The readings this year will be affected by the COVID-19 virus. The DNR did not send anyone this year to set the gauge. Instead, instructions were provided on how to set the gauge, but the gauge will not correlate to past years. Frankly, with the controlled outlet (the dam at the west end of the Buffalo Lake) we don't see wild swings in lake levels. I use the gauge to look for water flow obstructions upstream from Buffalo Lake which are usually beaver dams. So, if there is good rainfall and I see a decrease in the water level it tells me there is something stopping the flow.

The other monitoring task is checking water clarity. This involves lowering a 12" white disc into the water until you cannot see it, pulling it back up until it is visible, then measuring the distance from the disc to the surface of the water. These measurements were sent to the DNR with the water level readings but were not showing up on the above mentioned website. Checking into this, I found that I need to send the clarity measurements to a different DNR department. Now that I have the correct reporting site, these measurements should be on the website in the future.

Ice out for Buffalo Lake this spring was 4/25/2020. The water clarity was a reddish brown and the Secchi disc reading was only 7'. This is the second year I have seen this situation. The reddish brown color is dead organic plant life. Once the lake settles down after the turbulence caused by the ice going out and the silt sinks to the bottom the water clarity improves. Current readings are at 12.5'. As the water warms throughout the summer we will see these numbers drop to around the 11' range. We will see another drop in water clarity when the lake "turns over" in the fall (cold water on the surface sinks to the bottom causing the same type of turbulence as the ice out).

The water clarity readings are good indicators of the quality of the water. However, these numbers can be affected if lakes are infested with Zebra Mussels which filter the water making it clearer. While we do not have Zebra Mussels, I feel we do have an overabundance of snails in the lake which perform the same function of filtering the water. Interestingly, the water clarity readings show that the water leaving Buffalo Lake is clearer than the water coming in. I will see up to 1' of better water clarity readings on the west end of the lake versus the east end. Taking readings in the middle of the lake shows about 6" of improvement over the east end. Who gets the credit for that, the snails or good property owner lake management? Let's say good lake management! Keep up the good work and we'll see you on the lake – while social distancing, of course.

## Bread Pudding with Rhubarb (or other fruit)

### Mix together:

2 Cups Rhubarb (cut-up)                      1 1/4 cup Sugar  
1/2 teaspoon Cinnamon                      2 Tablespoons (rounded) Flour  
4 slices Toasted Bread

**Pour into 8 inch greased pan.**

### Beat together:

2 Eggs    1 1/2 Cup Milk  
1/2 to 1 teaspoon Vanilla                      3 teaspoons Sugar

**Pour mixture over the other ingredients in pan.**

**Bake at 350 degrees for approximately 1 hour.**

**Note:** Blueberries, apple, or any fruit you like in pie or cake will work. For blueberries add more cinnamon if you wish.



Thank you to The Reads on Rice Lake for sharing this recipe!

## TID BITS

### Rice & Rock Lake Monitoring

At publication, no information regarding the lake monitoring for Rice or Rock lakes was available. Once the testing has been done the information will be posted on our website and Facebook page.

### Becker County COLA

The Becker County COLA Executive Committee has decided to cancel all face-to-face meetings until next summer. However, they will still provide us with educational and informational resources through their website and emails. Check out their website at [beckercola.org](http://beckercola.org) for a wealth of information pertinent to any lake user.

### Email Correspondence

Would you prefer to receive our newsletter via email rather than mail? If so, please share your email address with us at [buffaloricerocklakes@gmail.com](mailto:buffaloricerocklakes@gmail.com).

## Questions or Suggestions

**We have a number of resources available to communicate with and get info from our lake neighbors and the association!**

- ✓ Like us on Facebook & share your pics and info on our page at [Buffalo, Rice & Rock Lakes Association](http://Buffalo, Rice & Rock Lakes Association)
- ✓ [Join us on Nextdoor!](#) Nextdoor is a private (closed group) social network site that is another way we can all stay connected and communicate!
- ✓ Pass along any ideas or suggestions by emailing us at [buffaloricerocklakes@gmail.com](mailto:buffaloricerocklakes@gmail.com) or visiting with your Beach Captain
- ✓ Check out our website at <http://minnesotawaters.org/buffaloricerocklakes/> to find meeting minutes, Board member/ Beach Captain contact info, and links to numerous websites/resources.

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

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

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

**BRRLA Membership Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if current member with no changes to addresses,  
email, or phone number

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

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

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

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

Check applicable lake:   o Buffalo   o Rice   o Rock

**\*\* Membership dues are waived for 2020**

**Mail to: Buffalo, Rice, and Rock Lakes Association, c/o Becky Burns  
29665 Buffalo Run, Rochert, MN 56578**