

Spring 2020 BALA President's Letter to the Membership

Spring is right around the corner and I know you all can't wait for it to be in full bloom. In these strange times, being confined to our homes, it's easy to come down with a case of "cabin fever". However, for those of us lucky enough to live on Big Alum Lake, it's a little easier than for most people. We can still get out and walk/run around the lake, talking to our lake neighbors from across the road, while keeping our social existence alive. We can still circle the lake in our boats and party barges, waving to our neighbors, and letting them know we're alright. We will survive and get through this, and we are so fortunate our sanctuary is so beautiful. Everyone stay safe for as long as it takes. We want everyone back next year.

That being said, your BALA Board has been working very hard all winter long to improve the lake and the surrounding environment. The Watershed Drainage Committee has the engineering plan finished and we have sent it out to bid. Once we have some hard numbers, we will make a presentation to the entire BALA Membership for their approval. For those of you that missed the last couple of BALA Membership meetings, we are trying to mitigate contaminants, such as lawn fertilizers and road chemicals, from going into the lake via runoff from the various watersheds around the lake. It is our hope that this will contribute to a reduction in the algae growth we have been seeing in the lake over the past few summers.

The Environmental Committee is moving ahead with the weed mitigation program, and Bruce Gran assures us the weed treatments will be done earlier this year. We will let you all know when that will occur so that you can plan accordingly. A few of you didn't get the message last year, and it caused some inconvenience. We will try to communicate better this year. Keep your eye on the website; information on the weed treatments will be posted regularly there.

Rob Scoble tells me the lake has been stocked with fish once again for all you anglers out there. Good luck and happy fishing.

Financially speaking, BALA is looking good so far this year. Membership dues for this year are not coming in as fast as usual, due to the concerns over Coronavirus we believe, so if you haven't paid your dues yet, please get them to Deb Gran as soon as possible. We may not be able to hold the BALA Gala this year, depending on the state of the pandemic, and as you all know, it is a major fund raiser for the Association. However, thanks to some very generous donations from some of our members, this should not prove to be a problem financially.

Along the lines of financial stability, Jen Bailey has spearheaded our effort to bring BALA sponsors and classified ads to our website. What a great job she's done. Go to the website and check out all the great businesses that are now supporting BALA by purchasing sponsorship

programs. And, please consider using these businesses the next time you are in need of their expertise.

Of course, there would be no new website without the hard work of our Secretary Lisa Sanderson and Rich Suitum, of Exsel Advertising Group. What a great job they have done. Thank you both for your effort. The site looks great!

Mark Minnucci has decided to step down as Vice President of BALA this year after serving in that capacity for so many years. We certainly do thank him for all his time and energy on the Board, and I want to thank Mark personally for staying on the Board and adding some continuity to my Presidency. I am not sure he realizes how very important that was to me when I took over as President. I'm sure we'll still see Mark at all the social functions, and we wish him well. Stay safe buddy!

That being said, Mark Smith, our new By-law and Nominating Committee Chair, will be recommending nominations to the Board for Mark's replacement. If anyone has an interest in this position, get your name to Mark. A special thanks goes out to Tracy Murphy for his ten years' service as this committee's chair.

Matt Kibbi has all the rock balls anchored in the lake early this year. You can thank me for incentivizing Matt to do so. No, I'm not "Trumping". It's just that Matt felt badly for me. You see, I wanted to be the first "ski boat" back on the lake this year. What I wound up being is the first "bone head" to hit a rock this year; the one out in front of my house no less! Matt took pity on me and put the markers in early. Thanks Matt; I bet that was cold work.

Matt and his committee have also updated the BALA "recommended boating courtesy rules". The pamphlet has been reprinted, and you may pick up a copy at the July 11th BALA Membership meeting (changed from 4th of July weekend) or you can simply go to the website to read them.

As to the annual BALA Membership Meetings, we are not sure we will be able to hold either of them in person this year due to the Coronavirus situation. The Board will discuss alternatives at the May Board meeting, and we will keep you posted.

Well, I think this updates you all on the various projects the Board has been working on over the winter. I look forward to a great summer on the lake and seeing you all out enjoying the water. As the song goes "you ain't a going nowhere" except "down in the easy chair"!

Stay Safe All,

Chuck Roy/president BALA