



# BEAVER DAM LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.

## 2023 Annual Report

February 2024

### Inside:

**Our Goals: Improve Water Quality, Fishery, Wildlife Habitat - Page 2**

**Email Addresses Needed - Page 2**

**2023 in Review - Page 3**

**2023 Actuals for Annual Report - Page 4**

**Board of Directors - Page 4**

**BDLIA Sponsors - Page 5**

**BDLIA Fundraising Banquet - Page 6**

**BDLIA Vision Statement - Page 7**

**2023 Photo Gallery - Page 7**

**BDLIA Mission Statement - Page 8**

**BDLIA vs BDLD - Page 8**



## Letter from the President

2023 As I sat down to write up my thoughts for 2023, A Tale of Two Cities came to mind, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness..."

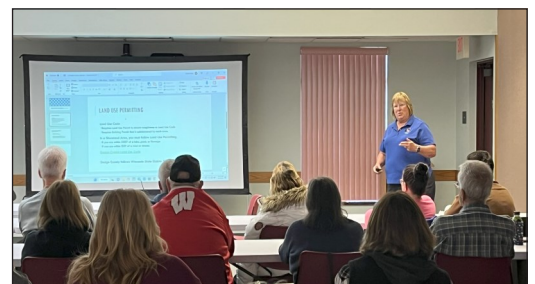
Thankfully, there were way more good times than bad. It was a great year for Community Engagement. Our events returned with great participation. I used to see our Annual Fundraising Banquet only as a way to raise money for our projects and activities, but truly it is our largest Community Engagement event. Fish N Fun enabled more kids to learn and find joy in fishing and the outdoors. Our Best Dam Fest activities—Cardboard Boat Regatta and Pontoon rides—were full to capacity and a great time for all. There was very good attendance for our Shoreline Restoration Seminar in April.

Essential activities continue to challenge us. Our never-reliable workboat bit the dust this year. We did manage to use it to get the buoys placed and complete a couple of lake projects. Thankfully, Sweetman Dive & Salvage came to our rescue for buoy retrieval. Our water sampling efforts, boat landing signage, and launch fee collection happened without incident. We think we have located a new workboat—more to come in 2024 on that front.

Fundraising & Member Engagement was at an all-time high. We had great fundraising results this year thanks to our generous participants and donors—with a change to our donation levels. On the absolutely most humid and hottest day of the summer, we had a fantastic time at the Thirsty Beaver with our Member Social. It is such a great way to interact with like-minded people.

In the Projects & Grants space, we had a huge win in completing the Puckagee Springs Restoration. Once coir logs were placed by the contractor, the Beaver Dam FFA helped us plant more than 300 willow stakes and 100 dogwood stakes. Our other activities in the Projects & Grants space will be detailed on the next page.

Looking to the future,  
*Karen Huber*

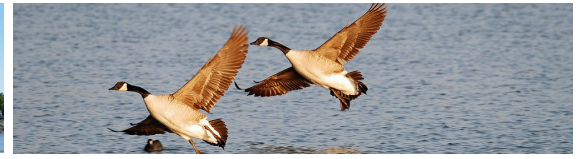


*Karen presenting at the Shoreline Restoration Seminar in April*

### OFFICE

PO Box 33, Beaver Dam, WI 53916 | 920-356-1200  
<https://bdlia.org>

Beaver Dam  
Lake Improvement Assn.



## Our Goals: Improve Water Quality, Improve Fishery, Improve Habitat

Projects & Grants is the pillar where most of the work toward these goals happens. We use metrics in Water Clarity, Plant Survey, and Fish Management to gage our progress. In 2023, we had four major projects planned to help us improve our metrics going forward.

The first project that was slated for completion during 2023 was the Puckagee Shoreline Restoration project. This is a project that we started planning in 2022 after receiving a state budget line item of \$225,000. Puckagee Springs is WDNr property. Since the original shoreline protection was put in place in the late 1980s, the shoreline had eroded some 35 feet—allowing for 195 truckloads of eroded soil to leech into our lake. Puckagee Springs is a natural Northern Pike spawning area as well as a habitat for wildlife. In June, the coir logs were placed by contractor Drax. Shortly after Drax completed the construction, we used two pontoon boats to transport Jonathan Ganske and his FFA students out to form two teams for planting the 300 willow stakes and 100 dogwood stakes. While it was a learning experience for us all, the results are good and the trees have taken root.

Rakes Bay Wetland Restoration ARPA-funded project was the other large project targeted for 2023 with final completion planned for early next year. This project piggybacked off the UW-WRM project completed in 2015. We had completed a WDNr Surface Water Grant in 2021 where a hydrology study was completed. A plan was put in place to construct two weirs on the WDNr property to slow water flow from ditches dug in the property sometime in the past and return the wetland to its intended purpose of water absorption. The intent of the project was to limit the phosphorus that enters BD Lake from this area—one of our largest contributors. In mid-November we were invited to a meeting in Fitchburg by the WDNr who were concerned with several aspects of the project. The project had been reviewed by several WDNr folks since the planning grant was Surface Water funded. There were several WDNr folks on the team, but in November new requirements were introduced. As of this writing, we have completed the engineering phase of the project, but are on hold with the construction phase.

As many of you know, rough fish (Carp) are plentiful in BD Lake. At our last Biomass in 2014, it was estimated that we have 335#/acre of rough fish. For BD Lake to have a clear water state, we must be at 100#/acre. Since November of 2022, the plan had been to have a Biomass done the fall of 2023. In August, WDNr put the Biomass on indefinite hold citing our lake's fish biologist taking another position in La Crosse. Sadly, the Fisheries Management group has

no plans to move forward with either the Biomass, an experimental contract, or a commercial contract for rough fish removal for our lake. In November of 2023, Bill Foley and I met at the Capitol at the request of Representatives Mark Born and Jon Plumer and Senator John Jagler to discuss with several ranking WDNr folks on what we might do to move ahead with rough fish removal and subsequent rough fish management plans. As of the end of the year, we had received no resolution. As of this writing, we are waiting to hear WDNr Fisheries response and any further action from our State Representatives and Senator.

In conjunction with the Biomass, Surface Water Specialist Arthur Watkinson, began a study to determine the baseline number of zooplankton in Beaver Dam Lake. This project was very exciting because it was a partner project to rough fish removal. As rough fish are removed, zooplankton numbers should increase. This is important because zooplankton eat algae. Unfortunately, this project was also put on hold once the Biomass was indefinitely postponed.

As discussed at our Annual Meeting in August, BDLIA metrics are focused on Water Quality, Aquatic Plants, and Fish Community. In order to improve Water Quality, we must have more aquatic plant life for game fish and have to remove rough fish for our aquatic plant life and water quality to improve—very much the 3-legged stool analogy. Without rough fish removal, it will be nearly impossible to improve water quality or our gamefish community.

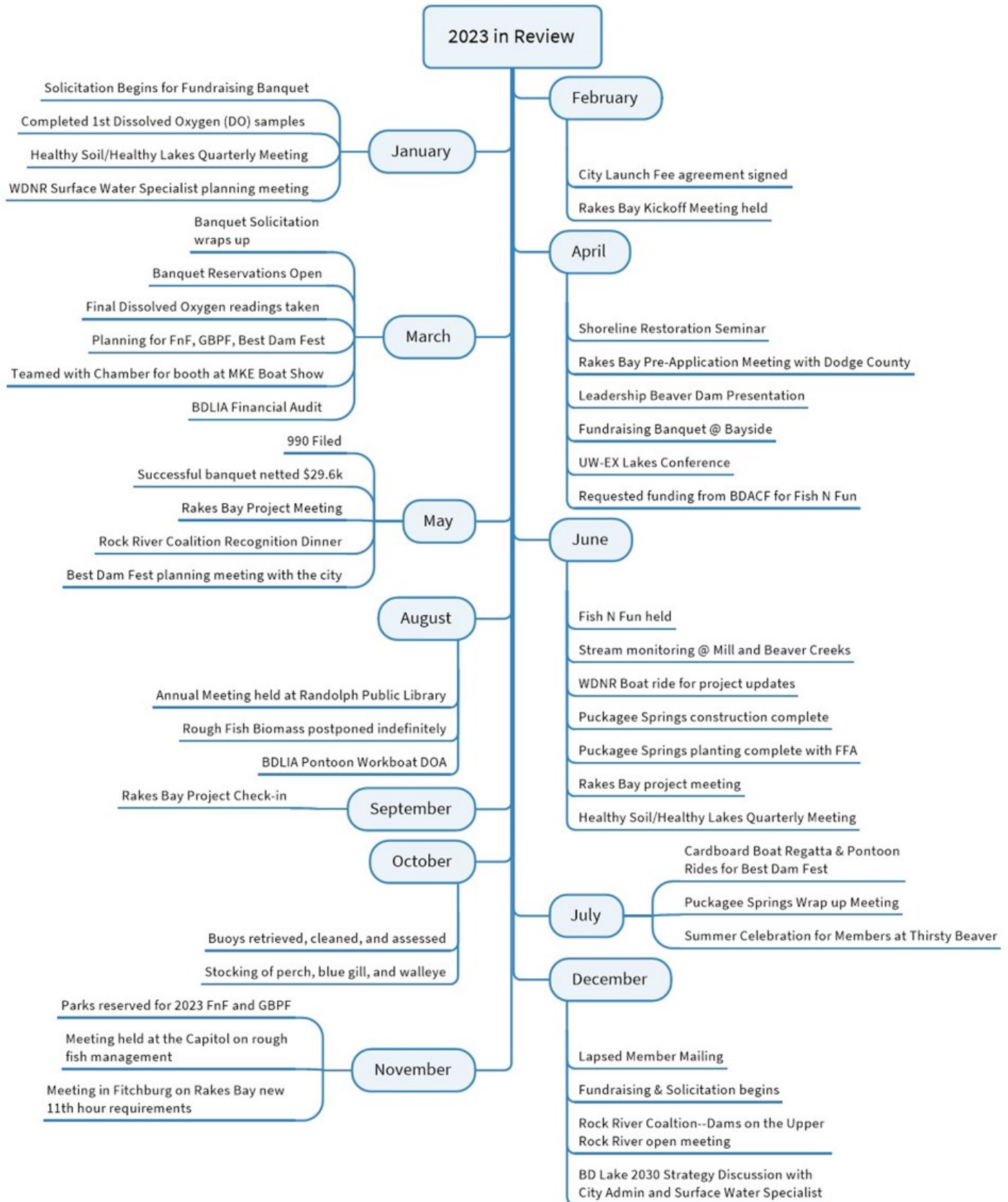
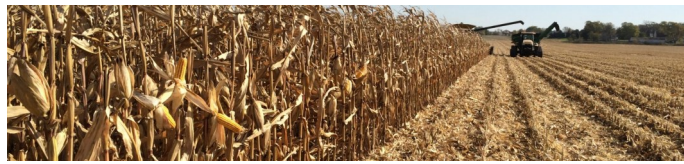
### Email Addresses Needed

By using email communications to our members, we are reducing costs and are able to send out more timely information. There are Monthly Updates and other email communications that members miss if they do not receive emails. We understand that not everyone has email addresses, so we will communicate by mail when possible. Simply send us an email at [info@bdlia.org](mailto:info@bdlia.org) to add your email address to your contact information.

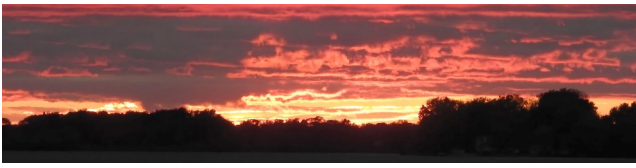
THANK YOU

TO OUR SPONSORS!









## 2023 Actuals for Annual Report

	INCOME	EXPENSE	
Banquet	\$43,570	\$13,278	
Donations	\$39,821		Note 1
Membership	\$5,680	\$4,228	
Events	\$500	\$89	
Investment Income	\$18,506	\$5,819	
Launch Fees	\$7,396	\$1,700	Note 2
Other Income	\$1,210		
Business Expenses		\$20,737	
Equipment & Facilities		\$5,132	
Grant Expense		\$200	
Lake Management		\$12,909	Note 3

Note 1	\$17k donation from Foulkes Foundation for workboat; will also receive \$5k from BD Hospital Foundation in 2024 for workboat
Note 2	Launch fee dollars will go to the city for automated collection devices
Note 3	Fish stocking & buoy expense (Total fish stocking was \$15,750)



**Board of Directors: (Back row) Adam Klodowski, Mike Piotrowski, Alan Mannel, Steve Hughes, Ty Letto, Jennifer Duke (Front row) Isaac Pentinmaki, Karen Huber, Bill Foley (Not present: Peter Hupf)**



# BDLIA Thanks Our Sponsors!

## DIAMOND MEMBERSHIP



**Dan & Bonnie Feuling**

**Duane & Kathleen Foulkes  
Foundation, Inc.**



## PLATINUM MEMBERSHIP



**Karen Huber**



## GOLD MEMBERSHIP



**Schumann  
Family Trust**

**Bill & Lyn Foley  
Gary & June Ehn**

**Kenn & Barb Ferron  
Scott & Jenny Schroepfer**



**Duane & Deb Beekman**

**Frank Mittelstadt**

## SILVER MEMBERSHIP



**Dan & Karla  
Hupf**



**Jerry & Nicki  
Hupf**



**Tim & Terry  
Hupf**

**Marion Gade & Family**



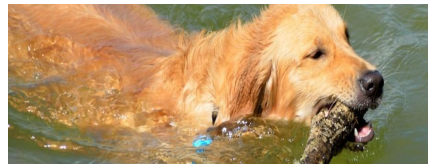
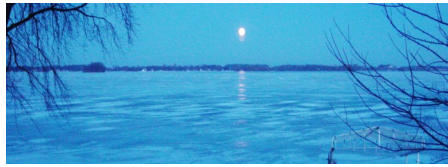
**Total Business  
Products, Inc.**



**Pat Reilly**

**Jennifer and Justin Neu**

**Pam Elliott**



## Beaver Dam Lake Improvement Association (BDLIA)

"The Lake Needs You...We need You!"



Do you know what BDLIA does/supports/manages EVERY Year?

The Goal is to Improve Water Quality, the Fishery, and Wildlife Habitat:

Projects & Grants	Community Engagement	Essential Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Puckagee Springs Restoration Grant</li> <li>◆ Rakes Bay Planning &amp; Implementation Grants</li> <li>◆ Lake Planning Grants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Best Dam Fest: Pontoon Rides and Cardboard Boat Regatta</li> <li>◆ Activities: Fish 'n Fun and Great Beaver Paddle Fest</li> <li>◆ Workshops &amp; Seminars</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Buoy Placement, Retrieval &amp; Maintenance</li> <li>◆ Water Sampling</li> <li>◆ Equipment Maintenance</li> <li>◆ Launch Sign Upkeep</li> </ul>

## How can you help?

<b>DONATE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cash</li> <li>• Sponsor Raffle Basket(s)</li> <li>• Merchandise/products</li> <li>• Gift Certificates</li> </ul> <p><i>** Special offers available for select sponsorship levels</i></p>	<b>ATTEND THE BANQUET</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$55/banquet ticket</li> <li>• Purchase \$100 Raffle Packet</li> <li>• Play games &amp; have fun</li> </ul>	<b>MEMBERSHIP</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$20 Indiv./\$30 Family/\$50 Business</li> </ul> <b>VOLUNTEER</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Event help</li> <li>• Project help</li> <li>• Special skills: Science, Marketing, Engineering</li> </ul>
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### Banquet Info

Date: Monday, April 22, 2024

Place: Bayside Supper Club

Time: Doors Open 5:15pm    Dinner: 6:45pm

Banquet w/Dinner \$55/person: Seafood, Prime Rib or Vegetarian

To Join BDLIA, Donate, Volunteer or make Banquet Reservations > Go online, call, scan QR code or email:



BDLIA.org



920-356-1200



P.O. Box 33  
Beaver Dam, WI  
53916



info@bdlia.org



friend us



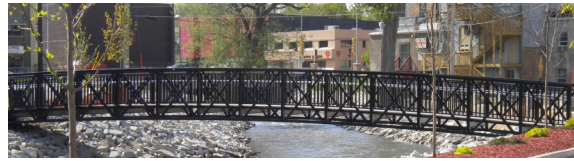
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BDLIA is a 501-c3 organization and all donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.

## OUR VISION STATEMENT

We envision a clean, restored, resilient Beaver Dam Lake with gorgeous sunsets, recreational activities, and abundant wildlife for future generations.





## 2023 Photo Gallery



**Best Dam Fest Pontoon Rides**



**Cardboard Boat Regatta at Best Dam Fest**



**Fish Stocking**



**Member Social at Thirsty Beaver**



**Carolyn Aita presenting at Shoreline Seminar**



**Cleaning Buoys Fall 2023**



**Fish N Fun Participants**



**27th Annual Fundraising Banquet**



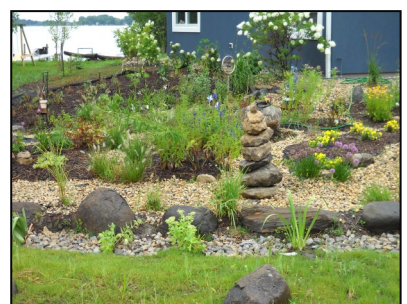
**Zooplankton Study**



**Plantings on Puckagee Springs Shore**



**Participants at August Annual Meeting**



**Brenda Kuhl's Healthy Lakes Project**





PO Box 33  
Beaver Dam, WI 53916

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We strive to engage the community in recreational activities; generate long-term restoration projects working with like-minded, but diverse partners; and educate the community on improving the quality of Beaver Dam Lake to improve and protect Beaver Dam Lake for the benefit of current and future generations.



## BDLIA vs BDL D

*Why We Need Both*

*Beaver Dam*  
LAKE DISTRICT

### BD Lake Imp. Association

[www.bdlia.org](http://www.bdlia.org)

- 501(c)(3)
- *Volunteer group - supported by fundraising and membership*
- **Interested in engaging the community for support, education, and input**
- *Governed by by-laws*
- Conducts social activities
- Provides lake-related functions (buoys, launches)
- Can only conduct projects on the lake itself

### Max Benefit When We Work Together

- Project-specific collaboration through Lake Management Committee
- Joint partnerships with:
  - BD Water & Wastewater Utility
  - Lake Development Committee
  - WDNR
  - University of WI
  - Dodge County
  - Healthy Soil/Healthy Water groups

### BD Lake District

[bdlakedistrict.org](http://bdlakedistrict.org)

- **Quasi-governmental body**
- *Supported by homeowner assessments (taxes)*
- **Represents lake homeowners**
- *Governed by state statute*
- Can work throughout the watershed
- Can access loans at below market rate
- Potential for multi-year projects with higher cost share