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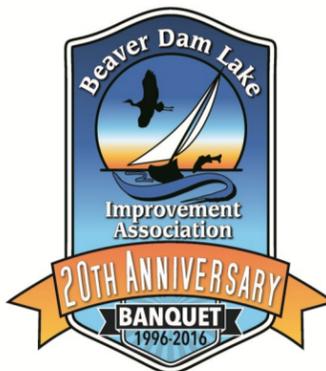
Save the Date – Annual Banquet March 29, 2016

Next year we celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the banquet and BDLIA.

“We will be celebrating 20 years of accomplishments for the BDLIA and gearing up for the 2016—a key year in implementing the management activities from the Lake Management Plan adopted in 2015,” stated Bill Boettge, President of BDLIA. “We are dedicated to make this our most successful banquet based on opportunities we have to use the funds

generated to improve Beaver Dam Lake.”

The banquet will be held on Tuesday, March 29, 2016 at Bayside Supper Club. The Banquet Committee is already meeting and planning many special events and items for this banquet including a \$2,000 raffle. Tickets for the banquet and this special raffle will be available after the first of the year. Reservation forms and more information will be mailed in January.



www.bdlia.org

Reminder:

Season's Greetings
From BDLIA!

www.bdlia.org

NOV. 2015
VOL. 14, Issue 3

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BEAVER DAM LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, INC. NEWSLETTER

Lake Management Plan Presented at Annual Meeting

Over 130 members attended the annual meeting to hear about the Lake Management Plan for Beaver Dam Lake as well as conduct association business



Tim Hoyman of Onterra, the firm contracted to develop a Lake Management Plan for Beaver Dam Lake, presented the findings and recommendations of the study and the corresponding plan for the lake at the annual meeting on Saturday, August 22 at the Beaver Dam conservationist club.

Work on the plan began in 2012 and was funded by grants from the DNR with additional financial support from the BDLIA. The first phase of the project was extensive in-depth studies including multiple plant surveys, water quality sampling, shoreline review and watershed investigations. The second stage was the development of lake management options to protect the lake and steps to be taken to improve the lake.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Beaver Dam Lake has about 10 times the phosphorus content of other shallow lakes in WI
- The high level of nutrients result in the growth of algae which reduces water clarity to levels three to four times lower than similar shallow lakes

We have 3 sources of phosphorus:

- From our large agricultural dominated watershed
- From our large carp population through excretion and bottom feeding and spawning which stirs up the bottom and resuspends phosphorus on the bottom
- From sediment resuspension caused by wind on a shallow lake

ACTIONS SUGGESTED

- Seek programs that remove, control and monitor carp population
- Seek programs to reduce input of nutrients from watershed
- Investigate development of wind barriers to reduce wind-induced resuspension
- Educate and encourage property owners to use best practices for shoreline management
- Seek DNR grant to fund assessment (Spring 2016) of curly-leaf pondweed and update Lake Management Plan as it pertains to the management of this plant



The complete Lake Management plan is posted on our website, bdlia.org or a copy of the plan has also been placed in the City of Beaver Dam library.

The BDLIA board has appointed a Lake Management Committee to guide the board in matters of lake management including implementation of the Lake Management Plan. In December, the committee is overseeing the application of the grant for invasive species plant assessment and considering seeking an additional planning grant(s) for assistance with prioritization of implementation activities as well as coordinating the activities of outside technical sources. Bill Foley, Vice President of BDLIA states, “Having the Lake Management Plan is an exciting step forward, but now comes the real work, the implementation of the many management action items to meet the goals of the plan. The Lake Management Committee is taking the necessary steps to move this forward.”

OFFICE

PO Box 33, Beaver Dam, WI 53916 | 920-356-1200
www.bdlia.org

Beaver Dam
Lake Improvement Assn.



dates To save
Annual Banquet, March 29, 2016

BDLIA Lake Days Events a Success
Pontoon rides, Cardboard Boat Regatta and Fishing Tournament provided fun and activities for over 350 Lake Days attendees, July 10 -12.

Twenty-two members of BDLIA volunteered to make three events possible during Lake Days.

Pontoon Rides
The BDLIA gave over 240 free pontoon rides to Lake Days goers. In 29 trips, participants enjoyed a 20 minute tour of the southern portion of the lake. Many people had never been on the lake or seen the city from the lake. Everyone appreciated the ride. The event was so popular we could not accommodate all the rides. BDLIA will work to find additional volunteers for next year to accommodate additional capacity.

Fish Tournament
Eleven boats and 21 fishermen participated in the tournament this year with most teams bringing in bass in the range of 17 to 19 inches. In addition several walleye were caught including two 20 inch walleye which tied for first in the biggest fish portion of the contest.



The winning team of Fred Foster and Randy Stibb came in with 5 bass totaling 85 inches. They took home the first place trophy and \$500 cash. Second place winners were Bob and Bailey Buschke who came in with 4 bass and 1 walleye totaling 84.25 inches and took the second place prize money of \$150.

Beaver Paddle Cardboard Boat Regatta
On Sunday morning of Lake Days about 33 participants making up 11 teams showed their teamwork to build and race cardboard boats, using 7 sheets of cardboard, 4 rolls of duct tape and box cutter. They had 1 1/2 hours to build a seaworthy craft that they could paddle for 15 yards. An amazing assortment of "boats" was produced.



The teams were competing for \$175 in prize money, but most importantly the bragging rights of winning the coveted Beaver Paddle Trophy. The winners were:
1st Place - Adam, Alex and Jordan Olson
2nd Place - Adam Fiegel, Kathy Voigt and Jacob Voigt
3rd Place - Wendy Braun, Jane Breker and Kami McCardle

"BDLIA is proud to sponsor this Lake Days Fish Tournament," stated Mike Gade event chairman and BDLIA board member. "It brings attention to the excellent fishing on Beaver Dam Lake and helps by adding another exciting event to Lake Days. Improving and promoting fishing on Beaver Dam Lake is one of BDLIA's key activities."

In addition, three special awards were given: *Titanic Award, the most spectacular sinking* - Cliff Maas, Chase Maas and Levi Pelfrey
President's Award for the best design - Adam Fiegel, Kathy Voigt and Jacob Voigt
Beaver Spirit Award for determination and spirit - Wendy Braun, Jane Breker and Kami McCardle.

Special thanks to the City of Beaver Dam Community Activities and Services Dept. for co-sponsoring this event and the pontoon rides. We also thank the Beaver Bay Marina for supporting the boat regatta and the Northwoods Paper Converting, Inc for supplying cardboard.

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Shoreline Seminar a Sellout

Members learned about shoreline protection, restoration and beautification.



Thirty five lakeshore property owners on Beaver Dam Lake were given a comprehensive presentation on shoreline protection and restoration on Saturday, September 19th. The seminar was sponsored by BDLIA as part of the implementation of the Beaver Dam Lake Management Plan recently adopted by the BDLIA.

"Protection of the shoreline from erosion and runoff of nutrients into the lake is a key element in the health of a lake," stated Bill Boettge, President of BDLIA. "On Saturday we learned the rules and regulations as well as many helpful methods to implement on our shorelines. Attendees particularly enjoyed the session on native plants, learning of the many varieties, how they protect the shoreline and the beauty they bring to our properties."

The seminar was presented by Lisa Reas of LJ Reas Environmental Consulting. Because of her 17 years of experience in shoreline management she was able to show examples of over 30 different projects, all of which were applicable to improving shorelines of Beaver Dam Lake property owners.

Additional seminars on shoreline management are being planned by BDLIA that may include hands on demonstrations. Many attendees also expressed interest in additional in-depth information on installing and repairing rip rap on their shorelines. Lakes like Beaver Dam Lake produce high energy wave and ice action against our shorelines which requires the protection provided by rip rap.



BDLIA is a sponsor of DNR's Healthy Lakes Initiative which provides funding of up to \$1,000 (75%/25% match) for installation of native plantings, rain gardens and other projects that improve fish habitat and protect against runoff. (See Healthy Lakes article, pg. 3.)

For more information about future seminars visit the BDLIA website at bdlia.org or call the BDLIA office at 920-356-1200. The BDLIA office has many brochures and informational booklets at their office which are free. Stop in at 211 South Spring Street, Suite 3 during business hours.

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Season's Greetings from BDLIA



Healthy Lakes Projects Visited

Healthy Lake Project team members inspected three of the five of BDLIA's Healthy Lakes projects.



On a crisp October day five members of the Healthy Lakes Project team came to Beaver Dam to meet with BDLIA to discuss the projects and visit three of the project sites. This past year was the first year of DNR's Healthy Lakes Initiative. BDLIA was one of only thirteen statewide groups that were approved for sponsoring of Healthy Lakes projects.

This new program provides funds to support installation of fish sticks to improve fish habitat, native plantings or diversion practices along the shoreline to slow runoff and upland practices like rain gardens that manage runoff from structures or impervious surfaces. Lakeshore property owners complete the projects with grant funding up to \$1,000. To meet the 25% match requirements participating property owners pay a portion of the costs or contribute vol-

unteer time to complete their projects.

In addition to viewing the sites and interviewing the property owners that participated, the team also took pictures and video that will be used to market the program across the state for 2016.



The Healthy Lakes program will offer another opportunity for property owners to submit requests for grants. "We hope more property owners will take advantage of the program this coming year," commented Bill Foley, Vice President of BDLIA and one of the participants. "It is a great opportunity to do your part in helping to improve and protect Beaver Dam Lake." Grant requests must be in by early January. Information is available now at BDLIA. Call 920-356-1200 or email at info@bdlia.org.

Christian Laettner visits Beaver Dam

BDLIA members Steve and Amy McQuin organized a basketball camp and fishing tournament last August with former Duke basketball star, Christian Laettner. Christian is an avid fisherman, especially for Muskie and he was anxious to spend some time fishing on the lakes in our area. BDLIA board member Peter Hupf served as his guide for his fishing trips. On August 23, a fishing tournament was held on Beaver Dam Lake that attracted fishermen from all over the area. Prizes were awarded for some nice catches. Christian brought in a nice 31 inch northern. The weekend was wrapped up with a "meet-n-greet" reception held Sunday evening. BDLIA was the recipient of \$700 as part of the proceeds from the weekend and will be designated to go toward the BDLIA fish stocking program. A special thank you to Steve and Amy for arranging the weekend and bringing attention to Beaver Dam Lake and providing some of the proceeds to BDLIA.

Special Thanks to our EXECUTIVE Level Sponsors



Fish Programs—Update



Ongoing activities to improve the fisheries of Beaver Dam Lake

Fishing is an important aspect of Beaver Dam Lake. Six out of the nineteen action items in the recently completed Beaver Dam Lake Management Plan, are related to enhancing the fishery of Beaver Dam Lake. These include improving the fish habitat, enhancing native aquatic plant population, improving spawning areas and developing fish stocking plans.

Fish Survey

To develop good fish stocking plans, data is used from fish surveys taken by the DNR. Recently the DNR did a comprehensive assessment/survey of the entire fish community in the lake. This survey is done every six years according to DNR's Laura Stremick-Thompson, fisheries biologist. The survey methods include fyke netting for northern and walleye and in late spring and fall electro fishing for panfish and bass. The data collected provides an indication of the health of the fishery through estimates of gamefish and panfish relative abundance, size structure and recruitment. The results of the survey will be released by early next year.



Perch Fishing

In the spring survey results, Laura reported that there was an exceptional abundance of yellow perch and this should make for excellent perch fishing the next few years. As Mike Gade, member of the BDLIA Fish Programs Committee stated recently, "She was right on as Beaver Dam Lake had one of its best perch fishing seasons in a long time." Based on the reports given BDLIA many fishermen were getting their limits of 25 and the average size of the perch caught were 8 to 11 inches and had nice wide bodies.

Two of the key factors for excellent Perch fishing this year were the abundance of aquatic vegetation in the lake making for excellent fish

habitat and the stocking of over 70,000 3 to 5 inch perch by BDLIA over the last 5 years. Funds for these stockings come from donations, the BDLIA fundraising banquet, the Beaver Dam Lake Development Corp. and the many fishing tournaments held on the lake that gave their proceeds to BDLIA for fish stocking. "Without this ongoing support, the stocking program and other activities of the BDLIA would not be possible," stated Bill Boettge, President of BDLIA. "We really appreciate this ongoing support."



Fish Stocking

The BDLIA fish stocking program has four goals: 1) to provide more pan and game fish for area fishing enthusiasts; 2) to have predator fish to help control the rough fish; 3) to keep a balance in the fish population; and 4) to attract more people to the Beaver Dam area to help the local economy. The great perch fishing this summer increased the attraction to Beaver Dam as the volunteers who collect the launch fees reported many people from Milwaukee, Madison and all over south-central WI and even from IL.

This fall BDLIA continued its stocking program with the placement of 20,000 bluegills in the lake in late September and approximately 700 ten to fourteen inch northern placed on October 24th. Many were more in the 18 to 20 inch category.

"As soon as we receive the final report of the 2015 fish survey from the DNR we will confer with Laura Stremick-Thompson and develop our stocking plans for 2016 and beyond," stated Randy Schade, Chairperson of the Fish Program Committee.



Recycling Fish Line

(Article by Wendy Herrmann, a recent Leadership Beaver Dam graduate)

The 2015 class of Leadership Beaver Dam selected a Monofilament Fishing Line Recycling station as the class community project.

According to www.recycling.about.com, it can take 600 years for monofilament fishing line to decompose. Improper disposal can lead to dangerous conditions for wildlife. We knew this project would have a lasting impact for generations to come for Beaver Dam Lake.

The Leadership Beaver Dam group worked to build thirty bins, twenty-one for installation and nine for back up or replacement as needed. Area businesses, individuals and groups including BDLIA donated to the cause and sponsorship of bins was offered as an incentive. The City of Beaver Dam Parks Department agreed to install and remove the bins, depending on location and season. They also allowed the bins to be built in their facility and will monitor their use.

Reaching out to Fleet Farm led to them installing bins in their store to help spread awareness and promote the recycling efforts. Additionally, they agreed to serve as a drop station when the area bins are emptied.

Throughout this process, the question came up: What happens to all that line when it gets shipped off for recycling? Berkeley Fishing Line (<http://www.berkeley-fishing.com/>) is a leader in this movement, collecting over nine million miles of discarded line over the past twenty-five years. Using this, and other recycled materials, they create fish habitats that can be brought back to the community lakes. The distribution of the bins in the Beaver Dam area is being finalized. Locations are identified across the community.

BDLIA Board of Directors Elects Officers for New Fiscal Year

BDLIA has two new board members and celebrates the birth-



Seated from left to right are Bill Foley, Vice President; Nancy Schraufnagel, Parliamentarian; Bill Boettge, President; Dick Emerson, Secretary/Treasurer. Standing from left to right are directors Mark Wagner, Randy Schade, Joel Winter, Mike Gade and Wes Nosek. Not pictured are Peter Hupf and Russ Warren.

At the annual BDLIA meeting, the membership elected the following members to two year terms to the Board of Directors; Bill Foley, Richard Emerson, Bill Boettge, Russ Warren and Joel Winter. Russ and Joel are new to the BDLIA board. These two new members bring a vast amount of managerial background as well as a dedication to improving and protecting Beaver Dam Lake.

Russ Warren lived in Beaver Dam his entire life. He retired after 32 years as a realtor and operating various businesses. He currently owns two restaurants. Russ has been a fisherman on the lake since age of 5 and is now stepping forward to help BDLIA reach its full potential.

Joel Winter is a lifelong resident of the area. He retired from Kraft after 39 years in a number of managerial positions. He is active on a church council and an area historical society. He is currently serving as Chair of the Beaver Dam Chamber's Leadership Steering Committee. He served on the BDLIA Lake Management Planning Com-

mittee this past spring. Joel is a supporter of Beaver Dam Lake and the value it brings to the entire area.

The board meets monthly the last Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm at the Quality Inn. The members and public are invited to attend these meetings.



Membership is the Lifeblood of BDLIA

The Membership Committee will be mapping out a membership campaign that will include neighbor reaching out to neighbor. They will be using the new BDLIA brochure that was recently updated and discuss how BDLIA is improving and protecting Beaver Dam Lake. The theme of the brochure is, "The Future of Beaver Dam Lake is You!" Copies of this brochure are available now. Call BDLIA at 920-356-1200 for copies.

Be a part of this campaign by asking your neighbors if they are a member. We have just over 300 members, about 1/10th of the greater lake area population. "If we had 1,500 members, we would have funds to meet our goals on water quality, fishery improvement, shoreline protection and increased recreational enjoyment and safety," stated Russ Warren, BDLIA board member and member of the Membership Committee. "The strength of BDLIA is in its members."



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Special Birthday Celebration

On September 22, 2015 a special 65th birthday party was held for Nancy Schraufnagel. Over 300 guests attended including the Lt. Governor of Wisconsin, Rebecca Kleefisch. Many members of the BDLIA board attended to wish our fellow board member happy birthday. Nancy is the longest serving board member having been elected to the board in 2000 and has served as Parliamentarian since 2001. She has played a key role in our successful banquets and was key in the development of the Fish Fun event in 2005. Best wishes to Nancy.

Summer Celebration

BDLIA sponsored a member get-together at The Springs on a beautiful evening in July



On a very nice evening on Beaver Dam Lake last summer, the BDLIA sponsored its First Annual Summer Celebration. Approximately 100 members attended by boat or car to The Springs Pub and Grill for an evening of food and fun.

"Beaver Dam Lake residents don't have many opportunities to meet our neighbors, either down the street or across the lake," stated Bill Boettge President. "It's a chance to get to know one another and talk informally with the board members of the association."



A special thank you to Dan and Lorrie Luck, owners of the Springs who provided their location for our private party and cooked up some great hamburgers and brats. As a plus to the evening Dan Luck presented BDLIA a check for \$565 for the association's fish stocking program. The funds were from a June 20th Catfish Tournament that had 40 participants who caught 238 fish. Thank you Dan!

A great evening with all participants saying, "Let's do this again".

Fish Tournament



Jart the Great Fisheree donated over \$1,500 from its last three fishereesto be used for fish stocking on Beaver Dam Lake. Many businesses and friends support the event including a sponsorship by Johnny's Lounge. The next event will be held February 5 and 6, 2016.

Pictured in the photo are left to right Bill Boettge, Johnny Hammen, Cindy Jart and Fred Nelson.



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Fall Shore Clean-Up

The leaves are falling and the plants are entering their winter dormant cycle. As we prepare our yards for winter we have a great opportunity to assess the condition of our shore line and vegetative buffer at the waters' edge. With less grass and leaves we can see the impact of our yards which impact the lake bio quality. Nitrates which leave the land enter the water over grass, through downspouts and across hard surfaces. Each pound of phosphorus will mix in the lake resulting in the forming of 500 lbs. of algae. So our quest should be to identify some basic maintenance steps that help to reduce this impact:

- If you have rip-rap at the waters edge, check for lost stone and potential surface area that could become exposed over the winter.
- Does the lawn show areas of erosion that would funnel runoff into the lake? Lawns are an easy path for water flow into the lake, phosphorus greens the lawn and the lake.
- Where could turf grass be replaced with native grasses and plants? Native plants develop deep roots which stabilize the shoreline while also presenting visual contrast to boring lawns. Each one percent of additional organic material kept in the soil will capture 25,000 gallons of rain water.
- An excellent informational guide is WDNR, 'Protecting & Restoring Shorelands'.
- Are there any downspouts or drains that enter the lake? Reroute to allow the runoff to reduce the flow rate and if possible absorb into the ground which will act as a filter.

An excellent informational guide is WDNR, 'Protecting & Restoring Shorelands'. Another activity is to create a family event tracking how your buffers attract wild life over the coming years. The UW Extension has a great guide for this, 'Lake Shore Field Journal' available at, www.learningstore.uwex.edu.

A number of seemingly small projects result in a greater impact for our lake. We are all stewards of Beaver Dam Lake, become involved and make an impact!



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