Beaver Dam Lake Improvement Association, Inc.
PO Box 33
Beaver Dam, WI 53916

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to improve and protect Beaver Dam Lake for the benefit of current and future generations.

Reminder:

Membership Renewal Deadline July 31, 2016

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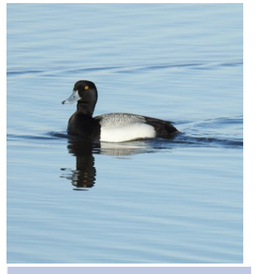
Kayak Dock / Launch Dedicated

The kayak dock/launch was dedicated on May 19, 2016. The dock/launch was purchased by BDLIA from donated funds from the estate of the late Randy Fiegel. BDLIA dedicated it as a memorial to Randy who loved all the recreational aspects of Beaver Dam Lake.

The dock and launch built by E-Z Dock, is self-floating and adjusts to changing water levels. The special launch with oversized rollers and guide rails makes it easy to glide on and off the launch. "Wow, fantastic, the greatest" said Renae Henning a local kayak enthusiast to a BDLIA board member. "It makes getting into and out of the lake so much easier."

As a tie-in to the new dock, the City of Beaver Dam Activities and Services has constructed a building to house kayaks, canoes and stand up paddle boards which they will have available for rent at this location. Come to the Great Beaver Paddle Festival on July 30th and check it out! *See page 2.*



www.bdlia.org

BEAVER DAM LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2016
VOL. 15, Issue 2

UPCOMING EVENTS

Lake Days
July 8 & 9
Cardboard Boat Regatta
Pontoon Rides

Summer Celebration
July 20
The Springs Pub & Grill

The Great Beaver Paddle Festival
July 30
Waterworks Park

Annual Meeting
August 20
Conservationist Club

Membership Renewal-Deadline July 31

Cardboard Boat Regatta and Pontoon Rides at Lake Days

Beaver Dam's annual Lake Days will be held Friday and Saturday July 8 & 9 at Tahoe Park in Beaver Dam. BDLIA has again teamed up with the City of Beaver Dam's Community Activities and Services to bring to Lake Days two great lake related activities.

The Beaver Paddle Cardboard Boat Regatta

This year's event will take place on Friday evening July 8 beginning with boat building at 5:30 to 7:30 with the race at 7:45. Prizes will be awarded immediately following the race.

As in the past there is no entry fee and all building materials are supplied at no cost. Each team is made up of three people one of whom must be 16 years of age or older with a minimum age of 5. The teams will be given cardboard, duct tape and a box cutter. One or two members must ride in the boat. Bring along your life vests as they are not furnished. Boats may be propelled by one paddle (furnished by the team) or paddles made from materials given to the team or by crews arms and legs. Other rules are detailed on the application form.

In addition to $175 awarded in cash there are special awards given such as the Beaver Spirit Award, the President's Award for best design and the favorite, The Titanic Award for the most spectacular sinking.

This is a great event for youth organizations or as a family team. Build teamwork and have a blast! For complete information and a sign up form go to bdlia.org, or call 920-356-1200 or 920-887-4639 or stop at The Watermark, 209 S Center St in Beaver Dam. Sign up now as the limit is 25 teams.

Continued on Page 2

The Great Beaver Paddle Festival is July 30th

Beaver Dam Lake has a new kayak/canoe dock and launch at Waterworks Park. (See related article on page 8.) To introduce paddling enthusiasts from around the area to a great paddling lake and the new dock/launch, BDLIA partnered with the City of Beaver Dam Community Activities and Services to sponsor The Great Beaver Paddle Festival on Saturday, July 30.

It will be a day of free clinics and demos combined with music and food. If you have a kayak come on down and try the new dock/launch. If you are thinking about getting into paddling, kayaking, canoeing or stand up paddle boards this is an opportunity to attend a free introductory clinic and watch demonstrations of all three sports, including a demo on kayak fishing. The clinics will be offered throughout the day. See the enclosed brochure for details. Slots for these instructions are limited so advance registration is recommended. Call 920-887-4639.

Continued on Page 2

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The Great Beaver Paddle Festival *cont.*

Come on down to Waterworks Park on Saturday, July 30 for a day of paddling fun including free clinics and demos on kayaking, canoeing and stand up paddle boarding.

The classes will be followed by free 30 minute equipment rentals for those that do not have their own.

For those with their own equipment there will be water trail maps available to other parks. For the more experienced paddler there is a 3 mile to or from Fish Camp. If you register in advance and pay a $25 fee there is a commemorative tee shirt and entry into a drawing for prizes. All day long there will be free shuttle service, courtesy of Horicon Bank, to and from the 4 parks involved in the festival.

"We are proud to add this to the many BDLIA activities that promote the use and enjoyment of Beaver Dam Lake," stated Bill Boettge, President of BDLIA.

FREE Pontoon Rides at Lake Days *cont.*

Attendees of Lake Days will again be offered 30 minute boat rides on Beaver Dam Lake courtesy of BDLIA volunteers. The rides will be offered Saturday from 9am—2pm and 4pm—7pm. People wanting to participate will be asked to sign up at the BDLIA booth on the Lake Days grounds and will be assigned to a time slot that is convenient for them. Life jackets are furnished.

In the past two years over 500 people have enjoyed rides and have given kudos to the volunteers for not only giving them a nice ride but giving them some background regarding the lake. Three boats will operate this year to keep up with the popularity of these rides.

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Telling the BDLIA Story

BDLIA has several programs to increase membership and spread the BDLIA story.

Membership Renewal

Membership invoices were mailed mid-June with a July 31st Deadline.

BDLIA has over 350 members, a ten year high. The Membership Committee will continue with its door-to-door campaign. If you would like to help us please give us a call at 356-1200. It's the personal contact that gets out the word. If you have a neighbor or friend that is not member, give us a call and we will send out a membership form to you to pass on to them.

The committee is also on a campaign to get members to apply a membership sticker to their mailbox post so everyone can see that you support your Lake Association. Call us and we will send a sticker out to you.

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BDLIA on display

On June 15th BDLIA told its story via a video and static display at Tahoe Park. From 2 to 4 pm it held a Lake Expo for government officials and interested citizens. Among the attendees were Beaver Dam Mayor Tom Kennedy and Assembly persons Keith Ripp and Mark Born. Then from 5 to 7 pm it was an open house for Chamber members and their staff. Over 100 people heard and saw the work being done on carp management, water quality monitoring, aquatic plant management and our fish programs. In addition a PowerPoint presentation showed some of the many activities BDLIA sponsors on the Lake. The goal is to make as many people as possible aware of the work being done by BDLIA and to increase membership.

BDLIA @ SUMMER CELEBRATION

You're Invited: Summer Celebration July 20

Annual BDLIA get together will be at The Springs Pub & Grill.

Last summer over 100 BDLIA members and friends gathered for an evening of socializing and getting updated on BDLIA activities and programs. BDLIA is again inviting members and their invited guests to come by boat or car to The Springs Pub & Grill between 5:00 and 8:00 pm to enjoy a hamburger or brat basket with chips and a soda courtesy of the Association. There will be additional food and beverage options available for purchase. The event will be held rain or shine. The Springs is at N9070 Cty Rd FW on the north end of Beaver Dam Lake.

"This is a great opportunity to enjoy a summer evening on the Lake at The Springs and get to know your fellow lake residents. BDLIA is also showing appreciation for the support and volunteerism throughout the year by our members," stated Bill Boettge, President of BDLIA.

Please RSVP for this free event so we can plan food. You can call 920-356-1200 or email at info@bdlia.org or you can send in the form below to the office.

. . . . . CLIP AND SEND IN RESERVATION FORM . . . . . .

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Mail to: BDLIA, PO Box 33, Beaver Dam Wi 53916

Name/s (Please print)_____

Number attending _____ Phone # _____

Lake Improvement and Protection

Seminars, grant programs and special buoys help improve and protect Beaver Dam Lake

Shoreline Seminar in April

Shoreline protection and restoration was the theme of a seminar presented by BDLIA to over 40 lakeshore property owners on April 23, 2016. The presenter was Lisa Reas, a 14 year professional in shoreline management. Highlights of her program included:

- The value of shoreline restoration to you and the lake
- Tips for designing your shoreline landscape
- What plants are right for your shoreline
- What permits, if any are needed
- Why you should consider applying for Healthy Lakes Initiative funding

About 40% of Beaver Dam's lakeshore is developed/urbanized and provides little benefit and actually may harm the lake's ecosystem. One of the 19 action items in the Beaver Dam Lake Management Plan is to encourage lake shore property owners through education and using county and WDNR restoration programs to use best practices for shoreline management.

Healthy Lakes Initiative

BDLIA is a participant in this WDNR program which provides funds for 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 and impervious surfaces.

The WDNR will pay 75% of approved projects up to $1,000. The property owner is responsible for 25%, however this share can include the property owner's labor which is billed at $12 an hour.

BDLIA is supporting eight Healthy Lakes projects, five of which have been completed. If you are interested in participating go to heathlylakeswi.org or call BDLIA at 920-356-1200.

No-Wake Buoys

This past spring BDLIA placed approximately 30 no-wake buoys in critical areas on Beaver Dam Lake. These buoys are placed in shallow areas of the lake primarily to protect the habitat of fish and wildlife from damage done by boats going too fast in these areas. No-wake by definition means that the speed at which a boat moves is as slowly as possible while still maintaining steerage control. The location and placement of no-wake buoys are approved by township and city ordinances and approved by the WDNR with violators subject to fines.

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BDLIA Celebrates Beaver Dam's 175th Anniversary with a Special Parade Float

As you learned from our newsletter, BDLIA and many volunteers are very busy this summer with events and promotions. We decided to squeeze one more activity in—the 175th Anniversary Parade on Saturday, July 16th.

Special thanks to Jerry Wolfgram who graciously allowed us to borrow his vintage Chris-Craft boat for our float. This classic will go nicely with our theme, "Stocking and Protecting the lake for Generations." We are still looking for a vintage or older model (1950's—1960's) truck to pull the boat. Give BDLIA a call if you or someone who know could help us out.

Another surprise with the float are a couple of walking fish. If you haven't seen a walking fish, you'll have to come to the parade and see it for yourself. Special thanks to fish costume team: Kathy Deering, Jacky Jacobson and Jessica Jacobson.

Hope to see you at the parade on Saturday, July 16th at 10am, starting on N Spring Street and then turning onto Front Street!

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Annual Member Meeting is August 20, 2016

The annual meeting, an opportunity to hear what your association is doing as well give input and elect the Board of Directors.

The meeting will be held at the Conservationist Club, W9554 County Trunk G, Beaver Dam. A free continental breakfast will be available at 8:30 am with the meeting beginning at 9:00 am.

Tim Hoyman, of Onterra, LLC, who developed the Beaver Dam Lake Management Plan that was presented last year, will kick off this year's meeting with a report on the aquatic invasive plant species assessment Onterra completed this spring. In 2015 BDLIA applied for and received a grant to study curly-leaf pondweed (an invasive plant species) that almost covered our lake last year. To get permits and grants to control this exotic plant, an assessment must be completed to understand how much is in the lake. Tim will present the results of the curly-leaf pondweed mapping survey and discuss courses of action that may be taken to control the plant. Curly-leaf pondweed can grow so densely that it can make navigation difficult. It can also release a great deal of nutrients into the lake when the bulk of it dies back in early July. Please attend and comment as we discuss the alternatives for managing this plant.

After this presentation the following agenda items will be covered:

- Financial report and budget
- Election of Board of Directors
- Reports on activities including fish programs, events like Fish 'n Fun and progress on implementation of the Lake Management Plan.

BDLIA had a very active year with activities and steps taken to improve the lake. Hear and comment on what has been done and what is planned for the year ahead. This meeting is to get input as well as update you on BDLIA.

BDLIA was advised that long-time board member and dedicated volunteer Nancy Schraufnagel passed away on June 22. She will be missed!

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20th Anniversary Fundraising Banquet a Success!

The Fundraising Banquet held March 29 raised the needed funds to support the activities and program of BDLIA.

The banquet attendees enjoyed a great meal and participated in games, raffles and auctions which help make BDLIA's banquet a financial success. "It's only because of the 300 attendees and 280 businesses and individuals who donated cash and merchandise to the banquet that allows BDLIA to aggressively implement the Lake Management Plan and continue to support the many activities of BDLIA," stated Bill Foley, Vice President of BDLIA. The top three tiers of donors are listed in the newsletter and all levels are listed on our website. Please support and thank these donors.

Over 500 prizes were awarded to participants during the evening including the $2,000 Anniversary Grand Prize, three guided fishing trips, get-away packages to the Dells and 130 door prices each valued at $50 or more.

A special thanks to the 100 volunteers who solicit the funds, plan the event and serve as volunteers at the event.

As Bob and Mary Schiller told us in an email, "Attended our first banquet this year. Wanted to tell you how impressed we were. Volunteers were helpful, always smiling. Definitely be attending next year."

Join with the Schiller's next year at the Banquet on Tuesday, March 28, 2017 at the Bayside Supper Club.

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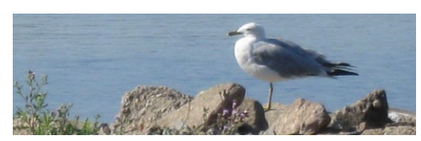

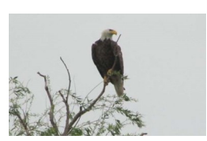

BDLIA Fish Programs

Fishing tournaments, Carp Removal and Updating Fish Counts

Fishing Tournament

Despite cold temperatures and snow squalls 14 boats competed in BDLIA's Anniversary Fishing Tournament on May 14th. Some nice fish were caught including 5 bass weighing 13.37 pounds by Mike Gade and Morgan Jones and a 6.79 pound walleye by Pete Hupf. The prizes of $1,950 was distributed among the top 4 finishers and for the largest fish. Contest winners were determined based on total weight. All fish caught were released.

Fish Stocking

This spring BDLIA stocked 23,500 3 to 5 inch bluegills in Beaver Dam Lake. The Association spends between $20,000 and $35,000 each year under its stocking program which has three goals: 1) provide pan and game fish for the angler which draws tourists to the area; 2) keep a balance in the lake's fish population; and 3)provide predator fish to help control the carp population.

In June WDNR stocked 219,822 small fingerling walleyes in the range of 1.5 to 1.9 inches. This is part of the statewide Walleye Initiative where key lakes are stocked with about 35 fingerlings per acre every two years. In 2014 a similar number were stocked and this showed up in the 2015 fish survey taken by the WDNR as a large portion of the fish netted under 10 inches. The WDNR also stocked in May 2016 65,420 small fingerling northern 1.8 to 2.2 inches.

Carp Management

Beginning in 2016 Beaver Dam Lake's carp management is now classified by the WNDR as a Carp Contract Lake. This means that the lake is commercially fished by the firm that bids the highest for the lake. The Monsoor Co. was awarded the contract. As a contract lake this company has to follow strict guidelines and must meet minimums such as fishing the lake at least 25 times and taking out a minimum of 500,000 pounds. BDLIA has met with company officials and will be working closely with them. The company has an excellent reputation, the best equipment and is dedicated to help manage the carp population in Beaver Dam Lake.

WDNR Fish Survey

In March results were released from a comprehensive fish survey conducted in 2015 on Beaver Dam Lake by the WDNR. This survey is accomplished approximately every five years and was started in 1999. The purpose is to give an assessment of the major components of the lake's fishery community.

The two methods used are spring fyke netting for northern pike and walleye, and late spring and fall electrofishing for pan fish, bass and young-of-the year walleye. All fish are returned to the lake.

WDNR fish biologist Laura Stremick-Thompson rated that overall the fishery in Beaver Dam Lake as good, especially the pan fish. One of the strongest areas was yellow perch. With the increase in submerged plants available for spawning, particularly in 2015, there is a large group of 4 to 6 inch perch produced in 2014-15. As noted in the report, "The current yellow perch fishery is at its highest abundance in decades."

2015 was a good year for fishing black crappie on Beaver Dam Lake and based on the report this should continue as 35% of the crappie in the sampling was in the 7 to 8 inch range. In addition there was a large number in the 3 to 4 inch range indicating excellent reproduction and recruitment in 2014.

Over half of the bluegill in the samplings were between 5 and 6 inches and 37% were greater than 6 inches. The abundance of bluegill is a good indication that BDLIA's bluegill stocking is producing some nice results. The pumpkinseed also are doing well with majority sampled in the range of 5 to 6 inches and 20% greater than 6 inches.

In game fish the adult walleye (over 15 inches) population is about 1.3 per acre, which is about what it was in 2010, the last survey. While it would be nice to achieve a population of 4 adults per acre BDLIA and WDNR are currently attempting to reach 2 per acre. In 2016 WDNR will stock over 235,000 walleye in the 1.5 inch range in Beaver Dam Lake. In 2014 they also stocked 235,000 walleye in the 1.5 inch range which showed up on the survey as a large group of under 10 inch walleye. The samples taken this year showed only about 7% being over 18" (the current minimum legal size). To read the complete report go to the BDLIA website at bdlia.org.

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BDLIA Fish Survey

The favorite fish in Beaver Dam Lake, according to a survey taken at the BDLIA Banquet, is the perch which received 35% of the votes. The walleye came in second at 29% and the bluegill third at 11% and right behind that was the crappie at 10%. When asked what fish we should stock in the lake perch came in at 40%, walleye at 30% and bluegill at 18%.

Thirty eight percent of responders stated they fish between 11 and 30 times per year while 7% fish more than 100 times per year. Fifty two percent stated they fish the year around while 45% fish in the summer only. One hundred and ninety three people participated in the survey.

Kids Enjoy Annual Fish 'n Fun

A few raindrops did not spoil the fun for the over 400 attendees at the 14th Annual Kids Fish 'n Fun

The morning program kicked off with opening remarks by Mayor Kennedy and the WDNR. The kids broke into 5 groups and proceeded to teaching stations that included knot tying, boat safety, lures, casting and the most fun of all, live baits with worms, leeches, minnows and other creepy things the kids had fun handling…those that were brave enough! At the casting station some of the kids got their lines caught in the trees but it was rewarding to see how quickly they were casting out their lines for 20 or more yards. In addition to these five stations the kids also had a chance to stop at stations showing how a taxidermist makes a lasting memory from a great catch, how to clean your catch for a tasty meal and a station that exhibited all the bad invasive species of plants and animals in various lakes.

After a lunch of hot dogs, chips, beverage and a piece of the 175th Beaver Dam Birthday Cake the time came for giving each child a new rod and reel along with a goody bag of neat things from the WDNR about fishing along with some live bait. Many kids went right to the lake and with help from the volunteers put into practice what they learned in the morning.

This is the first year that the program was not able to accommodate all who wanted to attend. To give the necessary individual attention to the kids at some of the teaching stations, enrollment has to be limited to 200 kids. It is hoped that the kids that could not attend this year will register early next year and be able to participate in this fun event.

This free event for children between 4 and 12 is presented by the Beaver Dam Lake Improvement Association, the Beaver Dam Bass Anglers and the Beaver Dam Community Activities and Services Department. The event is made possible by donations from individuals and businesses and over 40 volunteers who give of their time to introduce children to a lifetime of fishing fun.

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Fishing Regulation Recommendations

The BDLIA Board of Directors approved the recommendations by the Fish Program Committee that WDNR be encouraged to change the fishing regulations on Beaver Dam Lake as follows:

Walleye

- Current - 3 fish over 18 inches
  Recommend - 3 fish 15 to 18 inches (one can be over 24 inches)
  Also discontinue allowing of motor trolling

Pan Fish

- Current - 25 catch limit
  Recommend - limit stay at 25 but no more than 15 of one species

Catfish

- Current - 10 catch limit
  Recommend - increase catch limit to 25

The committee would like your comments on these recommendations. Please tear off this portion of the article and send it to us with your comments; BDLIA, PO Box 33, Beaver Dam WI 53916. Thank you!