



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.

Attend BDLIA  
Annual Banquet  
March 27, 2018

### PRESIDENTIAL LEVEL



## Formation of Beaver Dam Lake District

The committee overseeing the development of a Beaver Dam Lake District continues the background work. The process involves the drafting of a petition that persons in the proposed district will be given an opportunity to sign. This petition, in addition to listing the need for the district, must also include a map and description of the properties to be included.

The committee is recommend-

ing that all properties touching Beaver Dam Lake be included in the Lake District.

Discussions are now taking place with the county to secure maps and to determine what the county will require as to written descriptions of the boundaries.

Once these requirements are determined, petitions will be printed and meetings will be scheduled to inform persons,

answer questions and secure signatures for the petition. When more than 51% of the property owners signatures are secured, the petition goes to the Dodge County Board of Supervisors, who schedule a hearing regarding the proposed district. BDLIA members will be kept informed regarding this process and dates for meetings on this proposal. You can also go to [bdlia.org](http://bdlia.org) for updated information as it becomes available.



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



# BEAVER DAM LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.

## NEWSLETTER

Feb. 2018  
VOL. 17, Issue 1

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Annual Banquet**  
**March 27, 2018**  
Bayside Supper Club

**Fish 'n Fun**  
**June 2, 2018**  
Edgewater Park

**The Great Beaver  
Paddle Festival**  
**June 9, 2018**  
Waterworks Park

**Catfish Tournament**  
**June 16, 2018**  
The Springs  
Pub & Grill

**Lake Days Cardboard  
Boat Regatta &  
Pontoon Rides**  
**July 6 & 7, 2018**  
Tahoe Park



## Support your Annual BDLIA Banquet

Plan to Attend on Tuesday, March 27 at Bayside Supper Club



Woot woot! It is that time of the year again! Time for the major fundraiser for the Beaver Dam Lake Improvement Association. This is the opportunity to generate funds for fish stocking; studies to understand algae and aquatic plants; Healthy Lake activities; and holding fun activities on the lake such as Fish 'n Fun, Cardboard Boat Regatta, and The Great Beaver Paddle Festival.

Funds raised go specifically to the Beaver Dam Lake and not to a national organization or chapter. Once again the Banquet Committee has worked hard to create an experience that appeals to everyone.

As always, the meal will be unmatched for banquet fare. While many of the familiar activities such as the live auction, silent auction, bucket raffles and door prizes will be occurring,

there will also be some new opportunities to win great prizes. Some of the great prizes offered will be a large screen TV, a walk behind lawnmower, a bicycle, a kayak, meat packages, hotel/resort get-aways, sporting tickets, lots of electronic stuff, and of course CASH!

The banquet will be held on Tuesday, March 27, 2018 at Bayside Supper Club with doors opening at 5:15 pm and dinner served at 6:45. Tickets are still \$45. We again will be offering a packet of raffle tickets valued at \$200 for only \$100. Included in the packet are 36 tickets good for any of the six merchandise raffle boards and other raffle tickets. Increase your chances of winning at half the normal cost.

Reservation forms have been mailed directly to all BDLIA members and attendees at recent

banquets. The reservation form can also be found on our website [www.bdlia.org](http://www.bdlia.org), by calling the office at 920-356-1200, or stopping at Total Business Products, 205 DeClark Street in Beaver Dam.

The registration deadline is Thursday, March 15, and tickets will be mailed to you the week before the banquet.

The major share of funding for BDLIA activities comes from contributions by members and area businesses. Over one-third of our members make donations to the association in addition to their membership dues and over 250 businesses donate cash, merchandise and certificates. Ten dedicated members of the Solicitation Committee are currently making calls on over 300 businesses and individuals. As a member, you can help by sending in a donation with your reservation form. Also, if you know of a business or individual that you would like to see on the list of sponsors, please call this information to us and the committee will contact them.

#### OFFICE

PO Box 33, Beaver Dam, WI 53916 | 920-356-1200  
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## Upcoming fun activities on Beaver Dam Lake Fish 'n Fun, June 2nd at Edgewater Park



The 16th annual Fish 'n Fun will be held on Sat., June 2, 2018 at Edgewater Park. This FREE event is for ages 4-12 and starts at 9 am and ends at 1:30 pm. We'll introduce kids to the fun of fishing and how to be safe on the water. There are a series of learning stations that demonstrate knot tying, using different baits, how to cast and boat and water safety.

Every child that attends and completes the course receives a new rod and reel set up

for fishing, including worms. Children must be accompanied by a parent or relative. Everyone receives a free lunch.

The program is limited to the first 200 children. Registration opens on May 1 by calling at 920-356-1200 or email at [info@bdlia.org](mailto:info@bdlia.org). The program is made possible by donations to BDLIA, with rod and reel donations from Cabela's. It is also supported by BD Community Activities & Services and the BD Bass Anglers. For more info., go to [bdlia.org/events](http://bdlia.org/events).



## The Great Beaver Paddle Festival, June 9 at Waterworks Park



The Great Beaver Paddle Festival, will take place on Sat., June 9, 2018 at Waterworks Park from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. There will be FREE clinics for kayakers, canoeists and stand up paddle boarders. If you haven't gotten into one of these sports or need some additional tips, these clinics are made for you. Not only are the clinics free, but you get to take a "test run" out on the lake. The kayaks, canoes and SUPs are all furnished for this event by the City of Beaver Dam Community Activities and Services.

Paddling enthusiasts can sign up for the three-mile paddle and get a t-shirt and pin in recognition of their accomplishment. Or they can get a trail map that will help in exploring the 42 miles of shoreline. You will see islands, many species of birds and lake homes.

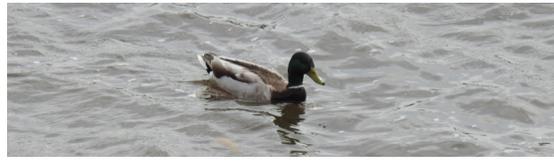
Find out why fishing from a kayak is the fastest growing fishing experience. Professional angler Mike Young will be holding two FREE two-hour fishing from a kayak clinics. You need to sign up in advance and furnish your own kayak and fishing equipment.



New this year is the fun race for kayaks, canoes and SUPs. Sign up on our website and compete for fun prizes. Also open to everyone is the build a cardboard model watercraft. Materials are furnished at no cost and you will get a free picture of your boat along with an appropriate certificate.

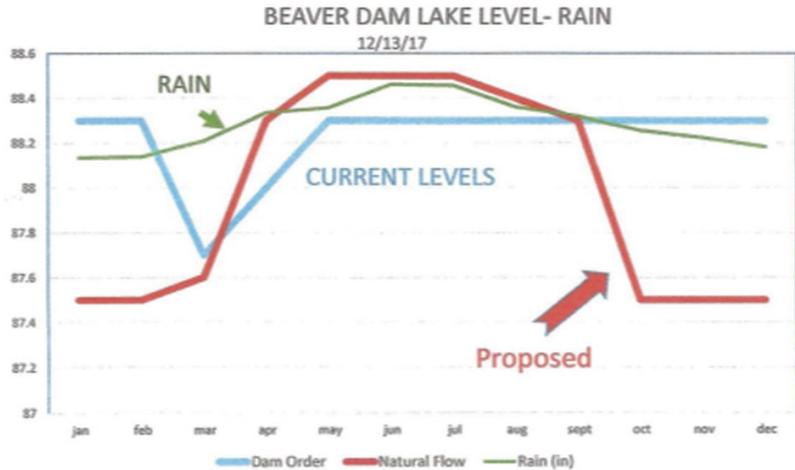
A fun place to be as a participant or a spectator. Come to Waterworks Park on June 9 and watch the activities or enjoy some cool refreshments and some great food served up by the Optimists. For more info., go to [bdlia.org](http://bdlia.org) and click on events.





# Proposed Changes to Lake Level

The Lake Management Committee matched the natural flow of water with proposed lake levels as well as matching level changes with other lakes in our area.



As part of our Lake Management Plan, one of our objectives was to review the lake level and how it impacts habitat and use. Over the past year, pertinent information was gathered which assessed the shoreline in more detail, identified wind – wave force, habitat condition and how the lake is used. When these factors were evaluated, the Lake Management Committee (LMC) compared how these forces impact the quality of our lake.

The current profile lowers the water level in the spring, for two weeks, from the winter level to accept snow melt and spring runoff then returns to the previous level. The proposed level change will increase this by 2 ½ inches for the spring and summer months (see above image). This added water depth will provide a bit more water for boating, as well as, reserve volume for increased summer water flow into the Beaver Dam River. This measure will help avoid damage to a few less props while a more consistent flow will help the river’s fishery.

While researching other lakes, we were somewhat surprised to find that no other regional lake (Koshkonong, Fox lake, Puckaway, etc.) maintains the summer level through the winter months. All reduce water levels in the fall to avoid shoreline damage and to help the shore wetlands to recover. When the wind speed and direction is compared, it was found that the fall

period has the highest average speed with a common direction from the north-west. This wind wave energy is particularly damaging to natural shorelines and our rip rap barriers. In addition, high water levels will contribute to winter damage due with ice heaves. For these reasons, we will propose to match the timing of other lakes in the area with fall-winter levels.

The BDLIA will propose to the WDNR a more natural seasonal pattern that would more closely follow normal rainfall conditions. This plan would reduce the impact of the fall and winter periods, which damage the shore, wetlands and reduce the quality of the habitat.

## In Memory of Molly Emerson

Molly Emerson, wife of BDLIA Secretary/Treasurer Dick Emerson, passed away in December. Molly loved being on the lake and will be missed as a great volunteer of our organization. She played key roles during Fish’n Fun, the annual banquet and whenever she was needed.



## FISH PROGRAM UPDATES Continued Cormorants

BDLIA was informed by APHIS in January that they will be able to issue permits again in 2018. However, what exact number that we would be able to shoot on Beaver Dam Lake is not known at this time, it is known that number will be extremely low, like less than 10. The total number allowed to be shot across the country is allocated to each state and each state allocates their limit to each lake or area. From information we have received, the amount allocated to WI is primarily going to areas in northern WI. The only tool remaining to us is harassment. As more information is received it will be place on our website, bdlia.org.

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Annual Banquet  
March 27, 2018**

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Blake, Daryl, Mark, Blake II and Lori

# Dodge County Healthy Soil - Healthy Water Group Secures Grant

Healthy Lakes activities improve the future of Beaver Dam Lake water quality.



After a successful launch in 2017, this alliance of lake groups and Dodge County farmers, announced that it had received a Producer Led Watershed Protection Grant of \$27,500.

The funds will be used for farmer to farmer education via field days, conferences and workshops, as well as, incentives for farmers to plant cover crops and undertake other conservation practices.

The educational portion of the program included a second annual all-day workshop for farmers that was held on February 7 and 8. As part of this program, an evening seminar was held on February 7 for lake property owners and citizens interested in learning about agriculture practices that are reducing runoff of sediment and nutrients into our lakes. They heard from farmers who are using cover crops as a tool in conservative practices.

Other activities will include field days and a repeat of the successful pontoon rides for farmers on lakes in Dodge County.

The initial findings from the Water Resource Management work, done by UW students last year, shows that runoff of sediment and nutrients is a major factor in pollution of Beaver Dam Lake. BDLIA is continuing to support the work of this alliance with financial contributions to both the educational efforts and to cover crop cash incentive programs.

BDLIA is also active in participation on the committees operating the Dodge County Healthy Soil - Healthy Water programs. The BDLIA Board feels our investment in this work will pay large dividends in improving our lake's water quality.





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**Attend BDLIA Annual Banquet  
Tuesday, March 27, 2018**



## Healthy Lakes Grant Applications

BDLIA had two more lake property owners apply for Healthy Lake grants on February 1. Charles Meyer with a rock infiltration project and Alan Rohde with a native planting project, bringing our total to 13 for this excellent program.

Please plan now to apply for a grant in January 2019. For information on this program, go to [bdlia.org](http://bdlia.org) and click on a link directly to the Healthy Lakes site.



# BDLIA Develops Habitat Along Shoreline

The association placed five coarse woody habitat structures along the shoreline of Beaver Dam Lake.

In January, BDLIA took advantage of the 15 inches of ice and three days of moderate weather to place five fish sticks/coarse woody habitat on the west shore of the lake. Dave Uttech was kind enough to allow us to anchor the beneficial habitat tree clusters to the shoreline. The WDNR recommends fish stick projects to promote, 'woody habitat as one indicator of a healthy lake. Fish sticks are one of many activities to protect/or restore the lake's health.'

The planning process began over a year ago with guidance provided by Laura Stremich-Thompson at the Horicon WDNR office. Locations were selected with low fetch/wind impact, which would match up with other parameters for this practice. Lisa Reas prepared the required permit requests and verified the various regulations we needed to comply with.

The project began with Jon and Mike from Root-Down clearing white ash trees from the BD city tree lot. Jon then sur-

veyed the shoreline for tree placement and identified and felled ash trees that would die off in the very near future.

The next step relied on Dean and Collin from Washkovich Excavating to place the tree bundles at the designated locations. Ken Schmidt and Bill Foley anchored the trees to the shore with 3/8 in wire rope followed by lashing the bundles together. The branches are then feathered out to form a woody cover area.



Once the ice is off the lake this spring, the fish sticks will sink into the bay and begin the role as a habitat area. After a few weeks, game fish will find this cover and make use of this protected area. As the season moves on, our migrating waterfowl visitors will find these as a good place for a snack on their way north. Finally, our resident birds will use the shore line cover for their nesting and perch on the branches awaiting a meal.

Over the next year, BDLIA will monitor and observe these fish sticks to identify the ben-

efit of this habitat and how it will improve the health of our lake. If this practice is as beneficial as we anticipate, we will identify other locations for future placement.

Coarse woody habitat, also known as fish sticks, is part of the DNR's Healthy Lakes program. If you would like to participate with a fish sticks project, or any of the other four programs developed to protect the lake and improve your property, go to [healthylakeswi.com](http://healthylakeswi.com) for more information. BDLIA has been a sponsor of this program for four years and will be happy to assist you. Call 920-356-1200.

## Our Supportive Grants



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# Fish Program Update

## Improving and protecting Beaver Dam Lake Fisheries



### Record Number of Rough Fish Removed in 2017

The commercial fishing company, Monsoor, removed a record number of rough fish from Beaver Dam Lake in 2017. A total of 1,707,600 pounds were removed; 1.1 M pounds of carp and 0.6 M of buffalo. That was about 4,000 lbs. more than in 2014 and beat out any year since carp removal records were kept beginning in 1996.

Discussion in 2016 was that the carp population was down in Beaver Dam Lake after it had been commercially fished for 20 years. After last year's record catch, that conclusion is challenged. The association has approached the DNR requesting a carp bio-mass study again in 2018 to help with carp management decisions.

The association is currently working with the DNR on the installation of carp gates at Rakes Bay. The ability to keep carp out of spawning areas is another tool used in carp management. Carp produce great amounts of phosphorus through excrement, stirring up the bottom by foraging and spawning, and through death. The management of this population is very important in improving water quality.

### Aerators deployed in January

Twenty volunteers from BDLIA took on sub-zero temperatures on January 6 to deploy aerators on Beaver Dam Lake. Two aerators were placed near Skunk Island and two near Axehead (Meinders) Island. Large areas around the aerators were also roped off to protect people from the large areas of open water that are created by the aerators.



With the extremely cold weather in early January, the ice was 8-15" and can reduce oxygen levels that fish need to survive. The open water created by the aeration system helps maintain oxygen levels in the lake. BDLIA monitors the oxygen level in the lake at 7 different locations. Recent readings taken on January 25 showed the average oxygen level was above the average for that date compared to the last seven years.

The aeration equipment, its deployment and operation are supported by BDLIA and the BD Lake Development Corp.

### Successful Ice Fishing Tournament

A very successful ice fishing tournament was held in January by The Springs Pub and Grill. Over 90 fish were caught, including a 33.5" northern, several 23" walleyes, a 12 5/8" crappie, 12" perch and 9" blue gills. As one of the fish committee members stated, "Nice to see these results for the many years of fish stocking by BDLIA". The Springs donated \$1,000 from the tournament to BDLIA to continue fish stocking. Thank you to The Springs and tournament participants.

On Saturday, June 16, The Springs Pub and Grill will hold its Annual Catfish Tournament. This is a 2 person team contest with winners determined by total weight. The cost is \$20 per team and sign up is by June 15 at The Springs. Not only is this a fun tournament, but it is also a great way of reducing the catfish in our lake. For more information go to [bdlia.org](http://bdlia.org) or call The Springs at 920-928-3269.

### Increasing Daily Limits on Catfish

In 2017, the BDLIA presented a resolution to the Conservation Congress to increase the daily catch limit on catfish from 10 to 25. BDLIA has appeared at three Conservation Congress hearings and the resolution has been approved at each of these hearings. The next step is a final hearing on April 7 at the DNR office in Horicon. BDLIA is encouraged to have a large delegation at this meeting where a vote will be taken on moving this forward. If you are interested in attending this meeting in support of the resolution, please contact Bill Boettge at 920-356-1200.

After final approval from the Conservation Congress, it goes to the DNR for approval. BDLIA has invested in this effort as changing of the daily catch limit is one of the few tools we have to address our overabundance of catfish.

*Continued on page 7*

## DIRECTOR LEVEL

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<b>James Brozek</b>	<b>John's LLC</b>	<b>Mike Ptaschinski</b>	 <b>Automated Pet Care</b>



## Water Resource Management Report



Late last November at the UW in Madison, the UW grad students who are a part of the UW Nelson School for Environmental Science, presented their preliminary review of their Water Resource Management (WRM) Practicum project on Beaver Creek and Beaver Dam Lake. A panel of some thirty UW professors and DNR representatives received a 90-minute presentation followed by 30 minutes of topical questions. The WRM Team presented a high-quality report with the Q & A segment addressed in a professional manner. Six members from BDLIA attended this presentation.

The UW WRM Team is now summarizing their field data from sampling performed last summer in BD Lake, at Beaver Creek and on the upland fields. The information will receive a final analysis for content and the correct application to Beaver Dam Lake and Creek. The report will be published in February, and when available, will be posted on our website, [bdlia.org](http://bdlia.org).

the lake. BDLIA uses its share of the funds for improvement of signage at the sites, such as the installation of the new message boards, as well as improvements to the lake; i.e. fish stocking, no wake buoys etc. As part of new message boards installed by BDLIA last year, signs were also posted on WI Clean Boats regulations and the need for boat owners to remove invasive species of plants and animals. BDLIA also furnished tools to assist the boat owner in cleaning their boats.

Jerry Nitzh oversees the launch collections of the three city sites, while Nicki Hupf handles the Derge Park County site. Both make frequent visits during the season, which runs from the time the boat launches are installed in April until they are removed in late October. During visits, they collect the fees from the boxes and resupply with materials. Jerry and Nicki also check all vehicles in the lots to see that they have daily or seasonal tickets on display in their windshield. In the city, Jerry is authorized to write tickets for violations, while Nicki issues warning notices. They also act as ambassadors of BDLIA and the city and county helping and informing the boat launch users. Both have been doing this for several years and we are pleased to have this important task done by two such capable and professional people. BDLIA receives very few complaints from users, but instead receives many compliments for both these individuals.

## Towns of Westford & Beaver Dam Well Water Test!

When we turn on our water at the tap we expect that clean and clear water will flow. Unfortunately, well tests in Dodge County since 1994 have resulted in a 20% failure rate for bacteria and 8% for nitrates. If you have ever had a time without water for the family this essential resource took on a very visible importance.

One of the most important steps you can take is to test your well water on a yearly basis. Even if you see clear water from the tap, bacteria and

nitrates may be present in harmful concentrations with children and seniors at most risk.

Water test kits will be available from the Dodge County UW-Extension office in May. The 'Home Owners' test selection provides a good selection of test elements with additional options for metal and pesticides.

So take a few minutes and check your water supply so there is cool and clean water for the summer to come.

## Launch Fee Collections have Banner Year

BDLIA has agreements with the City of Beaver Dam and Dodge County for collection of launch fees



In 2017, the BDLIA collected \$12,256 in launch fees; \$9,860 at the three city launch sites and \$2,396 at the one county site. These were banner years in collections and reflect the good fishing conditions on Beaver Dam Lake.

The agreements with both the city and the county allow BDLIA to keep 75% of the collections with 25% going back to the city or county. There is a requirement that all launch fees be used for the betterment of the launch sites or improvements to



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