



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:

Pay Membership Dues Now

PRESIDENTIAL LEVEL



Nancy's Notions



Board Members

Bill Boettge, President
Bill Foley, Vice President
Dick Emerson, Sec/Treas
Mike Gade, Parliamentarian
Charles Frinak
Ron George
Karen Huber
Peter Hupf
Randall Schade
Ken Schmidt
Mark Wagner



An Open Letter from the BDLIA Board

The mission of the BDLIA is to improve and protect Beaver Dam Lake. For the past few years the board has invested heavily with time, effort and dollars to accomplish this mission, with studies, programs and projects. Based on these efforts, it became clear that much needs to be done to improve and protect this lake. However, the board also realized that its volunteer structure and lack of ability to raise these additional funds would strictly limit what can be accomplished. Thus the BDLIA board is unanimous in its support of forming the Lake District. This board wants to thank the over 450 people that have already signed and returned their petitions and thank the many neighborhood volunteers who are out there supporting the effort in their neighborhoods. Having a useable and livable lake is dependent on the success of this campaign.

Special LAKE DISTRICT Issue



BEAVER DAM LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.

NEWSLETTER

July 2018
VOL. 17, Issue 2

UPCOMING EVENTS

Summer Celebration

July 17, 2018
The Springs
Pub & Grill

Membership Renewal

July 31, 2018
Deadline

BDLIA Board Meeting

July 31, 2018
Beaver Dam Chamber

Annual Membership Meeting

August 25, 2018
The Watermark

BDLIA Board Meeting

August 28, 2018
Beaver Dam Chamber



Beaver Dam Lake Improvement Association

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

Why a Lake District?

It's the next step. It's the only step.

Wanting 100 Days of Beaver Dam lake usage is not unreasonable. Invasive plants, poor water quality, excessive carp, runoff and algae outbreaks, and lost habitat have plagued our ability to thoroughly utilize our lake. Our existing Beaver Dam Lake Improvement Association has worked on each of these issues with limited resources and manpower. Volunteers have impacted challenges presented, but additional assistance and a long-term plan is required.

Working together towards that end, a Beaver Dam Lake District with the help of the BDLIA can assure continuity and sustainability for Beaver Dam Lake for generations to enjoy.

Relying on voluntary dues and banquets cannot continue to fund the protection and improvement of the lake. The formation of a Lake District would make us eligible for cost sharing funds and other state assistance and grants. Property owners will have a voice in every decision as they vote on proposed budgets, determine the assessment, and identify and address the threats to water, habitat and recreation.

There are over 200 Lake Districts in Wisconsin with most having fees of under \$100.00. An estimate for ours is approxi-

mately \$80.00 per parcel. There are strict mandates capping the cost to property owners. Improving water quality, improving fish and wildlife habitat, removing invasive plants, establishing watershed programs, and protecting the shoreline are all required to maintain property values.

Without an invested group of stakeholders these things could fall by the wayside. Lake Districts are recognized with the ability to raise funds and have the stability of elected commissioners.

Cooperation and coordination are required to sustain our lake and this is a call to action. Misconceptions and assumptions abound. Finding out the facts and taking ownership is essential. The City of Beaver Dam has approved the formation of a Lake District in order to work with an established entity to encourage recreation, (boat fees), clean water for swimming, and educational programs about the natural beauty of the surrounding environment.

Now is the time to sign and return the petition. Returned forms are still needed to set this in motion and unite stakeholders toward a common goal.

**Call the BDLIA to get your
questions answered!
920-356-1200**

Expanded newsletter distribution

This issue of the BDLIA Newsletter is being sent to all properties on Beaver Dam Lake for the purpose of getting out accurate information to everyone regarding what a Lake District is. We also want to update everyone regarding the level of activities and lake improvement programs being accomplished by BDLIA.

After reading the level of work being done by the Association it begs the question – why not just have the lake association continue the fine work it is doing? While the board members and volunteers are all very proud of the work that has been done, it is not possible for an association to continue at this level of work or activity. Many of the current group of volunteers have reached the stage where they want to step back or reduce their level of commitment. Thus if we only continue as a Lake Association there will be less of everything with the biggest cut back in work on water quality. There will be less or no grants as the Lake Association will not be able to continue to raise the level of funds needed to secure grants. Thus it's time for the management of the lake to be put in the hands of a more formalized structure called a Lake District. The district can handle lake management like water quality, erosion and aquatic plants. BDLIA will continue with its great lake activities, such as Fish 'n Fun, The Great Beaver Paddle Festival, and its activities at Lake Days. With shared responsibility, neither group is overburdened and can work together to make Beaver Dam Lake a better place for all of us to enjoy.



Support the BDLIA... Renew your membership or join now



All members should have received dues invoices for our new fiscal year beginning on August 1, 2018. We would greatly appreciate these being returned as soon as

possible. Our fiscal year and the membership year end on July 31. Membership dues are kept low so that we can continue to grow our numbers. However, to meet our financial needs we rely on additional donations from our members and appreciate the many members who add a donation to their dues. BDLIA is fortunate to have generous, committed members.

BDLIA Annual Meeting Saturday, August 25

The Watermark

209 S. Center St, Beaver Dam

A free continental breakfast will be provided at 8:30 am with the meeting beginning at 9:00 am.

In addition to updated financial reports, there will be brief summaries on the many programs and projects that have taken place the past year. There will also be a final summary report and the important results and implications of the UW Water Recourse Management study.

You will also be electing six of the eleven board seats. Please call 356-1200 if you wish to be a candidate.

Summer Celebration Tuesday, July 17



You're invited to The Springs Pub and Grill, N9070 Cty Rd FW from 5:00-8:00 pm. Members and prospective members can come by boat or car to enjoy a brat or hamburger basket with chips and a soda courtesy of the association (rain or shine.)

"We are showing our appreciation for the support and volunteerism throughout the year by our members," stated Karen Huber, Membership Committee Chairperson.

The event is free, but RSVP so we can plan the food. You can call in at 920-356-1200 or email at info@bdlia.org. Thank you.

DIRECTOR LEVEL

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A Day of Paddling Fun



The paddling gods were with us for the 3rd Annual Great Beaver Paddle Festival on June 9, 2018 at Waterworks Park. The air was warm, the breezes were light and over 375 people came down to participate in a fun-filled day of paddling. Over 70 people participated in the 6 clinics; two clinics for each kayak, canoe and stand up paddle board.

BDLIA presented this free event along with the Beaver Dam Community Activities and Services, who provided the water craft for the clinics. A successful event thanks to the support from individuals and businesses who support BDLIA and the over 50 volunteers who made it happen.

The Springs Pub & Grill

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Action to Reduce Catfish Population

It is the opinion of most anglers and the BDLIA that BD Lake has an overabundance of catfish. One of the few tools available is to increase the daily bag limit from 10 to 25. The BDLIA has appeared at 4 hearings of the Conservation Congress and this spring the Congress passed on a state-wide ballot in support of our effort to increase the daily bag limit. This now goes to the DNR for consideration. The DNR will be looking at "creel" reports filled out by local anglers, which documents how many catfish were caught by an angler on a particular day. Call the office to fill out one of these forms for each of your fishing experiences on the lake, or you can get the form at our website, bdlia.org.



Bailey Bushke is pictured with one of his large cats from the recent Catfish Tournament at The Springs. Nineteen teams of two participated in the tournament. Each contestant was only allowed to keep 10, but many of the anglers stated they caught over 50, but kept only the large cats. Many of the fish measured over 20" with the prize going to a fish of 25.25 inches.

Kids Enjoy Fish 'N Fun!



About 170 kids with 250 parents enjoyed the 16th Annual Fish 'n Fun. They learned about fishing, had some lunch and each child received a free rod 'n reel. The teaching stations included; live baits, lures, casting, fish identification and boat and water safety. The BDLIA and Beaver Dam Community Activities and Services put on this free event with private donations. Special thanks to over 40 volunteers and Cabela's for furnishing the rods 'n reels. Lots of kids were introduced to a lifetime of fishing fun.

BDLIA Stocks 3,000 Large Perch



The BDLIA placed 3,000 large yellow perch in Beaver Dam Lake in late April. The fish ranged from 7-10 inches.

This is part of BDLIA's ongoing stocking program to provide more pan and game fish for area anglers, and to balance the lake's fish population. The funds for this stocking were from a county grant and BDLIA. BDLIA invests over \$15,000 in stocking each year from donations, banquet receipts and fishing tournaments.

Healthy Lakes

In April, BDLIA awarded two lake property owners grants up to \$1,000 each for projects that protect the lake. One was for a rock infiltration project and one for a native planting along the shoreline. These were awarded through the DNR's Healthy Lakes project, which is managed by BDLIA for Beaver Dam Lake.



Find out how you can participate, go to healthylakeswi.com or bdlia.org, or call 920-356-1200.



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Blake, Daryl, Mark, Blake II and Lori

Fundraising and Banquet are Successful

Based on the efforts of the volunteer solicitors and the volunteers who plan and operate the annual banquet adequate funds were received to meet the needs for the Lake Management projects and the many other programs of BDLIA



We want to thank everyone who contributed to the very successful 22nd Annual Fundraising Banquet. Around 300 individuals, businesses, and organizations contributed in some way during the solicitation campaign and banquet with about 300 people in attendance at the banquet. Funds solicited and banquet proceeds allow BDLIA to pursue the lake management actions to improve and protect Beaver Dam

Lake, as outlined in the Lake Management Plan. They also allow BDLIA to sponsor activities and programs for the public to enjoy the lake. All funds stay local and do not go to a state or national organization or group. Volunteers worked countless hours to solicit donations, coordinate and manage the banquet, and volunteer at the banquet. BDLIA is fortunate to have a strong (but tired) volunteer group dedicated to the betterment of Beaver Dam Lake.



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Dodge County Alliance for Healthy Soil - Healthy Water Elects Co-Chairs



For the past three years, farmers, lake property owners, government agency people and businesses have been working together to improve the health of the soil and thereby the water in Dodge County. They have formed two unique groups, the Dodge County Farmers for Healthy Soil - Healthy Water and the Dodge County Alliance for Healthy Soil - Healthy Water (HS/HW). The farmers group is strictly farmers, while the alliance is made up of multi-stakeholders that allow all the various factions to express their concerns. This model of two groups working together to find common ground to improve the health of the soil and water in Dodge County is unique in Wisconsin.

Recently, Bill Boettge and Andy Condon were elected co-chairs of the alliance. Bill, who is also president of BDLIA, comes from the non-farm group, while Andy comes from the farming community. Together they will lead the alliance, which has a mission, "To build a community dedicated to soil and water health."

The two groups have been very active over the past two years with two major educational events with a combined attendance over 500, several field days and many workshops. They also were able to secure a Watershed Protection Grant of \$27,500. This will be used for education, as well as incentives for farmers to plant cover crops and undertake other conservation practices.

Bill states that he sees the work of these two groups to be of greater value to the quality of water in our lakes and streams than any other efforts currently under way. Reducing the run-off of sediment and nutrients from the fields through the use of cover crops and other conservative measures to produce healthy soil will have a major impact on the water quality in our lakes and rivers over the next two decades. "I am proud to work with the farmers in Dodge County who are setting the example for their fellow farmers and encouraging them to get involved."



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Lake Management Update

BDLIA Addresses Erosion and works with Montgomery Associates

We have had our share of spring showers with some early season weekend washouts. At the end of April we worked with Montgomery Associates to place automatic water samplers and flow meters at Mill and Beaver Creek. This timely placement of instruments allowed us to gather information regarding how much water enters from these creeks into Beaver Dam Lake while collecting water for analysis of phosphorus and nitrates.



sediment. This is doubly harmful with each lost section of land resulting in lost habitat for the birds and reptiles that rely on this breeding

The rainfall event information for May and June will be added to the data collected by the UW WRM Team last year, which will identify a full seasonal profile. This comprehensive review of water quality will be the most extensive review for Beaver Dam Lake. Past analysis relied on grab samples which were then modeled to estimate the health of the Lake and Watershed. The current methods will be more reliable.

ground. Our goal will be to stop this damage and where possible, reverse the negative affects to the lake. BDLIA and Montgomery Associates will combine our efforts to survey the affected areas and prepare a scope for corrective action with priorities for implementation.

While the water quality information is gathered, several priority corrective projects are under development with Montgomery Associates. Using historic files, the UW WRM findings and current field work, we will prepare a scope for areas of concern. One area on the north-east shore has extensive and ongoing shoreline erosion.

Even though Beaver Dam Lake is a large 6800 acre body of water we are able to break down various segments into manageable target areas. This will allow the correction of each concern, on a priority basis, while building a long term plan for Beaver Dam Lake. We are finding that this approach will provide the best result, especially in light of the reduced capabilities at WDNR and UW Extension. These State Agencies are great resources which will complement our efforts, however, they do not have sufficient manpower to actively manage our Lake. Looking forward this is an opportunity for our Community to take a more active part in how we manage and use Beaver Dam Lake.

The shoreline shown here is breaking apart foot by foot each year with the loss of tree and brush habitat. Once the protective barrier is lost, the nutrient rich soil will flow into the lake and will cover the lake bottom with nutrient rich




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Karen Huber

Duanne & Kathleen Foulkes Foundation

James Brozek



Gary & June Ehn



Considering the Lake District

Before Today's Lake Assoc.



- The lake was formed in 1846 when the first settlers built a dam on the river.
- Even from the turn of the previous century, the lake has been used for recreation.
- As with many lakes and rivers that housed manufacturing, dumping waste in the water was a common practice.
- Prior to the BDLIA, there was a group called The Fisherman's Club, followed by the Property Owners Association, which became BDLIA in 1996.

The Age of the BDLIA



- 5,000 hours of volunteer support help serve the mission to improve and protect the lake for the benefit of current and future generations.
- There are 1,400 property owners of the 1,100 properties on Beaver Dam Lake. Current BDLIA membership is 395 with many members who do not have property on the lake.
- Key activities include development of lake management plan, monitoring water quality, winter aeration, fish stocking and habitat, education and advocacy.
- Volunteer leadership and support are getting older and tired. About 25% of property owners are part of BDLIA.

Answers to Important Questions

Q – How can we as property owners control the cost that we will pay to the Lake District?

A – The property owners must approve the budget at each annual meeting. They have the power to not only vote up or down the total budget, but can amend individual line items.

Q – The lake has been here for over 100 years and will be here for another 100 whether we do anything or not, right?

A – Not necessarily. Beaver Dam Lake is a large shallow lake with runoff from thousands of acres of agriculture that without proper lake management could be overrun with algae and invasive aquatic plants. A lake district with its continuity of management and ability to raise funds can secure grants that aid in the reduction and control of the causes of poor water quality. It is difficult for a lake association to sustain the level of donations and contributions needed to support these efforts.

Q – Are unbuildable parcels going to be charged?

A – If the property is declared unbuildable by the county, it will not be charged.

Q – Why are only property owners on the lake being included in the district?

A – Property owners directly on the lake receive the most benefit. Others who enjoy the lake pay directly through user fees or indirectly through the grants we receive from the state which are funded with tax dollars.

The Future with a Lake District



- Property owners elect Lake District Commissioners for continuity of lake management.
- 100% of all lake owners subsidize the lake management program instead of the 25% that do now.
- Property owners vote and decide on projects in the lake management plan and set the Lake District fee.
- Grants available to Lake District's include: Shoreline protection and restoration, Aquatic plant management, Fish management.
- Property values reflect the quality of the lake

The Future without a Lake District



- BDLIA becomes less effective due to the difficulty to recruit leaders willing to take on lake management duties and the investment of time required to manage this organization.
- Fundraising and grant sources available to lake associations aren't enough to cover the costs of lake management.
- Lack of volunteerism and management may result in reduced carp management, shoreline restoration and management of invasive species.
- In other lakes in Wisconsin with no advocacy, the DNR has taken steps to eliminate dams and return the lake to a river and wetlands.

Q – If the Lake District doesn't meet the needs of the lake property owners can it be dissolved?

A – A Lake District can be dissolved by a 2/3 vote of the property owners at an annual meeting.

Q – Does the Lake District have control of my shoreline or my property?

A – The DNR and the County set the regulations and rules for shoreline and what can and cannot be done on your property not the Lake District

Q – Why doesn't the city, county or state (DNR) manage the lake?

A – The state set up a statute in the 70's for lake property owners to manage their lake through their own governmental body called a Lake District.

Q – Bottom line why do we need a Lake District?

A – Beaver Dam Lake is not in good condition and without good lake management could get worse. A lake district provides what a lake association can't; continuity of management and a reliable inclusive source of revenue.