



BEAVER DAM LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, INC. NEWSLETTER

November, 2019
VOL. 18, Issue 3

UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Banquet
Monday, March 16
Bayside Supper Club

Fish 'n Fun
Saturday, June 6
Edgewater Park

**Great Beaver
Paddle Festival**
Saturday, June 13
Waterworks Park



www.bdlia.org

Lake District Update

The petition to create a Lake District was filed with Dodge County by the Beaver Dam Lake Improvement Association. In response, the Dodge County Land Resources and Parks Committee held a hearing regarding information on the formation of a lake district on Thursday, October 3.

This well attended event allowed people to express their views on whether or not a district will have a positive impact and make any difference in managing the lake. An overview of the advantages of a district and an outline of what a district can and cannot do was presented by Mike Engelson of Wisconsin Lakes. This organization represents 562 lake associations and 242 lake districts in the state.

Supporters pointed out the stability of a district with the validity of statutory regulations, ability to have a solid financial resource, and the input of everyone owning property on the lake.

Those in opposition maintain that a wider scope of support is needed, that nothing can be done about the quality of the water, and past efforts have not been successful.



The next step in the process is for the committee to discuss the hearing and report their findings and recommendations to the full Dodge County Board. Within six months of the hearing, the County Board is required to issue an order granting or denying the petition to form a lake district. If the County Board finds that the proposed district meets the four criteria for the creation of a district (Wis. Stat. 33.26(3)), it will adopt a formal order declaring its findings, establish the boundaries, give the district a name, and declare the district organized. Upon adoption, the formation is legally complete.

The County would then appoint four of the five members of the initial board of commissioners

which includes three owners of land within the district (at least one should be a resident of the district) and one member of the Dodge County Land and Water Conservation Committee or their nominee. The fifth representative will be an appointee from the Town of Westford, which has the largest property value within the district. The term of the initial three board members representing property owners expires at the first annual meeting of the district which must be held during the following summer. At that time property owners elect these three positions.

Stay tuned for more updates in the future.

OFFICE

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

**Beaver Dam
Lake Improvement Assn.**



Status of Big Skunk Island



The island is owned by the Beaver Dam Lake Development Corporation (BDLDC), which is a quasi-governmental body of the city of Beaver Dam. The corporation has its own bylaws and makes decisions independent of the city, but its members are all appointed by the Mayor and approved by the Common Council. The island was previously owned by the Beaver Dam Lake Fisherman's Club but was deeded to the BDLDC in 1997 when the club dissolved.

The primary use of the island is to provide a base and supply electricity to an aeration system that's deployed adjacent to the island in cold winters when the ice is thick and oxygen levels are too low to sustain the fish population. Wisconsin Power and Light, at no small expense, donated the equipment and labor to get electricity to island. The corporation built and maintains a small building on the southwest end of the island to house the electrical system. The shed can also be used as storage for the aeration system. The BDLDC, which is funded annually by the city of Beaver Dam at the rate of 50 cents per person in the city, pays for the operation, maintenance, and electricity to run the Big Skunk Island aeration system, as well as two other systems in separate locations on the lake.

In the past the island had been open to the public, but about five years ago the BDLDC Board closed the island to the

public. This was after a conflict with duck hunters and a concern about the Corporation's financial liability should someone be hurt on the island. A newly appointed board began an in-depth review of the island's status in 2018. After hearing from attorneys, the Corporation's insurance agent, duck hunters, and others, the Corporation voted to offer the island to the city of Beaver Dam for \$1 and other considerations. The decision was made based on the attorneys' opinion that the city has "recreational immunity" which, while not perfect, is the best form of liability protection and better than any the Corporation could purchase. With the city's ownership and the "recreational immunity" that comes with it, the island could potentially be opened to the public again.

While the city considers the \$1 offer from the Corporation, volunteers from the Beaver Dam Lake Improvement Association and the Corporation Board have undertaken a project to plant about 2,500 square feet of native grasses on the open portion of the island. This is the first step in restoring it to a more natural state and making it as maintenance free as possible. There are also short-term plans to remove old trees and use the logs to establish fish habitat adjacent to the island. The island should remain closed for a minimum of 18 months to allow enough time for the native grasses to take root.

DIRECTOR LEVEL

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWS TODAY'S BEST COUNTRY
1430 95.3
WBEV WXRO
 DAILY DODGE.com



Bill & Linda Foley



Duane & Deb Beekman

Ken Schmidt



Fred Kaping

Tim & Terry Hupf

Dan & Karla Hupf



Bob Roell



www.americinnbeaverdam.com
 PO Box 718
 325 Seppel Boulevard
BEAVER DAM
 One Mile North of Rebel's - Behind Heritage Mall - Next to KFC
 920-356-9000 • 1-800-634-3444
NEWLY RENOVATED

- Pool / Whirlpool
- Large, Comfortable Rooms
- Suites
- Whirlpool Rooms
- AmericInn Hot Perk Breakfast
- Weekday Manager Specials
- Pool Party Rentals







BDLIA Supports Lake Activities Year Round

To promote lake stewardship, awareness, and enjoyment of Beaver Dam Lake!



BDLIA members continue to play an important role in activities that encourage people to get out and enjoy the lake.

On July 12 during Lake Days, 14 teams participated in the Cardboard Boat Regatta at Tahoe Park. The enthusiastic teams had a lot of fun building and racing cardboard and duct tape boats. An unusually high number managed to stay afloat for a great race to the finish. Pontoon rides on July 13 were filled to capacity. Special thanks to the boat owners, captains, and crew for providing the great tour opportunity.

Events coming up are the local Youth Expo (usually in February) and Canoecopia, the world's largest paddlesports expo, March 13-15 in Madison. These events provide us,

the Beaver Dam Chamber, and Beaver Dam Community Activities & Services (BDCAS) an opportunity to promote the lake, activities, and Beaver Dam. Workers at the Canoecopia booth get admission to the event which is a great opportunity to see watercraft and hear speakers on paddling and outdoor adventures.

Fish 'n Fun will take place on June 6 at Edgewater Park and will again provide free instruction, equipment, lunch, and fishing opportunities. The 5th Great Beaver Paddle Festival will be on June 13 at Edgewater Park. Instruction and test paddle opportunities for canoe, kayak, and paddleboard with equipment provided by BDCAS will again be featured. Fox of the River Voyageurs will be back for the second year and will provide rides on the Voyageur canoe.

In addition to the excellent park at Waterworks, children will be able to enjoy an activity table sponsored by the library. The 3 mile and 6 mile paddle were very popular in 2019 and will again be available.

Member participation is fun and rewarding and makes these activities possible.



PARK AVENUE SPORTS CAFÉ
709 Park Ave., Beaver Dam

Great pizza—Sandwiches—Specials
Nice bar with a view of the game from every angle!



Hammes Fire & Safety
Residential & Commercial

- Security/Burglar Systems
- 24 Hour Central Station
- Low Monthly Monitory Fee
- Closed Circuit TV
- Video Surveillance
- Fire Alarm Systems

Free Estimates!

www.hammesfire.com
1008 DeClark Street
Beaver Dam, WI . (920) 885-9333

NOW OPEN



301 S. SPRING STREET



Blaken Tonn Pest Control, Inc.
EnvironmenTONN Services
Eco-Green Care
"People you Can Trust"
With 205 Years Combined Experience

Beaver Dam, WI 920-887-8003
Randolph, WI 920-326-3727

Blake, Daryl, Mark, Blake II, Linda, Heather



Buoy Placement on Beaver Dam Lake



Beaver Dam Lake Improvement Association, in conjunction with the Lake Development Corporation (LDC), has taken on the responsibility for the placement, removal, and maintenance of the buoys on Beaver Dam Lake for many years. The hard physical work of moving and placing the 100 pound buoys each spring, and the even harder work of pulling them out of the water in the cold fall weather, has been done by dedicated BDLIA volunteers. Thanks to these hardworking volunteers, we all can enjoy the lake knowing that sensitive areas are protected and boaters will be safe using the lake.

Thanks to the donations and support from our membership, the Lake Association was able to purchase a pontoon and lift system for safer and easier removal and storage of the buoys. This fall was the first season for the volunteers will use this new system. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the BDLIA office. More assistance is always appreciated to help with the placement, removal, and maintenance of the buoys.

Calling for Volunteers

Beaver Dam Lake Improvement Association, Inc. is a volunteer organization. There are many ways to help—certainly through your donations—but there are many times we need the brains and bodies of our members. This year we are working to update our volunteer database through the membership renewal forms and by this newsletter article. Reach out and leave your name, phone number, email address, and area of interest as a phone message (920-356-1200) or email (bdliainc@yahoo.com). Check out the volunteer examples below:

Committees	Social Activities	Fundraising	Maintenance
Membership	Fish 'n Fun	Solicitors	Aeration
Fish	Paddlefest	Banquet Helpers	Buoy Maintenance
Information & Education	Lake Days		Buoy Placement and Removal
Buildings & Property	Seminars		Shed & Equipment
Solicitation			
Banquet			



Beaver Dam Bay Marina
 W9276 Hwy. G
 Beaver Dam, WI
 PH: 920-219-9200
 FAX: 920-319-4096
www.beaverdambaymarina.com

We are your new local dealer for:
WEERES Pontoons, MIRRORCRAFT Boats
DYNA-SKI Boats, EVINRUDE E-Tec Motors
SEA-LEGS Pontoon Lifts

Sales - Service - Storage - Rentals - Slips - Fuel
 Trailers - Piers - Lifts

EXECUTIVE LEVEL

Bill & Evonne Boettge

Duanne & Kathleen Foulkes Foundation

Gary & June Ehn

Karen Huber

Marian Gade



Jerry & Nicki Hupf



Total Business Products, Inc.



David Geschke
AAMS®, CLU®, ChFC®
Financial Advisor



John & Marge Haider



At American Bank,
we know you're busy!

That's why we offer you convenient options such as two drive-up locations - both with extended hours, a drive-up ATM and the only bank with Sunday hours in Beaver Dam. Come see us when you need us, we'll be here!



920.885.2700
americanbankbd.com
 Member FDIC



BDLIA Annual Membership Meeting

There were 68 members present at the Annual Meeting held on August 24 at the Watermark.

A video of many of the BDLIA activities was shown which included Fish ‘n Fun, the Cardboard Boat Regatta, The Great Beaver Paddle Festival, and the banquet. One of the purposes of the video was to show the need and opportunity for volunteers to help with these events and activities.

Bill Foley presented an update on the work of the Lake Management Committee.

A summary of the year-end financial report and 2020 budget were presented.

Dick Emerson was presented a certificate of appreciation for completing 11 years on the Board of Directors. Dick and his late wife Molly were thanked for their many hours of volunteer work.

The Nomination Committee presented an election ballot with Bill Boettge, Bill Foley, Ken Schmidt, Isaac Pentinmaki, and Alan Mannel. Isaac and Alan were new nominees for the board. These five candidates were elected by unanimous ballot for a two-year term.

Joel Winter, Solicitation Committee Chair, reported that the total of cash and merchandise increased for the fourth consecutive year thanks to the support from members and businesses.

At the time of the annual meeting, there were approximately 280 members.

A fish program update was given along with information about the navigation buoys.

The Lake District Committee announced that more than the minimum number of petitions needed to petition the county to form the Beaver Dam Lake District had been collected.

In the last order of business, Mike Aita asked BDLIA members to join them in supporting the adoption of a noise ordinance for the Town of Westford.

Meet Alan and Isaac



Alan Mannel lives on Sunset Boulevard with his wife Sheila. They have two adult children - a daughter Katherine who lives in Viroqua with her husband, Joshua; and a son, David, who is serving in the United States Air Force. They have lived in Beaver Dam for ten years, relocating here when Alan became the Fire Chief for the city of Beaver Dam. He has had a 40-year career in public safety as a firefighter, paramedic or advanced EMT. Alan has enjoyed water recreation his entire life and recently discovered kayaking thanks to Paddlefest.



Isaac Pentinmaki, his wife Geri, and son Sam moved to Beaver Dam full time in 2017 after purchasing their lake home on Hickory Point in 2014. The Pentinmaki’s like the fact that they have a comparatively bug/pest free environment compared to living in the woods in their Cambridge, WI home. They enjoy evening cruises on the lake so much that they sold their fishing boat and purchased a vintage pontoon boat. Using a Healthy Lakes grant, they have been restructuring their yard to retain and filter water runoff. Isaac works as a Software Consultant in the WMS/Logistics field.

Healthy Lakes Grant Enrollment – Application Deadline December 10

Improve habitat and water quality with simple and inexpensive projects for your lakeshore property. The Wisconsin DNR is offering cost-share grants through BDLIA for up to \$1,000 per best practice. Grants will cover most of the installation expense and provide some technical assistance. Best practices include:

- **Native Planting** for that bare spot with a bit of color. Additional benefits will include: improved wildlife habitat, natural beauty, reduced maintenance, and slowed runoff.
- **Rain Garden** for that wet area. Rain gardens perform multi-tasks - they improve habitat and filter runoff while providing natural beauty.
- **Diversion** for an eroded back yard. Diversion practices move water to an area where they can soak into the ground.
- **Rock Infiltration** where water ponding occurs. Rock infiltration practices fit in nicely along roof drip lines and driveways which provides space for runoff to filter.

For additional information, check out the Wisconsin Healthy Lakes website at www.healthylakeswi.com. If you are interested in applying for one of these grants, contact BDLIA with your proposed project prior to December 10. The Wisconsin Healthy Lakes segment for the DNR will then review our application and advise if there are any questions on these projects or provide approval.

This is a great opportunity to spruce up that area of your yard which needs a little improvement and improve the lake’s water quality.

Our Supportive Grants



Board of Directors and BDLIA Office Update

During our first Board meeting after the August Annual Meeting, as is consistent with our by-laws, officers were elected. Prior to this agenda item, Bill Boettge stated his intention to no longer serve as President so that he could spend more time with his family and to pursue his other interests. So, for the first time in seven years, the President is Karen Huber. Bill Foley continues as Vice President, and Isaac Pentimaki is the Secretary/Treasurer.

- Improved relationships with the other Dodge County lake associations
- Founding member and contributor of the Healthy Soil-Healthy Water group
- Modernization of the BDLIA newsletter and process documentation for committees and events
- Healthy Lakes ambassador
- Community networker for BDLIA

The BDLIA Board would like to thank Bill Boettge for his leadership and continued willingness to serve. Bill has had many key contributions during his tenure as President. Some of the key initiatives that can be contributed to Bill include the following:

- 54% signed lake district petitions to present to the Dodge County Board



The BDLIA office is located at 211 South Spring Street in Beaver Dam. The Executive Committee is working to establish regular office hours now that Bill Boettge is no longer the President and not conducting his business from that space. The plan is for the office to be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. starting on November 5. Appointments can be made at any time. Our contact information continues to be 920-356-1200 and bdliainc@yahoo.com. Check out our website at BDLIA.org or Facebook for updates.

Fish Stocking Update



Since DNR Fish Biologist Travis Motl said the DNR stocked 289,000 walleye and 65,000 pike fingerlings in May 2019, Travis suggested that the BDLIA Fish Committee not stock additional walleyes in 2019. In October there were reports that people were catching good numbers of five-inch walleye, so it seems that the fish stocked in May 2019 have taken hold well. The next Fish Biomass study is scheduled for 2021, but BDLIA has asked the DNR to move that to 2020 in order to help establish metrics for the Lake Management Plan Implementation.

Because of the successful fundraising at the Annual Banquet and community donations, BDLIA once again was able to do a fall stocking on October 19. BDLIA stocked 12,500 medium/large crappies and 8,000 medium/large perch. Separate fundraising activities specifically earmarked for fish stocking include the Lake Days Fishing Tournament and Walleye Wednesdays. These funds will be used to supplement 2020 fish stocking dollars.



BEAVER DAM SENIOR CENTER WOODSHOP

15% OFF*

Our specialty is bird houses and feeders, but we also custom make projects upon request. All of our products are on display and can be purchased at The Watermark, 209 South Center St. Call for more details at 920-887-4639.

*Bring in this ad to receive 15% off one product.



Best Dam Bait

BETTER BAIT = MORE FISH!

24/7 Self Service

A Variety of Bait at Good Prices!

**1132 Madison Street
Beaver Dam, WI
608-609-2707**



Rock River Home Improvement Co., Inc.

Jack (Buck) Raith
Phone 920-887-1211
Also 920-349-8335 & 920-925-3189
CELL: 920-382-2514

W4756 Cty Rd. ME
Hustisford, WI 53034
www.rrhome.biz



What's In the Water that We Don't See?

Every two years the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) publishes a list of waters considered impaired. Impaired waters are those that do not meet water quality standards and may not support fishing, swimming, recreating, or public health and welfare. The comprehensive draft 2020 contains 1,546 listed of which 125 are newly added in 2020. Eighty percent of the new listings are waters exceeding the total phosphorus (TP) criteria with 65% of these which already have some type of restoration plan in place. So it is clear to see that we are not alone in our challenge to reduce TP.

Beaver Dam Lake (BDL) has been on this list for a number of years due to total phosphorus and excessive algal growth. The standard for water quality is 40 µg/L. A level for an average growing season of less than 95µg/L is considered fair. This year BDL had an average level at Breezy Point of 196 µg/L which is in line with the results of the past few years. In the 2015

analysis Onterra noted that from 2008-2014 an average concentration of 198 mg/L. This compares to approximately 300 µg/L prior to 2008. The reduction is the result of a number of best practices implemented throughout the area. The continued reduction of TP is an essential measure to help the development of our fishery while at the same time providing the community with more lake use days due to fewer days of algal blooms. This is a delicate balancing act with the clearer water increasing beneficial vegetation which will not impact boating activity.

Best practices are critical for water quality improvement to occur with support from the entire community needed to effect change. Farm practices have made great strides over the past ten years with producers more aware of their impact on the Lake and the environment. Each year our neighbors implement Healthy Lake projects which filter and infiltrate runoff. We continue to see the benefits of projects completed as part of the Beaver Dam Watershed from 1996 through 2005 with more than two miles of

shore receiving new or repaired rip rap. So it is clear to see that progress has been made through the effort of many people, but continuous improvement is essential.

For BDL to witness a similar reduction of TP over the next ten years, it would require broad community participation and WDNR support. Due to the physical limitations of Beaver Dam Lake, it may not be feasible to constantly achieve a good water quality level yet each measured change in that direction will permit us to make the most of this great resource. BDLIA continues to utilize our Lake Management Plan to effect watershed improvements which affect all of us. With the assistance of the WDNR, Dodge County, Columbia County, and Montgomery Associates, we will begin to develop implementation programs directed at specific detrimental problems.

We ask your support to make positive change through volunteering to help, taking part in Healthy Lakes projects, and in general be a cheerleader for the Lake!

Dodge County Healthy Soil – Healthy Water Group Provides Additional Programs for Improving Soil and Protecting Water Quality



During this past summer and fall, the Dodge County Farmers for Healthy Soil - Healthy Water (HS-HW) and the Alliance have scheduled or held seven events. These programs and field events update farmers and the public on how and why these conservation farming methods improve profits while at the same time protect their soil and improve

water quality in lakes and rivers. Dodge County Healthy Soil - Healthy Water is based on farmers talking to fellow farmers.

This past August an event was held at the Peirick Farm. Attendees, both farmers and others interested in learning improved farming methods, saw and heard the basics of conservation farming. Many cover crop methods were shown including interseeding cover crop mixes into standing corn, how corn and beans are planted into a cover crop of rye, and what various cover crop species do to improve soil.

Tony Peirick who has been a leader in the Dodge County HS-HW group was honored along with his family as the WI Land+Water Conservation Farm Family of the Year. Read more about this award at <https://wisconsinlandwater.org/events/conservation-observance-day>. His farm has been utilizing no-till for 24 years, implementing cover crops for 10

years, and has been planting green for the past 3 years. Their successful farm is a testament to how these practices are environmentally sound, profitable, and help sustain their farmland for generations to come.

On July 24 over 54 lake residents from Fox Lake, Lake Sinissippi, and Beaver Dam Lake heard Mark Riedel, DNR Water Resource Management Specialist, provide an update on the tremendous economic and environmental impact farming has on Dodge County. Emphasis was placed on manure management, what are law breaking or environmental polluting problems, and what challenges are faced especially with changing weather conditions and in times of very heavy rains.

BDLIA members are encouraged to attend these programs, and together we can improve Beaver Dam Lake!



**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:

**Renew Your
Membership
Or Join Today!**

PRESIDENTIAL LEVEL



Nancy's Notions



Save the Date for the Annual Banquet!

Another fun banquet is being planned for the evening of Monday, March 16! This is not a typo! The 2020 banquet will be held on a Monday. If you haven't attended the banquet in the past, you are missing out on a great meal and entertaining event. There is something for everyone! There will be a live auction, silent auction, raffles, door prizes, and more. Some of the great prizes are a large screen TV, guns, hotel/resort getaways, electronics, and a

\$1,000 grand prize! Watch for more details in the coming months. The Annual BDLIA Banquet is our major fundraising event of the year. All funds stay local and do not go to a state or national organization or group.

Volunteers are always needed and appreciated. Please contact the BDLIA office if you are interested or fill out the form on the BDLIA website at: <http://www.bdlia.org/volunteer/>

Save the Date!

**Annual
Banquet
Monday,
March 16!**

Save the Date!

