



BEAVER DAM LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.

NEWSLETTER

www.bdlia.org

January 2020
Vol. 19 • Issue 1

UPCOMING EVENTS

Soil Health Expo
Wednesday, Feb. 5
Juneau Community
Center

**BDLIA
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

Beaver Dam Lake Days
July 9-11
Tahoe Park



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Annual Fundraising Banquet - MONDAY, March 16

Hooray! It is almost time for the Beaver Dam Lake Improvement Association's major fundraiser of the year. This is the association's 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.

The 24th annual banquet will be held on MONDAY, March 16, at Bayside Supper Club with doors opening at 5:15 pm. Dinner will be served at 6:45 p.m. with your choice of a prime rib dinner or a seafood platter. Tickets are still \$48 per person.

As always, the Banquet Committee has worked hard to create a fun-filled experience. While there will be familiar activities such as the live auction, silent auction, and door prizes, there will also be some new opportunities to win great prizes. New this year you will be able to spin the



roulette wheel to win a variety of prizes.

You can increase your chances of winning at half the normal cost by purchasing 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 new this banquet a ticket to be entered in a special drawing for a raffle prize. This drawing will be for only the people who purchase the \$200 raffle packet.

Some of the great items will be a 55" Toshiba smart TV, guns, meat from Recheck's Food Pride with a 65-quart

Yeti cooler, hotel/resort get-aways, sporting tickets, electronic items, and of course CASH!

Reservation forms are being mailed directly to all BDLIA members and anyone who has attended the banquet in recent years. The reservation form can also be found on our website www.bdlia.org, by calling the BDLIA office at 920-356-1200, or by stopping at Total Business Products, 205 DeClark Street in Beaver Dam. The banquet reservation deadline is Monday, March 2. Tickets will be mailed the week before the banquet.

Hope to see you there!

OFFICE

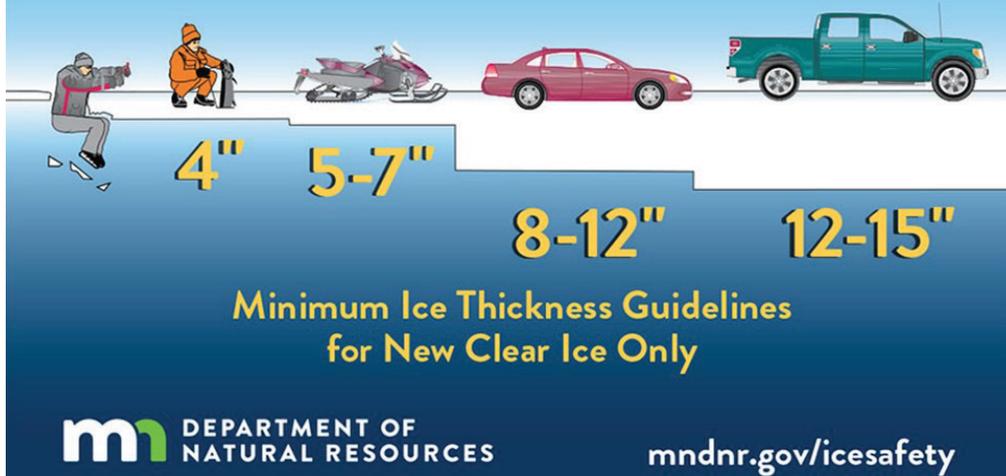
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**Beaver Dam
Lake Improvement Assn.**



Ice Safety Refresher by Paul Trambley

Ice is Never 100% Safe!



As winter's grip continues, eventually, the ice becomes strong enough for winter recreation. Ice fishing, snowmobiling, and cross-country skiing are all popular pastimes to enjoy on the ice. Some sportsmen tow shanties onto the ice to their favorite fishing spot on the lake. But ice travel deserves caution and an understanding of ice physics.

When Is Ice Safe?

Ice is never completely safe. Many factors can cause ice to be unsafe, even when ice has thickened to an 'acceptable' range.

Ice is not deemed safe to walk on until it has become at least 4 inches thick, while trucks need at least a foot of ice present. In the above chart, these designated thickness requirements are only applicable when the ice quality is sound.

There are two types of ice that form, clear ice and white ice. Clear ice tends to be newer ice, and you can see through it. White ice has many air pockets that have frozen within it, which compromises its strength. Snow (which consists of air pockets) often mixes into the ice as it is forming, resulting in white ice. Another factor

that pollutes ice purity is an inconsistent freeze/thaw pattern that can be present while the ice is forming. Clear ice, on the other hand, forms when a consistent period of subfreezing temperatures occurs during a period of little to no snowfall.

Ideally, by the time the lake has cooled enough for ice to form, light winds and bitter cold temperatures create clear ice, which is twice as strong as white ice. In order to walk on white ice, you would want to have 8 inches of ice present, compared to the 4 inches needed in clear ice conditions. Generally, you want to double all the thickness guidelines when white ice is present. Refer to the chart below to identify different ice colors.

ICE COLOR MEANING

-  **Safe** - Transparent blue/black lake ice
-  **Use Extreme Caution** - White opaque ice
-  **Stay Off** - Gray ice
-  **Stay Off** - White and grey mottled ice

Ice thickness will vary from one point to another across a lake or river. It is caused by varied snow depth over the ice, the existence of underwater currents or springs, and the impact of travel from schools of fish. Snow depth impacts ice thickness by insulating the ice from the cold. Snow's insulating air properties in heavy snowpack impact the ability of the ice to thicken.

Talk to people familiar with the lake before venturing out (often bait shop owners or lake side resort staff are a good source of information). Measuring the ice is an option, but ice thickness varies from place to place.

Take precautions when venturing onto the ice. Screwdrivers and ice picks are simple but potentially lifesaving tools to grip the edge of the ice to get out of the water.



If you do fall in, do not panic and thrash about. Slowly tread water or grasp the edge of the ice to keep your head above water.



Keep your hands and arms on the ice and kick your feet. This brings your body to a horizontal position, parallel to the ice surface.



Once horizontal, continue to kick your feet while pulling with your hands. Draw yourself onto the ice.



Keep your weight spread out as you roll, crawl and slide across the ice until it will support your weight to stand.



Wisconsin Lakes & Rivers Convention - April 1-3, Holiday Inn Convention Center, Stevens Point

By attending this event, we can learn from each other, share stories of success and failure, and acquaint ourselves with the faces and voices behind the emails and reports.

Keynote speakers are featured on Thursday and Friday with breakout sessions on topics that address the theme for this year—resiliency. Lake districts, associations, and waterway volunteers all go through cycles of transformation - volunteers and staff retire and new faces take on leadership roles.

This conference offers an opportunity to learn, make acquaintances/friends, and gather information that can help our lake.

For information on the agenda and registration, please go online: <https://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Pages/programs/convention/default.aspx>

Save These Dates for Lake Activities



Fish 'n Fun - June 6

The 15th annual Fish 'n Fun will be on Saturday, June 6, at Edgewater Park from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Area volunteers and businesses organize and run the event which is for up to 200 youth ages 4-12.

Children participants should preregister at the Youth Expo (Saturday, April 18) or after May 1 with the BDLIA office at 920-356-1200 / bdliainc@yahoo.com and be accompanied by an adult.

Accompanying adults may fish without a license because it is a free fishing weekend. Instructional stations, lunch, a rod and reel, and bait will be provided.

Please contact Chuck Frinak at chuckfrinak@gmail.com to volunteer to help with the event.



The Great Beaver Paddle Festival - June 13

The 5th annual Great Beaver Paddle Festival (GBPF) will be held Saturday, June 13, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Waterworks Park. This event offers beginning instruction for canoeing, kayaking, and stand up paddle boarding, and free test runs using the Beaver Dam Community and Activities Services' watercraft. There will be three-mile and six-mile paddle options, Voyageur canoe rides, history, games, live music, kayak fishing demos, and concessions. A Beaver Dam Public Library sponsored activity table and excellent playground equipment will be available for youth.

This event is being promoted at Canoeopia, a paddlesport exposition, on March 13-15 at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison.

Beaver Paddlers, a group formed in 2018, is planning a river event to follow Paddlefest. Weather and water levels permitting, a timed race is planned from Waterworks Park with a portage around the dam to the river and an approximate five-mile river run to the take out by Hwy. J in Leipsig. Participants must provide their own watercraft.

The public is encouraged to enjoy activities and concessions and view an outdoor showing at dark of Jaws at Waterworks Park. See BDLIA Facebook for updates.

Please contact Chuck Frinak at chuckfrinak@gmail.com for information and volunteering support.



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Dodge County Healthy Soil - Healthy Water Alliance Sets Up Structure

During the fall of 2019, the Dodge County Healthy Soil-Healthy Water Alliance began work on developing a strategic plan. It determined that the strength of the group was its diversity and dedication of its members as well as the strong support it has received over the past several years from farmers and members of the lake groups in Dodge County. The Alliance has become a place to integrate the services of various government agencies including the DNR, Extension Dodge County, Land and Water Conservation Department, and NRCS into the programs and activities of the group. The Alliance also has many opportunities to add more partners into the group and obtain additional funding from public and private sources.

For the organization to capitalize on its opportunities, it was determined that

the group needed to develop a more formalized structure. The Alliance approved the formation of a seven person Alliance Executive Committee to implement and oversee the activities and programs approved by the Alliance membership. The Executive Committee will include two persons actively engaged in farming, two persons from lake associations/districts, two at-large persons, and a person with accounting skills to be Treasurer. These people will be elected on staggered three-year terms by members of the Alliance.

The nomination committee has developed a slate of candidates which were voted upon at the January 6 meeting of the Alliance. The next steps in the strategic planning will be to develop and approve long-term goals for the Alliance, which will be built around reducing runoff of nutrients into lakes and rivers from both agricultural land

and lake properties. This will include activities and programs for improving soil quality with best practices including no-till and cover crops. The Alliance also seeks to become an innovation hub to improve profitability and sustainability of Dodge County farms as well as becoming a model for urban and rural cooperation and support.



It will continue to build on the great educational programs it has held over the last three years that have been attended by over 2,000 farmers and lake property owners as well as community leaders. The next program is the fourth annual daylong program for farmers that will be held Wednesday, February 5, in Juneau. For additional information go to www.dodgecountymembers.com

Salt Use and Our Wisconsin Waterbodies from Wisconsin Salt Wise

We rely on salt to keep our roads, driveways, sidewalks, etc. safe in the winter and to soften water in our homes year round, but using more salt than is needed comes with a heavy price. Once salt is in the environment, it doesn't go away. It ends up in our lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands, putting our aquatic life at risk and endangering our freshwater resources. Chloride from salt is toxic to small aquatic life and degrades the natural eco-system of our lakes. It only takes 1 teaspoon of salt to permanently pollute 5 gallons of water to a level that is toxic to freshwater ecosystems.

After a snowfall, follow these tips:

1. **Shovel:** Clear walkways and other areas before the snow turns to ice. The more snow you can remove, the less salt you will have to use.
2. **Scatter:** If you use salt, scatter it so there is space between the grains.
3. **Switch:** When the pavement temperatures drop below 15 degrees, salt becomes ineffective. Switch to sand for traction or to a different ice melter manufactured to work at lower temperatures.

Water Softeners

Water softener salt ends up in our local freshwater. If your household water softener uses more than one bag of salt per month, have a professional tune it up or replace it with a high-efficiency water softener.

More information is available at <https://www.wisaltwise.com/>

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Did you know the American white pelican has made a comeback?

The American white pelican, a species once threatened by habitat loss, water quality decline, pesticide use, and human disturbance, continues to steadily recover as its population increases by more than three percent each year with an unprecedented number of nests in Wisconsin. It's believed the species was present in Wisconsin in the 1800s, but their numbers began to decline dramatically during the early 20th century as a result of human pressures and excessive use of agricultural pesticides. Pelican sightings picked up again in Wisconsin during the 1980s, and their presence has been increasing ever since. A relative of the ocean-going brown pelican, white pelicans nest in colonies on sandbars, islands, and peninsulas in remote, undisturbed areas. Unlike their brown cousins, white pelicans like to

come together in groups of a dozen or more to fish and cooperate in corralling their meal. Instead of diving, they catch fish while swimming on the surface. On average, one pelican consumes three pounds of fish per day, including gizzard shad and emerald shiners, crayfish, and amphibians. The American white pelican is the longest bird in North America at approximately 4-6 feet, has the second largest wingspan (8-10 feet), and is quite striking with almost entirely bright white plumage. Its appearance grows even more impressive during the breeding season. From around March through May, the pelican's bill and the bare skin around its eyes, bill and feet changes from an orangey-flesh color to a vivid orange hue, and a laterally flattened "horn" develops on top of the huge bills of both males and females. Of all eight pelican species, the American



white pelican is the only one to sport such an unusual projection. Biologists believe that the pelican will continue to return to Wisconsin in ever-increasing numbers for the foreseeable future.

Credit: Lake Tides (Volume 40, No. 2 Spring/Summer 2015) and the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership.



Photo Contest - Win \$100

Share your Beaver Dam Lake sunrise, sunset, or amazing flora and fauna for any season by entering **ONLY TWO** of your best photos in the Lakes & Rivers Photo Contest!

The categories are: 1. People enjoying lakes/rivers – images with people fishing, canoeing, skiing, swimming, etc. 2. Natural features in and around lakes/rivers and under water - wildlife, vegetation, geology, insects, etc.

Entries are limited to two entries per individual – **ONLY ONE** in each category. **DIGITAL IMAGES** only will be accepted, at least 3MB.

Complete rules, information on the awards and past photo winners as well as the electronic submission form are available at: <https://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Pages/programs/convention/2020/photocontest.aspx>

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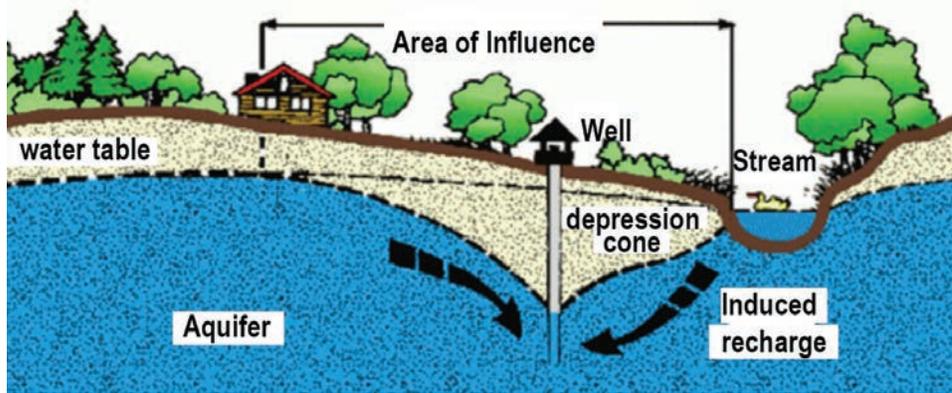
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Think Home Water Testing in Spring



We are fortunate in Beaver Dam to have an abundant supply of groundwater that can be drawn through our well pumping systems. Seventy percent of our homes, which are not serviced by a municipal water system, draw drinking water from private wells drilled deep into the ground. In many parts of Wisconsin, this water is contaminated with dangerous nitrates or bacteria which can cause chronic illnesses. The Dodge County Land and Water Conservation Department and UW-Stevens Point clearly understand the importance of clean potable water and have sponsored township well testing programs for a number of years. In December the Dodge County Board approved a resolution to extend this critical analysis to a countywide yearly sampling which will alert the community to groundwater trends. In conjunction with the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point, representative wells will be sampled each year for five years to identify trends whether the groundwater quality

is getting better, worse, or staying the same. With this trend data the County and affected home owners will have laboratory tests which will prompt further investigations into what is causing this change. Dodge County is one of only a handful of Wisconsin counties which have taken this progressive approach to public safety.

The Dodge County Land and Water Conservation Department and UW-Stevens Point will identify a number of wells located in each township which would present a representative picture of groundwater quality. As the program is rolled out this summer, more information will be provided regarding the implementation schedule. If you are one of the homeowners asked to participate, please consider joining in to be part of this excellent program.

This program is a great diagnostic tool that helps clarify trends across Dodge County; however, we still should continue to take our own well samples

to send out for analysis. By taking the time to draw these samples and having them tested, you will ensure that your family continues to receive good quality drinking water. The second benefit is that our County database for well samples will continue to grow which is essential for tracking potential changes in each neighborhood. Test bottles with instructions are available from Extension Dodge County in Juneau for \$3.00, which is deducted by UW-Stevens Point from the sample analysis fee. Continue to test your home potable water to protect your family from potentially hazardous nitrates and bacteria.

Wisconsin is blessed with an abundant supply of fresh water, but it is up to us to be good stewards of this natural resource. Take steps to ensure that our groundwater is safe and the added measure of family protection that this sampling provides.



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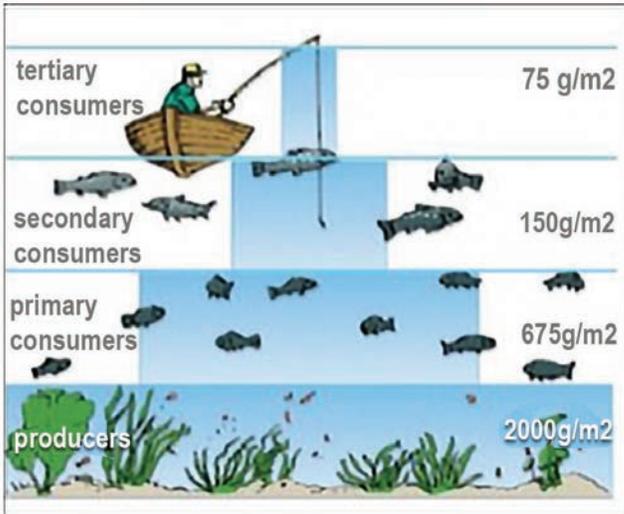
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Where Did the Fish Go?



Beaver Dam Lake is not only our backyard but also habitat for waterfowl and fish. How well they prosper is in a large part up to us. In the case of game fish, they require cover, food sources, and ideally spawning areas to sustain a healthy fishery. A typical fish food pyramid would look similar to the graphic above. (Biomass is a measure of the total dry mass of organisms in a given area.)

At the bottom of the food chain is aquatic vegetation and small feeder fish followed by mid-size pan fish with the game fish at the upper level. If we compare Beaver Dam Lake to this food chain, we find a small amount of lake vegetation and not many minnows. As part of our 2014 Lake Plan, Onterra, LLC performed a vegetation survey and found that the Beaver Dam Lake had roughly one-half of a percent of lakebed surface with submerged vegetation,

which is rather small. With this low level, the game fish find fewer feeding opportunities which require them to forage over a more extended range. This lack of basic food sources puts stress on the overall health of the biomass chain impacting growth and reproduction of the mature fish.

For those who are not avid fisherman, the fish population may not be of much concern; however, this part of our backyard is a good indicator of

water and habitat quality. Habitat and water quality are interconnected with the difficult balance between natural and human wants. A healthy game fish population is essential to help keep the rough fish in check and avoid the dominance of the invasive population. Fewer carp result in improved water quality through a reduction in bottom sediment disturbance and excretion of phosphorus. With fewer particles in the water, the clearer water allows more sunlight to reach near shore areas and promote beneficial vegetation.

The next segment of this cycle is a reduction in the phosphorus nutrient balance and sediment which then reduces the potential for growth of algae which further reduces water quality.

How can we help change this dynamic biologic balance? Here are some ideas:

- Maintain a good buffer at the water's edge to reduce nutrient runoff.

- Do not use lawn fertilizer with phosphorus or weed killer especially near the shoreline.
- Use white vinegar for weed control. Chemicals are not selective and can kill beneficial bees and butterflies.
- Dispose of lawn clipping and leaves in your compost bins.
- Consider planting rain gardens or native plants. Applications for these types of projects are accepted annually through BDLIA for the Healthy Lakes Grant.
- Maintain your shoreline riprap to avoid soil-sediment runoff.
- When boating avoid no wake areas which stirs up sediment.
- Ensure that your septic field is operating properly.

So, in short, give our game fish a fighting chance to prosper because they are the proverbial canary in a coal mine.

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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!



Lake District Nears Approval

The Dodge County Board's Land Resources and Parks Committee held the public hearing on the formation of the Beaver Dam Lake District on October 3, 2019 (see article in our November 2019 newsletter). They then discussed and deliberated the matter at their next two meetings. On December 2, 2019 they approved a report that recommended to the Dodge County Board that the district be established.

To provide the County Board supervisors time to review information and the transcript of the hearing, the County Board will not vote on the resolution until its February meeting. The final date for that meeting has not been set due to a possible conflict with the State's primary election.

As part of the approval process, the County Board will appoint four commissioners, three representing lake property owners and one representing the county. These four along with one appointed by the Town of Westford (the governmental unit with the highest lake property assessment) will meet within 90 days of the County's approval. These five commissioners are charged with the organization of the district, developing the map of the district, and setting a meeting during the summer of 2020 for lake property owners in the district to meet and elect the three commissioners representing the lake as well as approve a budget for the coming year. For additional information and the date of the February County Board meeting, call the BDLIA office at 920-356-1200 or email bdliainc@yahoo.com

