



BEAVER DAM LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, INC. NEWSLETTER

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www.bdlia.org

Annual Fundraising Banquet-Monday, March 15

The 25th Annual Fundraising Banquet is being planned for the evening of Monday, March 15! 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! At this time we hope to offer 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! If there are still health concerns due to the coronavirus in March, some of the auctions may be done online instead of in-person to allow people to participate in a safe environment.



People that purchased tickets for the 2020 banquet, that was cancelled, were asked to reply by September 1 with their selection on the following:

- 1) Use the 2020 Banquet ticket payment as a 100% tax deductible BDLIA donation.
- 2) Receive a full refund for

the 2020 Banquet ticket.
3) Use their 2020 Banquet ticket for the 2021 Banquet.

If ticket purchasers do not contact the BDLIA office with their choice by November 30, BDLIA will select option #1 on their behalf.

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. Contact the BDLIA office if you are interested or fill out the form on the website at <http://www.bdlia.org/volunteer/>

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Lake Improvement Assn.**



This Year's Annual Meeting Informational Session



This year's Beaver Dam Lake Improvement Association, Inc.'s Annual Meeting was scheduled, but turned-out to be an Informational Meeting. According to BDLIA's by-laws, 25 members must be in attendance to constitute a meeting. While planning the meeting we had the requisite quorum sign up to attend, but sadly only 18 members joined the virtual Zoom meeting.

Typically, we elect new board members at the Annual Meeting. Chuck Frinak, Mike Gade, Karen Huber, and Pete Hupf were all up for re-election. There were also two openings since Mark Wagner decided to continue volunteering but not participating on the board. The board agreed to keep the members up for re-election and appointed Susan Blachowiak Baloun and Mike Piotrowski to fill the openings.

Isaac Pentinmaki presented a 2021 budget update that was highlighted by the fact that the 2020 Fundraising Banquet did not happen in fiscal 2020. Bill Foley gave a great overview of the work continuing on BD Lake even during the pandemic and the plans going forward in 2021.

The membership currently stands at 261

members. We have about 64 members from 2020 that have not yet paid their dues. Typically, a good number of folks pay their dues at the annual meeting, but since we were virtual, that did not happen this year. New board member Susan Blachowiak Baloun will be assisting with the follow-up campaign as we reach out to these past due 2020 members.



Susan Blachowiak Baloun is a 28-year resident of Beaver Dam. Susan has been actively volunteering with BDLIA for the last four years, first working at the annual banquet, and then becoming a member of the banquet committee. She has helped at the Lake Days BDLIA booth, soliciting donations, going door to door to gather signatures for the lake district petitions and

becoming the BDLIA Facebook editor. She retired from the U.S. Department of Agriculture - Farm Service Agency (FSA). Susan has two grown daughters, both living in Colorado. Susan wants to encourage others to get involved in the BDLIA by volunteering in their area of interest or by becoming a member.



As a new BDLIA member since moving to the area from Slinger two years ago, Mike Piotrowski has learned much about issues affecting water quality, fishing, leisure, and other aspects of the lake. A lake property owner and a dad of three, he is heavily invested in the environmental and economic health of the lake. He is excited to serve on the Board and help tackle the problems facing Beaver Dam Lake. New to lake living, they enjoy boating, fishing, and the beautiful views. Professionally, Mike spent the past 20 years in IT; currently as the Founding Partner at Ontech Systems, Inc., an IT consulting firm based in Menomonee Falls. As a member of the Board, he will employ his skills to help solve problems facing our lake.





Conservation and Water Quality are Always in Season

by Michelle Scarpace, UW-Madison Division of Extension

This year has brought us a lot of unexpected events, but one thing we can always count on is the beautiful change of seasons we have here in Wisconsin. As you drive through the countryside, you will see the sure sign of fall—farmers are harvesting. You may also notice by looking at farm fields that residue is left on the soil surface, or a green crop emerging. These are signs of my favorite thing—conservation. Farmers across Dodge County have been planting cover crops after their cash crop to provide continuous living roots and reducing tillage to minimize disturbance and maximize soil cover. Incorporating these practices can improve soil health and improve the ability of a soil to improve infiltration, and reduce soil erosion and runoff. Knowing the impact of incorporating practices like cover crops and reduced tillage can have on water quality, the Dodge County Alliance for Healthy Soil & Healthy Water (the Alliance) has been working to support farmers who are interested in building soil health.

Even through a pandemic, the Alliance has been meeting virtually every month to finish up their strategic plan, establish a board,



At the August field day, farmers are shown checking the seed planting of cover crops.

apply for a 501 (c) (3) status, and form new partnerships to increase program capacity, specifically with stream monitoring capabilities. This has all been done to continue to build relationships with and support the work that Dodge County Farmers for Healthy Soil & Healthy Water are doing to promote the adoption of practices that protect water quality. This year has not stopped the Dodge County Farmers either as they have been able to host outdoor field days throughout the summer with one August event drawing in 150 attendees! These events have paid off through the Dodge County Farmers’ cost-share program as nearly 500 acres of cover crops will be planted in the

Beaver Dam Lake Watershed with an additional 1,000 acres planted throughout the rest of Dodge County. The Farmers for Healthy Soil & Healthy Water held an event on October 22 to showcase what Matt Leinke, a farmer in Beaver Dam, is doing to reduce runoff from his farm. This event was open to the public, particularly shoreline owners, to showcase the conservation methods that farmers are implementing. As we all live in a watershed, we can all do our part to improve water quality, and the Alliance is making strides in showcasing all efforts that are ongoing to improve water quality. 2020 has thrown a lot at us, but the Alliance and Farmer’s group are moving full-steam ahead to improve water quality.




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Are You Interested in Protecting Wisconsin Waterways?

The Rock River Coalition (RRC) is recruiting volunteers to assess the health of streams in Dodge County and throughout the Rock River Basin. Volunteer stream monitors devote a few hours each month (from May to October) to collect data at a dedicated site. This data is vital to understanding stream health in south-central Wisconsin. It assists in identifying healthy stream segments and flagging segments that potentially have water quality concerns. The data collected helps target local efforts where they are needed.

Many streams in Dodge County are unmonitored. The Rock River begins at Horicon Marsh near Theresa, which is in Dodge County and is an important strategic area. The Rock River Coalition would like to recruit volunteer stream monitoring teams in Dodge County.

RRC will hold volunteer stream monitoring trainings in the spring of 2021. The training is a combination of in-classroom learning and hands-on, feet-in-the-water experience to practice methods used to assess stream health. Participants will learn to measure stream flow, temperature, water clarity, and dissolved oxygen. They will also learn how to assess stream health by examining aquatic insects. In some cases, they also collect water samples to test for phosphorus and/or total suspended solids. Equipment is provided— just bring a pencil and writing pad, lunch, water, towel, and hip boots or waders (or wear shoes that can be worn in the water).

The training workshop is free, but pre-registration is required as space is limited. Citizens interested in monitoring in Dodge County can contact Becca at becca@rockrivercoalition.org. For additional information on RCC, go the rockrivercoalition.org

Both the Dodge County Alliance for Healthy Soil – Healthy Water and the BDLIA encourage its members to consider becoming stream monitors.

Learn How to Add Beauty and Function to Your Shoreline

The Wisconsin DNR Healthy Lakes & Rivers Grant Program is a great way to jump start a backyard project that you may have been considering. Within the Healthy Lakes & Rivers Program Guide are five detailed practices that include native plantings, rain gardens, diversion, rock infiltration, and fish sticks. The WDNR website has some great detailed guidelines with sources for plant and seed stock, as well as, contractors that can lend assistance. In order to spark your imagination, there are a number of neat tips on how to get started with planting mixes which will present color all season long.

This year Isaac and Gerry Pentinmaki combined a water detention basin with native planting practices to dress up their home entrance while controlling phosphorus runoff into the lake. They designed a detention area which is concealed by a dry creek and accented with native plantings. They combined their talents to plan and install a very nice addition to their front yard. Their imagination and getting their

hands a bit dirty will pay off for years to come with the enjoyment of a great front yard.

Beaver Dam Lake currently has three Healthy Lakes & Rivers projects underway with 12 completed over previous years. Your project can be as small as a 350 square foot plot for planting or as expansive as your imagination will allow. Most important is to have some fun and improve your yard with some financial assistance from the Wisconsin DNR.

The Healthy Lakes & Rivers Program will provide 75 percent funding for your project up to \$1,000 per practice. If you are adventurous and have some basic gardening skills, the remaining 25 percent can be offset with your sweat equity.

While we are cocooning this winter, this would be a good time to consider



your different ideas and locations for possible projects. Check out the WDNR website www.healthylakeswi.com and begin to sketch out your own personal design. Recent changes to the WDNR grant program has moved the grant submission date from February to November 1st, 2021 so there is plenty of time to plan ahead. In order to be sure we have all of the information required, your plan should be forwarded to BDLIA prior to September 1st. So begin the planning process and select the type of plant plot which suites your taste, and let us know how we may be able to help.



An Update from DNR

The WDNR Surface Water Grant Program provides financial assistance for eligible applicants to protect and restore Wisconsin's surface water. The program has around \$6.5 million annually to support a competitive grant program that funds work on lakes, rivers and wetlands, and aids in the prevention and control of aquatic invasive species.

You may have heard of this program; it has supported a lot of work right in your backyard!

For example, BDLIA is one of the leaders in the Healthy Lakes & Rivers Program. Folks have used Healthy Lakes & Rivers funding to install rain gardens, create shoreline habitat, and control runoff. If you are interested in the program, reach out to the BDLIA office. Anyone with property in the shoreland or streambank zone is eligible to participate.

BDLIA is currently undergoing a management planning effort, and surface water program funds may be sought for assistance with planning and plan implementation as the work unfolds. However, a new program, called "Surface Water Restoration" is available to fund up to \$50,000 of shoreland and wetland work for lakes, and up to \$25,000 for rivers. Practices funded under this program do not need a lake management plan to be implemented. This program could be a

good fit for BDLIA for those who want to take action while the planning effort is still underway.

You might notice the reference to "new" programs. The Wisconsin DNR and partners recently completed a rulemaking process to unite the Surface Water Grant Program for Lakes, Rivers, Wetlands and Aquatic Invasive Species under one set of policies and procedures, creating a holistic program that can support organizations wherever they happen to be in their management journey. Whether an organization is looking for help with outreach, assessments, surveys, planning, project design or management, there is probably a surface water grant program that can help. More information can be found on the Department's Surface Water Grants webpage: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/aid/SurfaceWater.html>

Here are two folks from the Department who are on hand to help:



Hi! My name is Alison Mikulyuk. I am the Lakes and Rivers Team

Leader for WDNR. I coordinate the Surface Water Grant Program, and I can help answer questions about how the program works, our policies, and big-picture questions. I have a background in aquatic sciences and scientific research. In addition to my work with the grant program, I also represent the DNR Lakes & Rivers Program in the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership, and I help administer the Lake Leaders program. If you're active with the Lakes Partnership, I'm sure we will cross paths one day!



Hi! My name is Susan Graham. As the Lakes Management Coordinator for DNR's Southcentral Region, I help interpret water quality data, work on aquatic plant monitoring and management, administer Surface Water Grants, and generally bring people together to help plan and manage lakes.

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Ron & Paula Marach



The Early Autumn Garden with Carolyn Aita

It's early October when I write this article. Each day the sun rises further in the southeast than the day before. Here on the northwest corner of Beaver Dam Lake, a few remaining native bees, next year's queens, nectar on late-bloomers before going underground until spring. A couple of white pelican stragglers were still fishing in our bay in late September, and a persistent lady ruby-throated hummer sought out the last cardinal flowers, but they have since left and that's a good thing because last night we had a frost warning. In our mind's eye, we imagine the lush exuberance of the high summer garden and long to turn back the clock. To dispel this bittersweet mood, let's live in the moment and see what catches our eye in the garden right now.



New England Aster

Asters are blooming everywhere. Bright purple New England asters rise above switch grass in the prairie plantings and volunteers bloom in other places throughout the garden. A more civilized low-growing cultivar, rose-colored 'Alma Potschke' New England aster is in full bloom in the front of the mixed border near the pergola. Nearby, periwinkle-colored 'Raydon's Favorite' aromatic aster is having its first show. Its leaves emit a mint odor when we gently brush against them as we pass by. But the stars of the garden are the chorus girls: drifts of white woodland aster, big leaf aster, heart-leaved aster, and crooked stem aster. These four Wisconsin natives tolerate some shade. Mingling with hostas, native

anemones, lady's mantle, and white doll's eyes, they make our woodland glow in bright white and off-white tending towards lavender in a display that will last for another month.

What is an autumn garden without goldenrods? (But not the invasive roadside monster, Canada goldenrod, we'll have none of that!) Two well-behaved goldenrods are in bloom here.



Heart-Leaved Aster

Native zigzag goldenrod is delicate in appearance. Mingling with crooked stem asters in dappled shade, it is gentle to the eye and beloved by bees. On the other hand 'Fireworks' goldenrod, a wrinkle-leaved goldenrod cultivar with four feet long unbranched arching stems loaded with tiny bright flowers, has been planted *en masse* in several sunny spots around the garden and is shouting "look at me".



'Alma Potschke' Aster

Much of our garden is a mixed bag of natives and cultivars, but in

the DNR Healthy Lakes sponsored areas, only strict natives (no "nativars") are allowed. In the rain garden/sedge meadow, the last-to-bloom pale pink swamp asters are about to pop and the sweet black-eyed Susans that have been around since July are still going strong. These natives are a lovely floral foil to the bur sedge that dominates this swale.



Sweet Black-eyed Susan & Sedge

At the lakeshore, much of the pollinator plantings have finished blooming. Insects will find winter shelter in their hollow stems and birds will feast on their nutritious seeds.



White Doll's Eyes & Hostas



Crooked Stem Aster & Zigzag Goldenrod

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Beaver Dam Lake Buoys

One of the signs that fall is approaching is the removal of the 'no wake buoys' from the lake. In early October of each year, a team of volunteers journey onto Beaver Dam Lake to recover these important navigational aids for our lake. These buoys identify shallow and sensitive shoreline that would be adversely affected by the wakes produced by boating. As this seemingly small wave movement reaches the shore, the critical plant protective barrier is damaged by the boat induced fetch. Wave by wave the shoreline plants are eroded with the shoreline receding further inland. With this loss of habitat, the shore birds and waterfowl that depend on this cover are stressed with fewer hatchlings surviving. The last 35 feet of plants also provides a critical capture buffer for nutrients that flow from the land to the open water. So this critical shoreline is performing double duty as habitat and a surface water filter.

This year the crew recovering the buoys departed from the Beaver Dam Bay Marina and gathered up the buoys on one of the BDLIA boats. This pontoon boat provided a stable platform for the crew to collect the 100 lbs. buoys and anchors in a safe manner. Our buoys were then transported to the marina for repair by BDLIA and winter storage.

Even though the buoys are off the lake, please avoid causing a wake which will chip away at the shoreline and limit



Buoy retriever crew: Ken Schmidt, Isaac Pentinmaki, John Moser

future plant growth. As the plant cover dies off, the bare ground becomes more susceptible to the energy source from the water. In these shallow bays there is a second hazard that impacts water quality from the historic depositing of legacy phosphorus at the bottom of the lake. When motor driven boats plow through these areas, the bottom is disturbed and the highly nutrient concentrated sediment is mixed in the water.

So please keep this in mind as you enjoy the last days of the season and help to conserve our shorelines.

More assistance is always appreciated to help with the placement, removal, and maintenance of the buoys. Contact the BDLIA office if you are interested in helping.

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Volunteers are critical to enable BDLIA to improve the lake's water quality and participate in the growth of the community. Become more involved with our efforts by becoming a volunteer. Contact our office at (920) 356-1200 or visit our website and fill out a Volunteer Form at <https://bdlia.org/volunteer/>

If you have not paid your 2020-21 dues, please contact the BDLIA office.

Check out the BDLIA website for more information at <https://bdlia.org/>

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Update on Beaver Dam Lake District

The Beaver Dam Lake District Commissioners have completed the detailed tasks to organize the District as identified by Wisconsin statutes. State agencies and the initial filings have been completed with other required routine administrative requirements put into place.

The District is awaiting a response from the Dodge County Circuit Court regarding the appeal to allow for future planning with the lake district annual meeting planning to commence after the first of the year.

